4EU+ Alliance clinches funding in European Universities call

Decision puts wind in sails of ambitious projects to transform education

By Jan Velinger

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This Wednesday saw the announcement of a much awaited decision by the EC on the first pilot European Universities call, choosing 17 ambitious projects from a total of 54 (previously only 12 were expected).

The good news for the 4EU+ Alliance, which includes Charles University, is that it is one of the consortia selected for funding - a decision of no small importance.

It marks the culmination of more than two years of preparation and hard work, in which a solid framework on cooperation between Sorbonne University, Charles University, Heidelberg University, Warsaw University, the University of Copenhagen, and the University of Milan was established.

Wednesday’s decision was warmly welcomed by the rectors of all six universities, including Rector Tomáš Zima of Charles University, who expressed the hope the alliance would serve as “an example for other universities both at home and abroad”.

Charles University’s media branch, UNIMEDIA meanwhile caught up with the Vice-Rector for European Affairs Lenka Rovná, a member of the alliance steering committee and got her reaction: “It’s an enormous and prestigious boost for us moving forward in all our activities. Most positive is the recognition of the main idea behind the alliance and its aims in education.

“There are many, many aspects we could highlight which will gain: just around the corner is close cooperation in science, concretely a meeting of 4EU+ scientists in Paris in the fight against cancer, a meeting of administrative
officials in Warsaw, a meeting of students in Copenhagen, a meeting of the steering committee in Prague in October.

“Last but not least are upcoming celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the fall of communism in Europe [and the former Czechoslovakia] in November, which members of the alliance are going to attend.”

The driving force behind the entire “European Universities’ call was to set the stage for new forms of cooperation and integration providing unprecedented mobility for students, members of academia, researchers and administration officials. Cooperation which would sweep away previous obstacles and provide opportunities to grow together, share resources and ideas while cementing good practices.

According to Vice-Rector Rovná, the alliance should now serve as “a laboratory” in which it will be possible to meet the full promise of the Bologna process - streamlining standards and quality of higher-education more effectively than ever before.

The 4EU+ Alliance, comprising six European universities including Charles University, came together with the ambitious goal of transforming further integration and cooperation between schools of higher learning and universities with a high emphasis on greater mobility than ever, a sharing of resources and greater emphasis than ever on research. As one of the projects chosen for funding, the alliance will now be able to move further full steam ahead!

Read the official European Commission press release

and

You’ll find the 4EU+ Alliance press release here