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EELISA signs the joint statement: “A pledge for practice: excellent teaching and research for impact”

A new EELISA Governing Board Chairship and a joint commitment to practice-oriented education and research: two milestones reflecting EELISA’s shared vision and collective ambition.



23 November 2026

Every six months, the EELISA Grand Meeting provides an important opportunity not only to bring the Alliance’s community together and advance strategic discussions, but also to reaffirm its shared commitments and set directions for the future. Two key moments have become a distinctive part of these gatherings: the handover of the EELISA Governing Board Chairship and the signing of a Joint Statement by the leaders of all EELISA institutions.

Both the handover of the EELISA Chairship and the signing of the Joint Statement are more than symbolic milestones: they demonstrate how EELISA's institutions work together, share responsibility and translate a common vision into collective action. Renewed every six months, these moments help ensure continuity while giving fresh impetus to the Alliance's evolving strategic priorities.

Together, these milestones embody the Alliance’s spirit of collaboration and shared responsibility. They provide a tangible expression of the commitment of all partner

institutions to EELISA's strategic priorities, while helping translate common ambitions into concrete directions for their university communities.

Thus, the handover took place as the opening ceremony for the Governing Board meetings on 12 November at ZHAW headquarters. **Regula Jöhl, Rector of ZHAW, took over the Chairship of the EELISA Governing Board from Óscar García Suárez, Rector of Universidad Politécnica de Madrid**, who had led the Governing Board over the previous six months.

Alongside this transition in leadership, the Governing Board meeting marked another significant milestone: the signing of the new **EELISA Joint Statement, entitled "A Pledge for Practice: Excellent Teaching and Research for Impact"**, endorsed by the Rectors, Presidents and Directors of all EELISA partner institutions. This statement reaffirms the Alliance's commitment to making practice an integral part of academic excellence, strengthening the connections between education, research, innovation, and society. It highlights EELISA's progress in bringing students, researchers, and staff closer to real-world challenges through interdisciplinary, challenge-driven, and practice-based learning. It also recognises the value of collaboration with industry, public institutions and civil society in creating opportunities for internships, professional development, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Looking ahead, the signatories commit to further strengthening these partnerships, expanding engagement with external stakeholders, and embedding practice-oriented approaches more deeply across their institutions. The shared ambition is to turn knowledge into action, innovative ideas into tangible solutions, and academic excellence into lasting societal impact.

For **Regula Jöhl**, this approach is especially important for the students and guarantees that knowledge does not remain within the universities but has an impact beyond campuses: "This exchange between practice and university is where impact can begin. EELISA brings together universities with different profiles, strengths, and experiences. And that is precisely where I see one of the strengths of our alliance. We bring different perspectives together. We learn from each other. And we develop new approaches together".

- **READ THE FULL STATEMENT HERE:**
  https://resourcecorner.eelisa.eu/strategy/eelisa-joint-statement-november-2026/

- **Revisit the EELISA Grand meetings here through these daily re-caps on social media:**
  - **Day1** https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7525961778137067520
  - **Day 2** https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7526588993027649536
  - **Day 3** https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7526635119441260544
  - **Day 4 & 5** https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7526982329437696000

- **Check the EELISA Photo Album here:** https://www.flickr.com/photos/194059793@N07/albums

- **For more information contact:** communication@eelisa.eu