

University of Limerick & University of Rijeka join YERUN!

9 February 2021

YERUN is delighted to announce that the **University of Limerick (UL)** and the **University of Rijeka (UNIRI)** have officially become YERUN members! This joyful event, which marks the beginning of a new exciting era for YERUN, follows the General Assembly's decision of October 2020 to initiate the network's first enlargement process. YERUN warmly welcomes the new perspectives, inspiring practices and fresh energies that these two new members will bring to the network. For YERUN, the University of Limerick and the University of Rijeka are simply a natural fit, by virtue of their values, ambitions and priorities, which perfectly match those identified by YERUN in its recently launched Strategic Plan 2021-2025. A big welcome to UL and UNIRI to the Young European Research Universities Network!

"We are delighted to be invited to join YERUN. YERUN is a dynamic, open and innovative network that aligns perfectly with the University of Limerick's philosophy and ethos. We are impressed by the breath of their members' joined up engagement across the academic spectrum and look forward to working with and learning from our YERUN partners."

"It is a true honor to have the opportunity to contribute to the realization of the vision, mission, and strategic goals of YERUN. As a YERUN member, through a partnership aiming to develop inclusive, innovative, connected, and open universities that truly work to transform the European higher education, we will do our best to contribute to the well-being of all citizens and the sustainable future of Europe."

**Prof.
Kerstin Mey**
President of the
University of Limerick



**Prof.
Snježana Prijić Samaržija**
Rector of the
University of Rijeka



Prof. Bernd Scholz-Reiter
YERUN President



Silvia Gomez Recio
YERUN Secretary General



"We are impressed by the level of excellence in education and research of UL and UNIRI, as well as by the great deal of attention both institutions dedicate to student support, engagement with society, lifelong learning, innovation, and many other areas that greatly resonate with YERUN and are perfectly in line with our new strategy."

"I am very proud to see our network welcoming new young research universities. Both UL and UNIRI are led by strong women who share our vision and values for the European Knowledge Area. We wish to offer them a unique opportunity to build the future of Europe's higher education with like-minded universities."



About the University of Limerick



© University of Limerick

The **University of Limerick (UL)** with over 16,300 students and 1,700 staff is an energetic and **enterprising** institution with a proud record of **innovation and excellence** in education, research and scholarship. The dynamic, entrepreneurial and pioneering values which drive its mission and strategy ensure UL to capitalise on local, national and international engagement and connectivity.

UL is renowned for providing an outstanding student experience and employability and conducting **leading edge research**. At the heart of its DNA is a strong focus on tackling real world problems. Its responsive community is taking on global challenges including affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, climate action and public health while also responding to the COVID-19 challenge.

Programmes are offered across a wide range of disciplines, including arts, business, engineering and construction, health and medicine, information and communication technology, law, mathematics and natural sciences. UL has many marketing-leading programmes and several which are unique in Ireland. UL pioneered the concept of **Cooperative Education** in Ireland, placing more than 2,000 students in paid and semi-paid work placements annually, with 30% of undergraduates placed on international placements. UL has one of the highest graduate employability rates at 97%, and offers an array (>50) of continuous professional education programmes.

The research focus is characterised by the convergence of discrete disciplines working together to achieve fundamental breakthroughs whilst ensuring research is rapidly translated into economic and **social impacts for society**. UL's research addresses areas of importance to society such as education, languages, healthcare and social inclusion and has significant impact on sectors that are vital to our economy such as pharmaceuticals, med-tech, software, food, communications and energy. UL is at the heart of Ireland's **mission to nurture and attract talent** and generate new knowledge. It has research collaborations with over 1900 partners across 107 countries and has forged over 200+ research collaborations with industry.

UL is home to the **Nexus Innovation Centre** which supports spin-out activity in the region, and is central to the **UL Enterprise Corridor** which hosts leading R&D companies such as Johnson & Johnson. Adjacent to the University is the National Technology Park (NTP), Ireland's first science/technology park (263 hectares), which is home to over 80 organisations employing over 3,000 people.



About the University of Rijeka



© University of Rijeka

Founded in 1973, the **University of Rijeka (UNIRI)** has matured into an open European university and academic center of the true impact that extends beyond the local and regional communities. With a total of 11 faculties and 4 departments, UNIRI is a **student-oriented** university that recognizes the values of open science, research-based teaching, and innovative knowledge transfer.

UNIRI is devoted to **international collaborative partnerships** and **talent development** as well as the development of innovative ecosystems with business and civil society. As a dynamic university, it strives for **diversity** and **inclusivity** and academic freedom and integrity. Developing as a community-engaged university, UNIRI continuously enhances both the quality of living and working conditions and the satisfaction of its students, researchers, and staff.

UNIRI is a **research-oriented** university with a high level of scientific, artistic and innovative activity, integrated into the European Research Area. The university continuously takes care of all phases of research careers – from young to independent and experienced researchers. It encourages the concept of circulating researchers to increase personal and institutional capacities in scientific research. UNIRI is the first university in Croatia to sign the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

UNIRI is a **socially responsible and open** university, tailored to student needs: its educational system and learning framework puts students first. With this goal in mind, UNIRI continuously updates its teaching methods, fosters social awareness, and attends to the needs of everyone within its academic community. UNIRI's primary value lies in connecting students, professors, and other staff members, which is the foundation upon which a university can truly be innovative, creative, and excellent while remaining a place of solidarity and security.

- About YERUN -

The Young European Research University Network (YERUN) is a cluster of highly-ranked young universities in Europe that strengthens and facilitates cooperation in the areas of scientific research, academic education and services which benefit society. In this context, YERUN members consider that adequate support to human capital is essential to foster the next generations of (European) researchers and innovators. Strong support for excellent early-career researchers is therefore a priority for all YERUN members.

- YERUN Members -

University of Antwerp, Autonomous University of Madrid, Bremen University, Brunel University London, University Carlos III Madrid, Dublin City University, University of Essex, University of Eastern Finland, University of Konstanz, University of Limerick, Maastricht University, University Nova de Lisboa, University Paris Dauphine, University of Rijeka, Tor Vergata University of Rome, Syddansk University, and Ulm University.



YERUN, Young European Research Universities Network, February 2021

For questions about this document please contact Ms Silvia Gomez Recio: secretarygeneral@yerun.eu