



Hannover Results on Global Higher Education Cooperation

October 24, 2025

Preamble: Unity in a Complex World

The leaders of 19 major international higher education networks gathered at the inaugural GICHE – The Global Innovation Circle on Higher Education – event on 23–24 October 2025 in Hannover, Germany, and re-affirmed higher education's indispensable role in addressing global challenges. Despite complex and challenging geopolitical times, this group of leaders expressed strategic optimism for the future, asserting that universities contribute crucially to civic, cultural, economic, and social life and are essential for resilient societies and a sustainable future.

I. The Enduring Mission: Driving Transformative Change

Universities act as educators, innovators, and partners committed to transformative change across four key pillars:

- **Education:** by nurturing interdisciplinary methods and global citizenship.
- **Research:** by fostering excellence through cross-border and cross-disciplinary approaches.
- **Entrepreneurship and economic development:** by powering innovation and translating knowledge and research results into societal impact and contributing to economic progress in individual countries and regions.
- **Civic engagement, social and cultural life:** by deepening community ties, championing fact-based discourse and democratic values.

Serving as the foundation for these pillars is multilateral and multifaceted internationalization, demonstrated through the building and support of globally diverse, inclusive, and resilient academic collaboration. Additionally, universities – as an intermediary between the political arena and society – have the unique opportunity to continue dialogue and open doors in geopolitically challenging environments.

II. The Collective Commitment: Global Cooperation Across Differences

Building on trust and placing great value on openness, the leaders of the participating networks commit to identifying common cooperation themes while respecting diverse contexts and perspectives. The group aims to anchor collaboration on shared agendas, acknowledging the diversity of approaches represented in this global circle.

III. The Next Steps: Accelerating Connections

Signifying their commitment to the above, the leaders of the participating networks set forth to enhance and encourage cooperative efforts toward change within their respective networks and member institutions.

- **GICHE as a platform:** The participating networks recognized GICHE's value as a platform for exchanging best practices, sharing knowledge, and mediating shared interests. By accelerating contact and exchange, GICHE can serve to foster agile, focused collaboration on common challenges.
- **Future collaboration:** The group agreed to evaluate the outcomes of this inaugural meeting through a structured feedback process and to explore opportunities for continued exchange based on these findings.

