

Welcome speech

Libor Vozár

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to an event co – organized by three organisations on the topic of research assessment.

European university association offered a possibility to inform academic communities in Europe about the latest development in the research assessment as part of its strategic plan and in line with its vision *Universities without walls* endorsed in 2020.

Slovak Rectors´ Conference, as a collective full member of EUA, has seized the opportunity and together with the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information is co - organising this hybrid event. Our intention is to inform Slovak academic milieu about the developments that are happening in the frame of Renewed European Research Area, we want to be part of, as well as in the context of Open Science. The Council of the European Union in its 2022 *Conclusions on research assessment and implementation of Open Science* acknowledged that research assessment systems should focus on quality and impact. It recalled that current research assessment systems are to a great extent too focused on the use of some quantitative journal- and publication-based indicators and the evaluation of a narrow range of research outputs. While many research funding and performing organisations, as well as research assessment authorities in Europe, are taking steps to improve the way they assess research and researchers, change remains slow, uneven and fragmented across Europe. Therefore, the Council reiterated the need to advance in a concerted effort towards reforming the various research assessment systems and practices for research, researchers, research teams and institutions to improve their quality, openness, performance and impact.

We can as well frame this event with the Slovak Strategy for Open Science and with the latest activities of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR that we will hear about soon.

I must mention that UNESCO as well declared in the areas of actions to be undertaking under the umbrella of its 2021 *Recommendation on Open Science*, that member states are encouraged to consider “*Encouraging responsible research and researcher evaluation and assessment practices, which incentivize quality science, recognizing the diversity of research outputs, activities and missions.*”

EUA´s staff will introduce you into the topic and context. Please, use this unique opportunity for an open and frank discussion with EUA as well as with representatives from the research funding bodies as the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR, the Slovak Research and Development Agency and we have invited staff from the Government office responsible for research, development and innovation. We expect a dialogue in which academics and researchers from all backgrounds and at every stage of their career can express their views. Feel free to ask questions, inform us about obstacles and formulate recommendations. We will be glad if the discussion moves further to your university or research institute and if you encourage your leaders or your employees to get acquainted with the *Agreement on reforming research assessment* and at the end of the day more Slovak organisations will join the coalition of willing. This is but your responsibility and decision.