

INVITATION

Belgian economic mission

Academic events on 17 June 2024

“Universities’ role in innovation ecosystems”

and

Introduction to key actors and activities in the Oslo Science City Innovation District

“Universities’ role in innovation ecosystems”

On behalf of the University of Oslo and the University of Louvain (UCLouvain), it is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in our academic event titled "Universities’ Role in Innovation Ecosystems." This seminar, held in collaboration with WBCampus as part of the Belgian economic mission to Norway, 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.

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.

Date: 17 June 2024

Timing and venue: 11.15 - 12.50, followed by a networking lunch. Oslo Science Park, meeting room Lyng (max 100 participants). Address: Gaustadalleen 21.

Hosts: University of Oslo and UCLouvain

PROGRAMME

- 11.15 – 11.20 **Welcome by Svein Stølen, Rector of the University of Oslo**
- 11.20 – 11.30 **Introducing Oslo Science City innovation district**
Speaker: Svein Stølen, Rector of the University of Oslo & Christine Wergeland Sørbye, CEO Oslo Science City
- 11.30 – 12.05 **Panel discussion: Key features to create dynamic innovation ecosystems**
Introduction to the session by *Luc Sels, Rector KU Leuven*
Moderator: Carl Henrik Gørbitz, Director of UiO:Life Science
Panelists:
- *Luc Sels, Rector KU Leuven*
 - *Svein Stølen, Rector of the University of Oslo*
 - *Annick Castiaux, Rector of University of Namur*
 - *Magnus Gulbrandsen, Professor - Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture*
 - *Guro Bjøntegaard - Country Director – AstraZeneca*
- 12.05 – 12.15 **Presentation of the Circle U. InCubator and Sustainable Changemakers Programme**
Speakers: Markus Bugge, Chair for the In.CU.bator, and Student fellows of the Sustainable Changemakers Programme.
- 12.15 – 12.45 **Panel discussion: How can universities contribute to a thriving entrepreneurial culture for students and young academics**
Moderator: Bjørn Stensaker, Vice rector for Education at the University of Oslo
Panelists:
- *Amélie Jacquemin Chair for the Circle U In.CU.bator at UCLouvain*
 - *Morten Egeberg, Head of the SPARK programme at the University of Oslo*
 - *Simone Mester, Researcher and CEO of Authera*
 - *Per Morten Sandset, Vice Rector for Research and Innovation at the University of Oslo*
 - *Jean-Christophe Renauld Pro-rector for Research and Innovation at UCLouvain*

12.45 – 12.50

Closing remarks

Speaker: Didier Lambert, Rector of UCLouvain

Introduction to key actors and activities in the Oslo Science City Innovation District

The University of Oslo and University of Louvain are pleased to invite you to the event “Introduction to key actors and activities in the Oslo Science City Innovation District”. A presentation of different stakeholders in the innovation district will be held by Mrs. Christine Wergeland Sørbye, CEO of Oslo Science City, with an emphasis on the life sciences. The introduction will be followed by a thematic session on Excellence in nuclear medicine.

Date : 17 June 2024

Timing and venue: 14:00 – 14:55, Oslo Science Park: Gaustadalleen 21, 0349 Oslo, WB Campus, in collaboration with UCLouvain and Oslo Science City

The final programme will be available closer to the date.

Please register to both events via this link: [here](#)

If you have any questions, please contact infocircleu@uclouvain.be