

Belgian economic mission

Academic event on 17 June 2024

“Universities’ role in innovation ecosystems”

1. Practical information

Date and time: Monday 17 June, 11.15 – 14.00

Venue: Oslo Science Park, meeting room Lyng, Gaustadalléen 21, 0349 Oslo

Participants: academic and economic delegation, staff of the Oslo Science City and the university of Oslo, invited Norwegian stakeholders

Lead: UCLouvain and University of Oslo in collaboration with WB Campus

2. Programme

11.15 – 11.20	Welcome <i>Speakers: Svein Stølen, Rector UiO</i>
11.20 – 11.30	Introducing Oslo Science City innovation district <i>Speaker: Svein Stølen, Rector UiO</i>
11.30 – 12.05	Panel discussion: Key features to create dynamic innovation ecosystems Introduction to the session by Luc Sels, Rector KU Leuven <i>Moderator: Carl Henrik Gørbitz, Professor UiO: Life Sciences</i> <i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Luc Sels, Rector KU Leuven</i>• <i>Svein Stølen, Rector UiO</i>• <i>Annick Castiaux, Rector of University of Namur</i>• <i>Guro Bjøntegaard - Country Director – AstraZeneca</i>
12.05 – 12.15	Presentation of the Circle U. InCUBator and Sustainable Changemakers Programme <i>Speakers: Markus Bugge, Chair for the In.CU.bator, and Student fellows of the Sustainable Changemakers Programme.</i>
12.15 – 12.45	Panel discussion: How can universities contribute to a thriving entrepreneurial culture for students and young academics <i>Moderator: Bjørn Stensaker, Vice-Rector for Education at UiO</i> <i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Amélie Jacquemin Chair for the Circle U In.CU.bator at UCLouvain</i>• <i>Morten Egeberg, Head of the SPARK programme at UiO</i>• <i>Simone Mester, Researcher and CEO of Authera</i>

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- *Per Morten Sandset, Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation at UiO*
 - *Jean-Christophe Renauld Pro-rector for Research and Innovation at UCLouvain*
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12.45 – 12.50

Closing remarks

Speaker: Didier Lambert, Rector of UCLouvain

12.50 – 14.00

Networking lunch for the participants

3. Description and objectives

This seminar will address the pivotal role of universities in nurturing dynamic innovation ecosystems and cultivating an entrepreneurial culture among students and young academics.

In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, innovation stands as a cornerstone for sustainable economic growth and societal advancement. Universities, as hubs of knowledge creation and dissemination, play a fundamental role in driving innovation forward. Through collaborative research, technology transfer initiatives, and entrepreneurship support programmes, universities serve as catalysts for transforming ideas into real-world solutions.

The seminar will be held in the Oslo Science City, which is Norway's most knowledge-intensive area as it gathers 8,000 researchers, 40,000 students, and 300 startup companies, working together to solve societal challenges. It is therefore the perfect setting to discuss the links between universities and the private and public sectors to foster innovation.

Through presentations and panel conversations with, among others, the top management of the University of Oslo, UCLouvain, KU Leuven, the University of Namur, Oslo Science City, the Oslo-based biotech company Authera and AstraZeneca. We will showcase diverse collaborative settings and initiatives to create innovation ecosystems, discuss success factors and challenges faced by stakeholders, and identify enablers or solutions to overcome current obstacles. Examples from initiatives implemented within the Circle U. European University Alliance will illustrate ways in which transnational cooperation in higher education contribute to the innovation ecosystem through research and student engagement.

4. Speakers' biographies (in order of appearance)



Carl Henrik Gørbitz, Director UiO: Life Science

Carl Henrik Gørbitz is since 2018 the Director of UiO:Life Science, a strategic initiative aiming to initiate and support interdisciplinary life science research, innovation, and education at the University of Oslo. Gørbitz is a professor of chemistry, with research activities focused on the solid-state properties of organic molecules, mainly amino acids and peptides, but also various other bioactive substances. He served as the head of education at the Department of Chemistry for many years and has a keen interest in teaching and learning methodologies.

Gørbitz is the host of Norway Life Science, the largest conference of its kind in Norway, sits in the board

of Centre for Philosophy and the Sciences (CPS) and is member of the strategic council of The Life Science Cluster (TLSC).



Prof. Dr. Svein Stølen, Rector UiO

Svein Stølen is Rector of the University of Oslo for the period 2017-2025. He is a professor of chemistry, with research interest in inorganic materials, especially relationships between structure and properties. Stølen has been elected the first president of the European University Alliance Circle U. In addition, he chairs the board of Norway's first innovation district, Oslo Science City and since June 2022 he chairs the board of The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities. He leads the Olav Thon Foundation's two professional councils, and the Anders Jahres Foundation for the Promotion of Science.

Prof. Stølen has been vice dean for research at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (2013-2016) and head of the Department of Chemistry (2009-2012). He headed the Center for Materials Science and Nanotechnology, and was the first chairman of the board, both for UiO: Life Sciences and for Digital Life Norway. He has been a member of the board of the Department of Energy Technology (2012-2017) and the Research Council's division board for science (2015-2017). He is member of the Royal Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the Norwegian Academy of Engineering Sciences.



Guro Bjøntegaard, Country Director, AstraZeneca

Bjøntegaard has previous leadership experience from the biotechnology company Novartis and has held a number of positions in both the Nordic region and Europe. She is educated in medicine and pharmacology, as well as acupuncture.



Prof. Markus Bugge, Chair for the In.CU.bator, Circle U, UiO

Markus M. Bugge is Associate Professor at the TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture at the University of Oslo and senior researcher at NIFU Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education.

He holds a PhD from the Department of Social and Economic Geography at Uppsala University and has extensive experience from research on innovation and innovation policies across private and public domains.

Current interests include governance of sustainability transitions and digital transformations.

**Bjørn Stensaker, Vice rector for Education at the University of Oslo**

Professor Bjørn Stensaker was appointed Vice-Rector for Education from August 2021-2025. He holds a PhD from the University of Twente, School of Business Administration, Technology and Public Administration and a Cand.Polit. degree from the University of Oslo in political science. He has a co-employment as a Research Professor at NIFU (The Nordic Institute for Innovation, Research and Education). His research areas include Studies in higher education, Organization and Governance of Educational Institutions, Educational Reforms and Quality

assurance.

**Prof. Amélie Jacquemin, Chair for the In.CU.bator, Circle U, UCLouvain**

Amélie Jacquemin is associate professor of entrepreneurship at the Louvain School of Management (UCLouvain, Belgium) and academic head of the incubator for student entrepreneurial projects on the UCLouvain FUCaM Mons campus. She holds a master's degree in law (UCLouvain, 2002) and a Ph.D. in economics and management (UCLouvain, 2012). Before joining the academic sphere, she worked in the private sector (the Brussels bar as a business lawyer) and the public one (within a political party as an advisor). Attached today to the Louvain Research Institute in

Management and Organizations (LouRIM), her work focuses on entrepreneurship and SMEs, and more specifically on entrepreneurial action and education.

She works as academic chair within the Circle U. InCU.bator platform. More specifically, Amélie is the coordinating professor of the Circle U. Sustainable Change-makers Programme. Finally, she is country Vice-President (Belgium), member of the board of directors and member of the Ethics Committee of the International French-speaking Research Association on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (AIREPME).

**Morten Egeberg, Administrative Leader UiO:Life Science & Leader SPARK Norway**

Egeberg holds a PhD in Molecular Biology from EMBL, Heidelberg. He has 12 years of experience working in the global life science industry in Dynal Biotech ASA/Invitrogen/Life Technologies/ ThermoFisher Scientific, as a Research Scientist, Project leader, Technology Manager and RD Manager. Previous experience also includes two years as Head of Section Medical Devices at DNV Nemko Presafe.



Simone Mester, Researcher and CEO of Authera

Simone Mester has studied medicine at the University of Oslo. She obtained her PhD in 2021. She is a former participant in the University's SPARK innovation program and is now affiliated with Oslo University Hospital and The Laboratory of Adaptive Immunity and Homeostasis, led by Professor Jan Terje Andersen. She is a part of PRIMA (a Norwegian Centre of Excellence centered on precision immunotherapy). In 2022, a group of researchers from the University of Oslo founded the biotech company Authera, where Mester

now serves as CEO.



Per Morten Sandset, Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation at UiO

Professor Per Morten Sandset is Vice-Rector of the University of Oslo for the period 2017-2025. Sandset obtained his PhD in medicine in 1989 from the University of Oslo. He is a specialist in general internal medicine and blood disorders and has been a professor II in medicine in the field of thrombosis research at the University of Oslo since 2002. He has previously been the head of the Hematology Department at the Oslo University Hospital (2002–2010), research director at the Cancer, Surgery, and Transplant Clinic, and senior consultant at the Department of Blood Disorders at Oslo University Hospital (from 2010) and director of research, innovation, and education at South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority from 2015 to 2017.

5. Participants

Norwegian delegation

1. Marianne Knarud, UiO
2. Siri, Aanstad, UiO
3. Hilde Nebb, UiO Growth House
4. Norunn Torheim, UiO Growth House, University of Oslo
5. Jonas Vårum Olafsen, Acting Head of Business Development, Municipality of Lillestrøm
6. Tor Paulson, Høgskolen i Innlandet
7. Haugen Håvard J, University of Oslo
8. Crina Damsa, University of Oslo
9. Beate Rygg Johnsen, UiO Growth House
10. Per Morten Sandset, UiO
11. Hanne Flinstad Harbo, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, UiO
12. Youness Azimzade, UiO
13. Birte Hansen, UiO/ dScience
14. Grete Dyb, University of Oslo, Faculty of Medicine
15. Elisabeth Authen Sethre, University of Oslo

16. Caspar Philip Price Hafslund, UiO
17. Carl Henrik Gørbitz, UiO
18. Markus Bugge, University of Oslo / TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture
19. Charlotte Claeysen, Oslo University
20. Katrine Vetlesen, Oslo Science City
21. Åse-Marit Kristiansen, University of Oslo
22. Janne Reseland, OD/UiO
23. Ingrid Sogner, University of Oslo
24. Yasir Islam, Education

Official delegation

1. Mrs Aline FRANCHIMONT, Project Manager, WALLONIE-BRUXELLES CAMPUS (WB CAMPUS)
2. Mrs Annelies GORISSEN, Manager Energy and Circular Economy POM Limburg, PROVINCIALE ONTWIKKELINGSMMAATSCHAPPIJ LIMBURG

Academic delegation

1. Mr Robert BAUDINET, CEO at Matvision and Research Engineer, GeMMe, UNIVERSITE DE LIEGE-ULG
2. Mrs Sandra BELBOOM, Lecturer, HAUTE ECOLE LIBRE MOSANE
3. Mrs Sara BERVOETS, Head of International Relations Office, UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP
4. Mr Valery BROUN, Head of the “science and technology” department, HAUTE ECOLE DE LA PROVINCE DE LIEGE-HEPL
5. Mrs Pauline CORNIL, Head of International Office, HAUTE ECOLE LOUVAIN EN HAINAUT
6. Mr Philippe DECLERCQ, Director-President, HAUTE ECOLE LOUVAIN EN HAINAUT-HELHA
7. Mr Christof DEVRIENDT, Professor/Lead Structural Health Monitoring VUB/OWI-Lab, VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL
8. Mr Peter GROGNARD, Managing Director, VON KARMAN INSTITUTE FOR FLUID DYNAMICS
9. Mrs Wanda GUEDENS, Vice-Rector for Education, UNIVERSITEIT HASSELT
10. Mr Jan HELSEN, Lead Performance and Diagnostics Monitoring OWI-Lab, VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL
11. Mr Didier LAMBERT, Rector, UCLOUVAIN
12. Mrs Annick LAPIERRE, Director-President, HAUTE ECOLE DE LA PROVINCE DE LIEGE-HEPL
13. Mr Xavier LEPOT, Director of Research Administration, UCLOUVAIN
14. Mr Didier MATTIVI, Director of Research Innovation Support and Enterprises, UNIVERSITE DE LIEGE-ULG
15. Mr Robert MULLER, Director of International Partnerships, THE CENTER FOR MICROSCOPY AND MOLECULAR IMAGING (CMMI) - UMONS
16. Mrs Julie REMICHE, Head of the “health sciences” department, HAUTE ECOLE DE LA PROVINCE DE LIEGE-HEPL
17. Mr Jean-Christophe RENAULD, Pro-Rector for Research, UCLOUVAIN

18. Mrs Dana SAMSON, Pro-Rector for International Affairs, UCLOUVAIN
19. Mr Wouter SCHROEYERS, HASSELT UNIVERSITY
20. Mr Luc SELS, Rector, KU LEUVEN
21. Mrs Christel VACELET, Director of the international office, UCLOUVAIN
22. Mr Koen VERLAECKT, Secretary General, FLEMISH INTERUNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Business delegation

1. Mr Richard BALLAUX, VR Product Manager, ONEBONSAI
2. Mr Martin BERWART, Expert Environnement, UNION WALLONNE DES ARCHITECTES
3. Mr Serge BODARWÉ, Area Sales Manager, ROLLS-ROYCE SOLUTIONS LIEGE
4. Mr Alexandre CAMBIER, Export Manager, CEREPHARMA
5. Mr Johann D'ARCHAMBEAU, Managing Director, Food and Food Supplements Sector, WAGRALIM
6. Mr Wim DE SCHACHT, Director, Vice-President, DAIKIN EUROPE
7. Mrs Lieselot DECLERCQ, CEO, D-TEACH ONLINE TRAINING
8. Mr Gaëtan DOQUIRE, Managing Director, UNION WALLONNE DES ARCHITECTES
9. Mrs Laetitia DUPRET, Co-Founder & CFO, GREENZY
10. Mrs Laura FRAMBA, Business Development Manager Europe, BUREAU D'ELECTRONIQUE APPLIQUEE
11. Mr Tom LAVEREN, Managing Director, VOKA - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY - MECHELEN-KEMPEN
12. Mr Gabriel LEVIE, Co-Founder, WEQUITY
13. Mr Benoît MACQ, Board Member, EONIX
14. Mr Jean MINNE, CEO, COMPOSIL
15. Mr Quentin RAMON, CSO, ALPHA INNOVATIONS
16. Mr Evarest SCHOOF, CEO, ONEBONSAI
17. Mr Gert TREKELS, COO, SENTIGRATE
18. Mr Marc VERWERFT, Head of Expert Group Fuel Materials, SCK CEN

Local delegation

1. Mrs Lotte YSENBANDT, Deputy General Representative, DELEGATION OF FLANDERS IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES