



# ChallengeEU

European University Alliance



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ChallengeEU



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# Great team performance at the Shell Eco-marathon



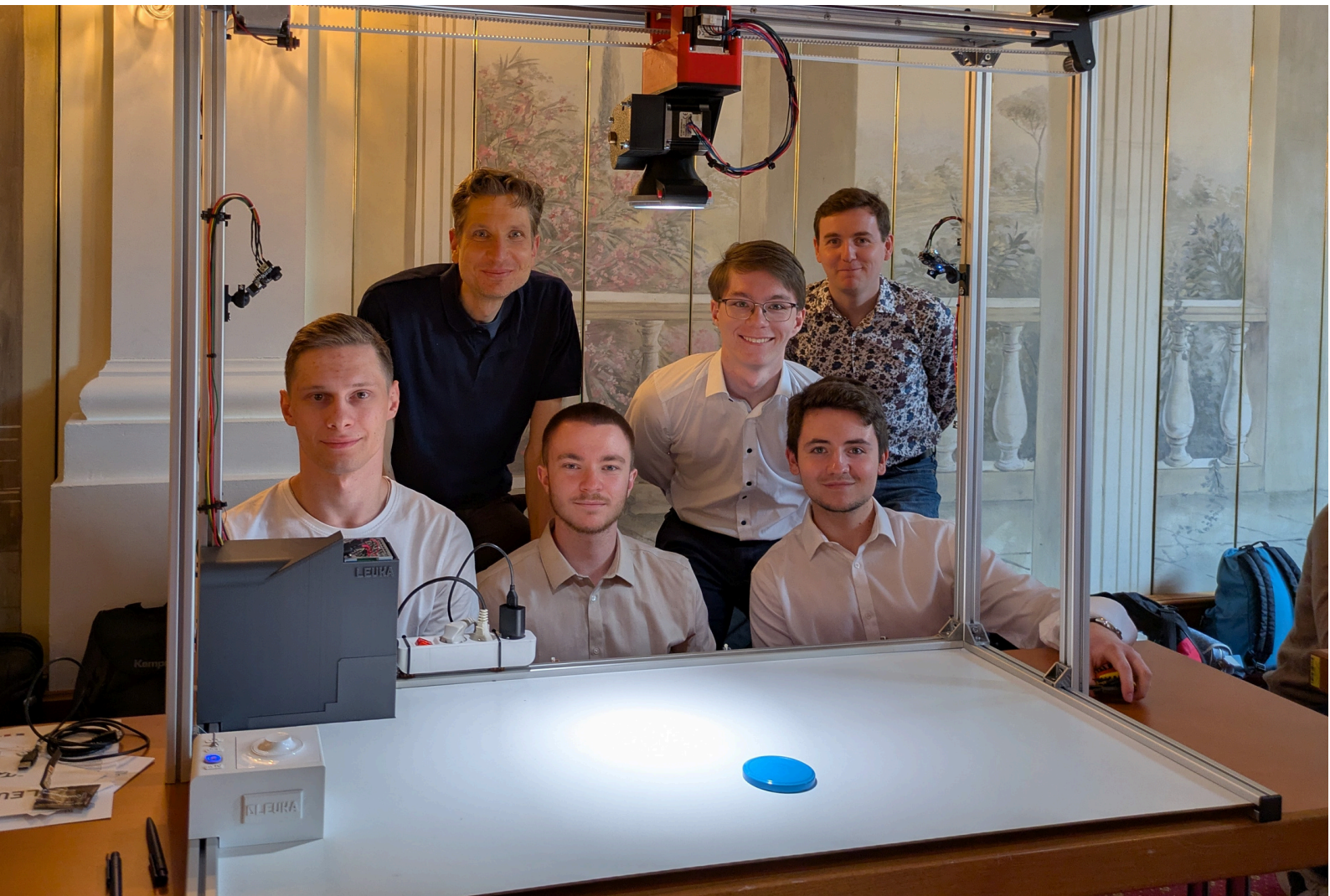
Since 1985, teams from around the world have been competing in the Shell Eco-marathon to determine the most fuel-efficient vehicle on a 25-kilometer course. HSO has been taking part in the competition with a student team for many years and has climbed the winners' podium several times in the past.

At the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary races, held in Kamień Śląski/Poland, the HSO team came in fourth with an ethanol-powered petrol engine and ninth in the battery-electric Schluckspecht. "Even Ferrari doesn't always win. We know what we have to do and will go full throttle next year!" was the team's motivating final statement.

More information (in German): [ShellEco-marathon2025](#)



# Trinatronics competition produces valuable results



More than 30 students from seven universities in Germany, France and Switzerland participated in this year's Trinatronics competition for mechatronic systems. The competition was organized for the tenth time by TriRhenaTech – the alliance of universities of applied sciences on the Upper Rhine which HSO is part of.

The results were useful in every respect. As an example, HSO mechanical-engineering student Niklas Erke, together with students from the Institut National de Sciences Appliquées (INSA) in Strasbourg, in just over two months developed a workplace lamp that follows the movements of the people working there.

Trinatronics is part of the INTERREG project TrinTed and co-financed by the TriRhenaTech member universities.

More information (in German): [Trinatronics2025](#)



# State transport minister impressed by move.mORe collaboration project



At the 2025 Garden Show in Freudenstadt and Baiersbronn, Baden-Württemberg's Transport Minister Winfried Hermann visited the move.mORe stand. The joint project between the universities of Karlsruhe and Offenburg aims to promote the sustainable mobility of people and goods in the rural areas of the Upper Rhine region.

"We need innovative ideas that help people in rural areas to switch to climate-friendly means of transportation. The move.mORe project shows how this can be achieved: It offers mobility and transportation solutions that are practicable, flexible and eco-friendly," said Minister Hermann.

More information (in German): [Minister-visit-move.mORe](#)



# “Zero-waste Krathong Design Campaign”: a Franco-Thai collaboration in the service of sustainable innovation



On the occasion of the 340th anniversary of diplomatic relations between France and Thailand, and the 170th anniversary of Kasetsart University (Thailand), ECAM LaSalle, a partner of the institution, had the honor to co-organize, alongside the Association of Alumni Students in France (AAEF) and the Faculty of Engineering of Kasetsart University (Sriracha Campus), the “Zero-waste Krathong Design Campaign.”

The objective was clear: to unite French and Thai students around a sustainable, symbolic, and cultural engineering project. The choice of the Krathong — a small traditional raft traditionally floated on the water during the Thai Loy Krathong festival — was an obvious one. This object, embodying values of sharing, family, and unity, has also become in recent years a major ecological challenge as it is often made of plastic and polystyrene materials. Faced with this issue, the “Zero-waste Krathong Design” campaign aimed to reinvent this iconic object by integrating eco-design principles, reducing generated waste, and proposing a potentially reusable model, while preserving the traditional aspect.

This competition involved 10 ECAM LaSalle engineering students currently on international academic mobility and 5 Thai students, forming 5 teams of 3 students each. Together, they applied their skills in computer-aided design (CAD), eco-design principles, life cycle assessment (LCA), carbon footprint analysis, and additive manufacturing (3D printing) for the initial prototypes. Five prototypes were presented; the winning krathong was designed using banana leaves, bamboo stems, and cork stoppers recovered from wine bottles, highlighting the commitment to reusing existing materials. Once refined, this krathong will be floated during the next Loy Krathong festival in November 2025.





# Reflecting on One's Journey to Better Envision the Future: The Reflection Seminar at ECAM LaSalle



At ECAM LaSalle, the education of engineering students goes beyond academic knowledge and technical skills. It is part of a comprehensive educational approach centered on the individual, aligned with Lasallian values. It is within this framework that a yearly reflection seminar is organized for students nearing the end of their studies.

This two-day seminar allows students to take a step back on their years of study through a series of workshops encouraging personal reflection, small group sharing, and collective expression. The format combines methodology and conviviality, supported by a caring environment.

“The workshop gave me a genuine opportunity for reflection; the various exercises helped me gain perspective on my journey. Two moments stood out for me: first, the paired listening session, where you speak uninterrupted for 12 minutes, which encourages deep exploration of your ideas. Then, creating a timeline of the key events during our years at ECAM LaSalle — a very personal moment where everyone freely chooses their style and pace.” — Balthazar, engineering student.

Teachers, administrative staff, and members of the educational team all contributed to facilitating the workshops after completing dedicated training. The active involvement of the entire staff during this key stage of the students' journey demonstrates the school's commitment to supporting each student across all dimensions of their development.

“This seminar allows us to observe how much the students have evolved throughout their studies. Their ability to step back and articulate their learning reflects great maturity.” — Adeline Albou, researcher and teacher at ECAM LaSalle.

This reflection seminar echoes the integration seminar held when engineering students first arrive on the Lyon campus. One marks the entrance into the ECAM LaSalle community, the other symbolizes the exit. These two key moments frame the training path and highlight its professional, human, and spiritual dimensions.



# Recap of ECAM LaSalle's Participation in Ovalies 2025



On May 10 and 11, ECAM LaSalle took part, as every year, in the 30th edition of the Ovalies, Europe's largest university rugby tournament with a charitable purpose, organized since 1995 by the students of UniLaSalle Beauvais. This event annually brings together thousands of participants from across Europe, coming from engineering, business, and agronomy schools, united by strong values: commitment, team spirit, inclusion, solidarity, and generosity — perfectly aligned with the Lasallian identity upheld by our school.

This year, over 180 ECAM LaSalle students were present on-site, split between competitors and supporters. The school's Sports Office coordinated the different teams and ensured smooth collaboration among them.

All funds raised during the event were donated to three associations:

- Proseatech Environnement, which works for biodiversity preservation,
- 1 Maillot Pour la Vie, which supports hospitalized children through sporting encounters,
- EndoFrance, committed to the fight against endometriosis.
- 

ECAM LaSalle was represented in several tournament disciplines, showcasing the diversity of student sporting engagement. Our teams distinguished themselves through both performance and sportsmanship: with a 1st place in cheerleading for ECAM LaSalle's Pom-pom team and a 2nd place in wheelchair rugby.

These results reflect both the students' dedication to their extracurricular activities and their commitment to the values of sport: respect, cohesion, and self-improvement.



# Successful Premiere of the Swiss Sustainable Polymer Conference (SSPC) at FHNW



On May 23, 2025, over 130 participants gathered at the FHNW School of Engineering and Environment in Windisch for the first Swiss Sustainable Polymer Conference (SSPC), organized by the Institute of Polymer Engineering. The event marked a major step toward a more sustainable plastics industry in Switzerland, bringing together experts from academia, industry, and start-ups to explore collaborative solutions.

Prof. Dr. Christian Rytka opened the conference with a keynote on the challenges and opportunities in sustainable plastics. Universities like the Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences, the Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne and Montanuniversität Leoben (AT) joined forces with companies such as Sulzer Chemtech, EMS-Chemie, and Swatch Group R&D, highlighting the broad range of polymer applications and shared commitment to innovation.

The conference emphasized circular design and recycling strategies. Lab tours showcased cutting-edge materials and recycling processes, reinforcing the event's practical relevance.

A key topic was the balance between regulation and industrial practice in chemical recycling.

Start-ups like KUORI, Noriware, Capt. Greenfin, Mycrobez, and UpBoards presented pioneering solutions such as edible packaging and biotech materials, demonstrating the sector's transformative potential.

The SSPC received highly positive feedback for its blend of science, innovation, and application. FHNW plans to continue the conference series, reinforcing Switzerland's role in shaping a sustainable plastics future.

More information (in German): [SSPC 2025](#)



# Future Health: The contribution of FHNW School of Applied Psychology



# deep

Digital Education for Equity  
in Primary Schools

The DEEP research consortium is investigating the challenges and the impact of digital transformation on Swiss primary education. DEEP's mission is to advance knowledge regarding an equitable and sustainable digitalization of education in the early years of schooling. The FHNW School of Education is one of seven participating universities.

In the Differentiated Instruction project, students in grades 4 to 6 act as co-researchers, documenting their experiences with digital learning tools like explanatory videos, adaptive systems, and digital task pools. Researchers from FHNW, PH Zurich, and the University of Zurich are studying how digital tools support individualized learning. Initial findings highlight that while digital tools can enhance learning, their success depends on variety, creativity, and thoughtful integration. Student feedback shows that fun and peer collaboration are key motivators, regardless of whether the tools are digital or analogue.

The FHNW School of Education also leads the myMoment project, in partnership with PH St. Gallen and the University of Geneva. The project investigates how a revamped digital writing platform with features like voice input, AI support, and community feedback can promote student motivation and writing skills. Early feedback is positive: students appreciate being able to share, comment on, and like each other's work, fostering a sense of community and ownership.

Running until 2028, DEEP includes additional initiatives such as Digital Scaffolds in STEM, aiming to make digital learning more inclusive. Supported by the Jacobs Foundation and part of the foundation's Education in Digitality initiative, DEEP unites institutions across Switzerland to promote fair, research-based digitalization in schools. All projects are participatory and conducted in close collaboration with teachers, ensuring practical relevance.

More information (in German): [DEEP research consortium](#)  
[DEEP Website](#) (in English)



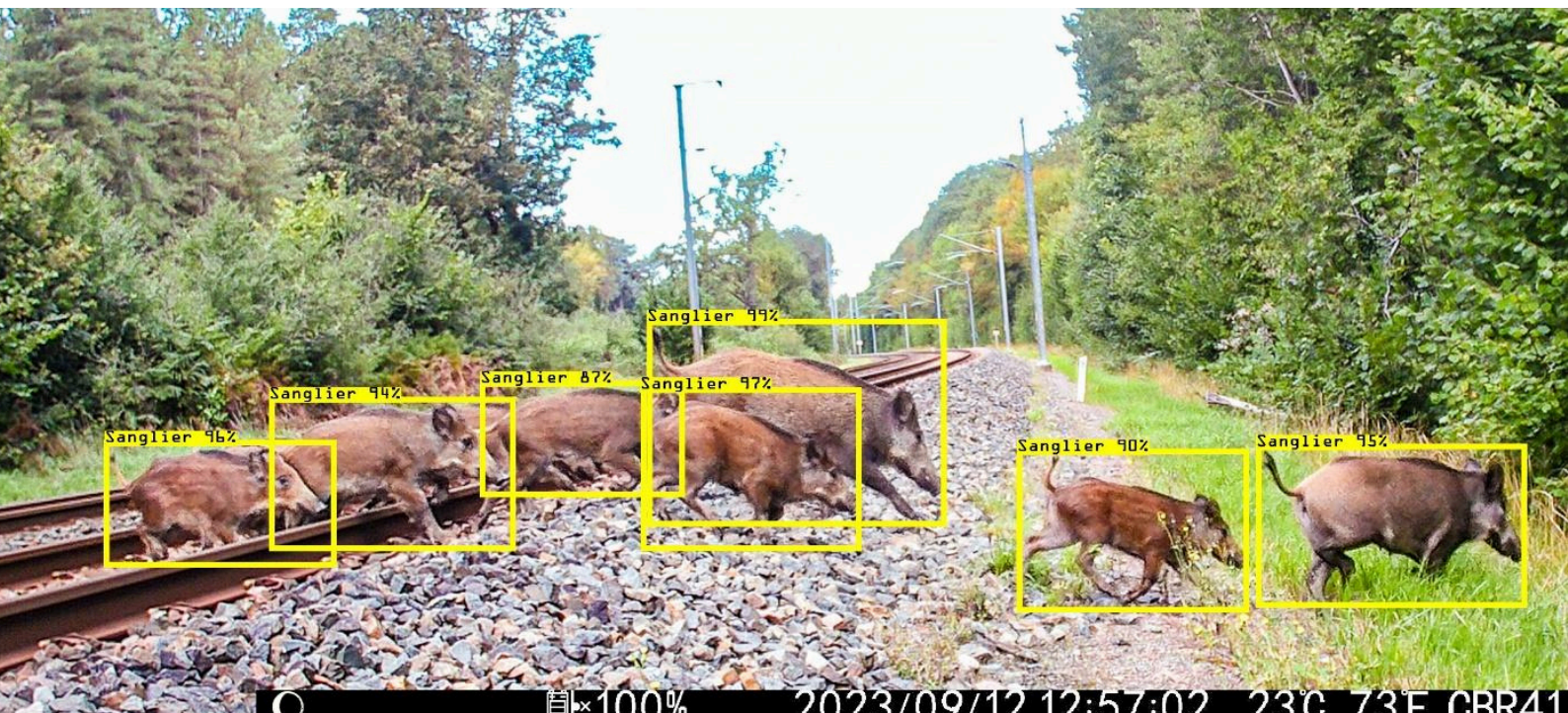
# AI, Wildlife and Rail Safety: An Innovative Solution for SNCF

Adrian Meyer has crafted a unique career path that blends geomatics engineering (FHNW), zoology (University of Basel), and a passion for AI and data science. This rare combination has led to a groundbreaking project for the Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français (SNCF), France's national rail operator, tackling a growing issue: wild boar collisions on the rail network.

Each year, around 1,000 trains collide with wild boars: a number that's rising. These incidents cause costly delays, damage to trains, and harm to wildlife. To address this, Meyer and his students at the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics developed a high-precision risk model that identifies potential collision zones across SNCF's 28'000 km rail network.

Meyer's approach combines satellite imagery (from ESA and NASA), AI-powered image recognition, and on-the-ground data. He began by identifying wild boar habitats based on food sources like corn, chestnuts, and acorns. Using geomatics techniques, he mapped preferred environments such as farmland and forest edges.

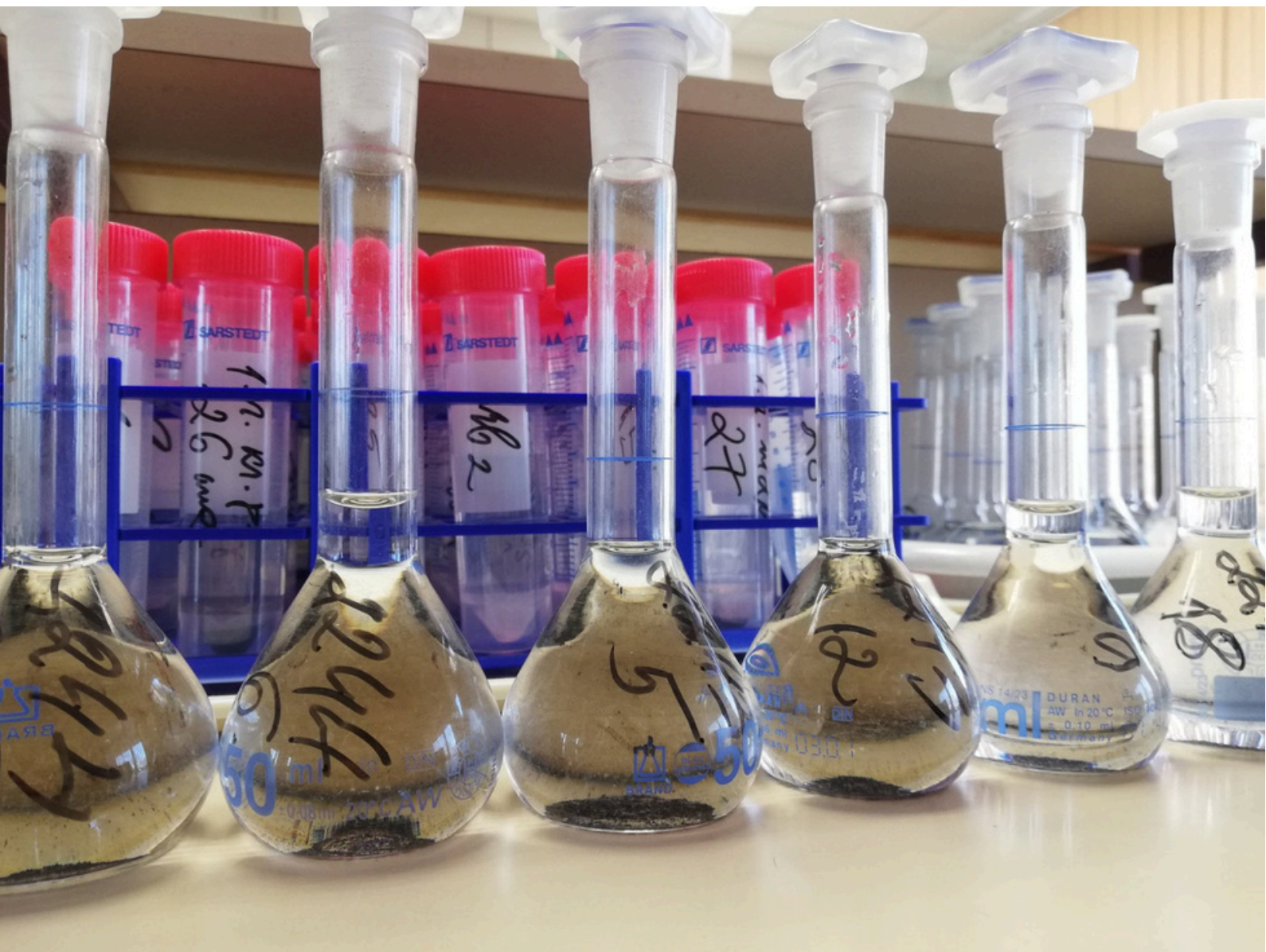
Camera traps helped track animal movement, while AI classified the species. Interestingly, daytime activity indicated high population density and low hunting pressure – key insights for predicting risk. One innovation involved analysing railway ballast. Wild boars leave muddy tracks that discolour the stones. Meyer and his students trained an AI to detect these subtle signs from image data. But identifying hotspots wasn't enough, he also factored in train speed, frequency, and the presence of protective fencing. Detecting fences proved tricky, but Meyer's team developed another AI model to locate and map them. The result: a nationwide risk map, accurate to within 100 meters, with seasonal variations. This is crucial, as five times more accidents occur between October and March. SNCF now uses these maps to implement targeted safety measures. "Adrian Meyer's exceptional expertise, combining animal biology, geomatics, and AI, is highly relevant to the safety of SNCF's facilities," says Maxime Gombart, SNCF Réseau's wildlife officer. "We can integrate his results into our operations and take action where it matters most."



More information (in german): [AI, Wildlife and Rail Safety](#).



# LBTU Research Laboratory of Biotechnology Reaccredited Internationally



The Research Laboratory of Biotechnology of the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LBTU), one of the core research unit of the university, has successfully retained its accreditation in accordance with the international standard LVS EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The laboratory performs testing services, provides scientific evaluations, maintains the national gene bank for agricultural animal genetic resources, and conducts a wide range of scientific research in the fields of biotechnology and biosystems science.





# Latvia to Join the European Open Science Cloud and Develop a Modern Digital Research Infrastructure



The investment initiative led by the Ministry of Education and Science on the digitalization of scientific activity and participation in the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

"As an EU member state, establishing the EOSC National Node in Latvia is an important and long-awaited step that will significantly enhance our research infrastructure capabilities and the implementation of open science principles. It will provide researchers with access to unique datasets and digital services across Europe.

The creation of the EOSC National Node will also promote international and interdisciplinary collaboration by enabling the standardization of data and tools—particularly important for LBTU's key research areas, including forestry, agriculture, food science, and veterinary medicine. Especially valuable is the ability to leverage shared computing and data storage resources for large-scale international research projects," notes Gatis Vītols, Vice-Rector for Science at LBTU, VPC Council Member.



# Come with a goal – graduate with confidence: New student admissions are open at LBTU Jelgava



To pursue higher education in Jelgava and become a university student already in the fall of 2025, the Latvian University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LBTU) is organizing new student admissions in July and August for bachelor's, master's, and doctoral study programs.

At the bachelor's level, LBTU offers admissions to 24 study programs; at the master's level, 16 programs are available; and at the doctoral level, admissions are open in 11 study programs.



# The ice melts, but the knowledge remains when students compete in sustainable construction



How do you build a house that keeps the cold – in the middle of the summer heat? Engineering students from all over the country are trying to find out in the spectacular Ice Box Challenge. Mid Sweden University's team hopes that smart solutions and local materials will give them an advantage.

Behind the large carousel on Jamtli Square, two small house foundations have been built and are now waiting for buildings. Before the day is over, the houses and ice blocks must be in place. The Ice Box Challenge is about building as sustainable and energy-efficient a house as possible – a house that can keep a cubic meter of ice frozen for as long as possible. Next to it is a comparison house built according to Swedish building standards. After a few weeks, the ice in both houses is weighed. "I think we have a good chance of winning," says Jakob Wallinder, who is studying the last semester of the Construction Engineering programme in Östersund. "We probably won't come last anyway," says his competition colleague Martina Fredin, who is in her second year as a future construction engineer. "Our education is about sustainable construction, and this is a sustainability competition, so it suited us," Jakob adds.

The competition ends on June 6, when the ice blocks will be measured. You measure how much the blocks have melted as a percentage. Behind the Swedish competition is the Passive House Interest Group, and the competition is a practical and visual way to show how energy-efficient architecture – such as passive house principles – can make a big difference. Mid Sweden University's team has chosen to build a passive house with materials from local IsoTimber, where standing wooden studs with milled grooves create insulation.

"The air becomes stagnant and then the cold is kept longer," Martina explains. In addition to IsoTimber, a number of local entrepreneurs have sponsored Mid Sweden University's team. This is part of the effort so that they have a chance in the competition in which five Swedish universities are participating. In addition to Mid Sweden University, teams from Linnaeus University, Luleå University of Technology, Dalarna University and KTH are participating. During the spring market at Jamtli on 24-25 May, Jakob Wallinder, Martina Fredin and the other participants from Mid Sweden University's team will be on site to talk about the Ice Box Challenge.



# Researcher from Mid Sweden University gain a central position in European network



Pär Löfstrand has been elected to the board of Europe's leading association in work and organizational psychology – EAWOP – which plays a central role in promoting research and practice in the field.

"I am grateful for the confidence from the General Assembly to become one of the board members of EAWOP (European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology). I look forward to being involved and contributing to a positive development," says Pär Löfstrand, psychology researcher at Mid Sweden University.

Pär was elected as a new member of the organization's Executive Committee in connection with EAWOP's congress on May 21–25 in Prague. "I hope to strengthen Sweden's and Mid Sweden University's role in the area," says Pär.

The Executive Committee is made up of seven members from as many European countries. The chair is Professor Evangelia Demerouti from the Eindhoven University of Technology.

The assignment in the Executive Committee extends over four years and involves active work to develop EAWOP's strategies, arrange congresses and meetings, as well as collaborations and future direction.

[Link to EAWOP's website](#)

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# Bakhram Gaynullin develops smarter gas sensors to measure methane



On June 10, Bakhram Gaynullin will defend his doctoral thesis in electronics at Mid Sweden University. His research addresses a key challenge in optical gas sensing: selective quantification of methane under environmental conditions where interfering gases have overlapping absorption spectra.

Methane is one of the most powerful greenhouse gases and has a significantly greater effect on global warming than carbon dioxide in the short term. While CO<sub>2</sub> is routinely measured with well-established technology, methane remains harder to track reliably. One reason is that methane's infrared absorption spectrum overlaps with water vapour, which is present almost everywhere in our natural environments.

In his doctoral research, Bakhram Gaynullin refines and expands the capabilities of NDIR (nondispersive infrared) gas sensing technology. This technique, already used industrial and environmental applications, is considered to be cost-effective and requiring minimal maintenance. However, it has a major limitation - it has difficulties to distinguish between gases that absorb light at the same infrared wavelengths.

"Sensors that rely on the standard NDIR technique estimate gas concentrations based on absorption within specific optical bands. As a result, they cannot selectively quantify the target gas when its absorption spectrum overlaps with that of other gases. Methane and water vapor are a perfect example of this," says Bakhram Gaynullin.

To overcome this challenge, he developed a novel multichannel sensor system. One channel measures the combined absorption of methane and water vapour, while a second channel is specifically designed to isolate the water vapour signal. Additionally, a third channel serves as a reference—known as the zero channel—tuned to a wavelength where none of the target gases absorb. By comparing the signals from these three channels, the system can accurately calculate the true methane concentration, even in humid environments.

[Read more](#)



# SEEU Celebrates the 21st Generation of Graduates!



UNIVERSITETI I EVROPËS JUGLINDORE  
УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ НА ЈУГОИСТОЧНА ЕВРОПА  
SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



The South East European University (SEEU) campus was filled with pride and celebration as the 21st generation of students tossed their caps high during the Graduation Ceremony on June 7. Joined by proud families, guests, and university staff, the event marked a major milestone for hundreds of graduates.

Prof. Dr. Klaus Tochtermann, President of the SEEU Board, inspired the audience: “Let the knowledge and values you gained at SEEU guide your path forward and inspire those around you.”

Rector Acad. Prof. Dr. Abdylmenaf Bexheti called the SEEU diploma “a powerful passport to the Western labor market” and announced the end of his rectoral term, expressing full support for the next leadership.

Speaking on behalf of her generation, Njomza Behadini described their time at SEEU as a period of both academic learning and personal growth. She thanked the professors for their guidance, recognized the shared experiences with fellow students, and appreciated the learning opportunities provided by the University.

This year’s Graduation Ceremony reflected SEEU’s ongoing commitment to quality education, inclusivity, and preparing students to become informed, capable, and responsible changemakers in their communities and beyond.

# SEEU Welcomes New Rector – Prof. Dr. Sadudin Ibraimi



UNIVERSITETI I EVROPËS JUGLINDORE  
УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ НА ЈУГОИСТОЧНА ЕВРОПА  
SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



The South East European University (SEEU) Board has appointed Prof. Dr. Sadudin Ibraimi as the new Rector, following its 55th meeting held on June 5, 2025. He will serve a three-year term, succeeding Acad. Prof. Dr. Abdylmenaf Bexheti, who completed two terms in the role.

The election was conducted in line with SEEU's Statute and concluded with a majority vote of the Board members. The public call for Rector outlined specific eligibility criteria, including the academic title of Full Professor, leadership experience, and a strong commitment to the University's mission. On behalf of the University community, the Board extends its congratulations to Prof. Dr. Ibraimi on his new role.



# Architecture in Action: SEEU Students Build, Design, and Collaborate



UNIVERSITETI I EVROPËS JUGLINDORE  
УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ НА ЈУГОИСТОЧНА ЕВРОПА  
SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



The Student Parliament and Association, in collaboration with the Faculty of Technical Sciences, recently hosted a hands-on workshop featuring 1:10 scale architectural models, with active participation from Architecture students across both SEEU campuses.

Led by the professors of the Faculty of Technical Sciences, the event aimed to foster creativity, collaboration, and communication — key skills in both architecture and academic development. Students worked in teams to bring their design concepts to life, learning through practical engagement.

This workshop showcased SEEU's commitment to interactive learning and nurturing future innovators in design and engineering.



# Universidad Europea de Valencia inaugurated the 9th IMEBESS Congress with the world's elite in behavioural sciences



**The international meeting kicked off with a presentation by neuroscientist Dean Mobbs, from the prestigious California Institute of Technology, on how the brain makes survival decisions in the face of complex threats.**

Universidad Europea de Valencia hosted the 9th International Congress of Experimental and Behavioural Social Sciences (IMEBESS), which was being held from 22 to 24 May at the Turia Campus and IVAM. The event brought together more than a hundred researchers from universities on five continents, such as Oxford, Michigan, Cambridge, Bocconi, LSE and King's College London.

The rector of the Universidad Europea of Valencia, Rosa Sanchidrián Pardo, was in charge of officially opening the congress in a ceremony held at the Valencian Institute of Modern Art (IVAM). In her speech, she stressed that “IMEBESS represents much more than an academic meeting: it is a demonstration of the transformative power of science when it is placed at the service of society”.

She also underlined the commitment of the Universidad Europea de Valencia to research excellence and knowledge transfer, stating that 'we firmly believe in the role of the university as a driver of social change. IMEBESS perfectly embodies this vision: a space where scientific rigour meets a vocation for real impact'.

Enrique Fatas, director of the Behavioral Economics Institute (BEI) of Universidad Europea of Valencia and one of the main organisers of the event, pointed out the interdisciplinary approach of this congress “which ranges from behavioural economics to psychology, sociology and political science”. IMEBESS is consolidating its position as a key platform for the exchange of ideas and the application of experimental methods to the design and evaluation of public policies', said Fatas.

The opening lecture was given by neuroscientist Dean Mobbs, a researcher at the prestigious California Institute of Technology (Caltech), who gave a talk entitled ‘Survival decisions in a complex world’. In his talk, Mobbs explored how the human brain responds to threats in uncertain environments, highlighting that our emotions, such as fear and anxiety, are deeply linked to space and time.

The conference, organised by the Behavioral Economics Institute (BEI) of Universidad Europea de Valencia and the University of Oxford, included keynote speeches, thematic panels and parallel sessions focusing on public health, sustainability, cooperation, justice and behavioural policymaking. In addition, scholarships were awarded to students from the Global South, reinforcing the event's commitment to equity and scientific inclusion.



# Universidad Europea de Valencia triumphs at the 16th National Packaging Awards



*Nerea Vallés, Lecturer at Universidad Europea de Valencia, receives Award for Best Nursing Research*

**Her study on neonatal resuscitation in premature infants has been recognized by the Consejo de Colegios de Enfermeras y Enfermeros de la Comunitat Valenciana (CECOVA) for its clinical impact and contribution to improving care protocols in the first minutes of life.**

Nerea Vallés, nurse, researcher, and lecturer in the Nursing Degree at Universidad Europea de Valencia, has been awarded the CECOVA Prize for Best Nursing Research during the PhD Day 2025 at the La Fe Health Research Institute (IIS La Fe). This recognition highlights scientific excellence and a strong commitment to improving clinical practice in the field of nursing.

The awarded study focuses on neonatal resuscitation, with particular attention to the development of national and international percentiles for resuscitation in moderate and late preterm infants.

The main objective of the research is to improve clinical decision-making in the first minutes of life for these newborns, by providing data-driven tools that help standardize and optimize resuscitation procedures.

“This award is a recognition that motivates me to keep going and makes the daily effort worthwhile,” said Nerea Vallés.

During the scientific event, which brought together dozens of PhD students, researchers, and healthcare professionals, more than 60 research projects were presented. The Scientific Committee evaluated the quality, innovation, and clinical applicability of each proposal, highlighting Nerea Vallés’ work for its potential to transform care practices in such a critical area as the treatment of premature newborns.

This award not only acknowledges the work of Nerea Vallés but also underscores the research efforts promoted by Universidad Europea de Valencia, which actively supports its faculty in the development of scientific projects. In this case, the research is being conducted at IIS La Fe, a leading biomedical research center, further reinforcing the quality and impact of the awarded study.



# Universidade Europeia strengthens international cooperation at NAFSA 2025



Universidade Europeia (Lisbon) participated in another edition of NAFSA, the largest higher education fair and conference in the United States. This year the conference took place in San Diego, California and brought together more than 8000 international educators from 100+ nations. The theme "Purpose, Place, and Partnership" fits perfectly in the times of uncertainty that we all live in.

Represented by the Head of International Office, Liliana Rosalino, UEL was part of the Study & Research in Portugal Pavilion, an initiative coordinated by the Portuguese Erasmus + Agency, the Fulbright Portugal and the Luso-American Foundation, which was attended by 17 Portuguese higher education institutions.

The presence of Universidade Europeia in this strategic event reinforces its commitment to building a diverse, intercultural and innovation-oriented academic community. The participation also aims to strengthen existing partnerships, identify new opportunities for academic cooperation and promote institution as a destination of excellence for international students and researchers.

During the 5 days in San Diego, it was also possible to participate in the partner's days organized by San Diego State University and UC Irvine, which represented two more excellent opportunities for international networking.



# Kortowo Transforms into the Heart of Polish Doctoral Affairs



For three days in late June, Kortowo—the vibrant academic campus of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn—became the national hub for doctoral researchers. The second of three annual sessions of the Open Assembly of the National Representation of Doctoral Students took place from June 27–29, hosted by UWM in partnership with the doctoral councils of both UWM and the Polish Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research in Olsztyn.

During the assembly, discussions focused heavily on core issues: clarifying doctoral status from dissertation submission to defence, expanding leave policies beyond parental leave, establishing a Doctoral Rights Ombudsman, and ensuring representation on the national Science Evaluation Commission. Nieczaj highlighted that post-dissertation candidates often “are left practically without support,” exacerbating the risk to mental health .

The presence of Prof. Andrzej Szeptycki, Undersecretary of State for Science and International Cooperation, lent political weight to the event. He pledged upcoming revisions to leave entitlements and grant access, encouraging patience until official announcements from the ministry, anticipated around July 1 .

Acknowledging the unique stressors doctoral students face, UWM’s administration and student representatives placed strong emphasis on mental wellness. Workshops addressed stress management and leadership skills, while informal gatherings—from disc-golf tournaments to “Olsztyn Bingo” outings—fostered community and camaraderie.

In the past year, UWM conferred 66 doctoral degrees; Rector Jerzy Przyborowski noted that the university’s mission is to cultivate “thoughtful, sensitive individuals eager to improve the world.” Recognizing doctoral candidates as vital pillars of academia, the event underscored the necessity—and urgency—of nurturing their mental and professional health to sustain Poland’s scientific momentum .





UNIVERSITY  
OF WARMIA AND MAZURY  
IN OLSZTYN

# Peace & Love: UWM's 66th WA-MA Rally Unites Polish Students in Nature and Camaraderie



This June, the University of Warmia and Mazury's Academic Tourist Club (AKT UWM) hosted the 66th WA-MA—an annual nationwide student hike traversing the scenic terrains of Warmia and Masuria. The event culminated at the Bosman resort on Wielka Żuława island, where hundreds of students arrived via diverse routes and modes of transport .

Branded this year under the emblematic slogan “Peace & Love”, the rally exemplified the spirit of unity and well-being. Participants shared stories of personal adventure: Wojtek, who previously hiked, rode for the first time this year and expressed deep satisfaction at choosing the bicycle route .

Following an invigorating morning bike ride or trek, attendees were greeted with a communal breakfast on Sunday, followed by farewells and lively discussions about the theme and route for next year's WA-MA . Event photographer Dominik Rudziński documented the rally's vibrant spirit, capturing moments of serene natural beauty and student togetherness.

The annual tradition serves not only as a celebration of outdoor recreation but also as a cornerstone of student culture at UWM, emphasizing community bonds forged in movement and conversation. The theme Peace & Love resonated through shared experiences—whether pedaling through forest trails, sharing meals under open skies, or exchanging reflections on the rally's significance.

Looking ahead, AKT officials and participants alike began planning for the 67th edition, hinting at new locations and fresh motifs. With each passing year, WA-MA evolves as a meaningful rite of summer, offering students a chance to reconnect—with nature, each other, and themselves.

# Poland Joins Europe's LOFAR-ERIC Network — UWM at the Helm of Cutting-Edge Radio Astronomy



UNIVERSITY  
OF WARMIA AND MAZURY  
IN OLSZTYN



On June 25, a new chapter in Polish and European science began: the formal launch of LOFAR-ERIC (Low-Frequency Array European Research Infrastructure Consortium) in Poland, closely supported by the University of Warmia and Mazury (UWM) in Olsztyn.

Held at the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center (PCSS), the ceremony doubled as a POLFAR consortium meeting —with UWM leading the way. Attendees included representatives from Poland's Ministry of Science and Higher Education, CTAO ERIC, SOLARIS, and academic delegates. UWM sent a high-powered delegation: Rector Jerzy Przyborowski, Vice-Rector Jakub Sawicki, Dean Adam Doliwa, and Prof. Andrzej Krankowski, along with key associates. That same day, the United States launched a Polish astronaut into space, an inspiring coincidence shaping a “cosmic day for Polish science.”

Impressively, Polish researchers are involved in ten of the fifteen international LOFAR scientific consortia, with UWM participating in eight. The POLFAR consortium's scientific contributions have strengthened Polish astronomy via publications in prestigious journals and grants under EU's Horizon Europe and national science funds.

The PCSS also unveiled its quantum-ion PIAST-Q computer designed for room-temperature operation without extensive cooling and consuming under two kilowatts alongside future AI-compute infrastructure, reflecting UWM's broader leadership in advanced computing.

By christening the national LOFAR consortium after Prof. Katarzyna Anna Otmianowska-Mazur, a revered astronomer the attendees paid homage to Polish scientific heritage even as they gaze forward. With Bałdy station set for late-year upgrades, according to Prof. Krankowski, Poland looks poised to make a “giant leap” in observational capabilities and global scientific influence.