



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY:
RESPONSIBLE GROWTH, INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT

APRIL 2026



Dziękuję, Wrocław!

As many of us have just returned from Poland, it's time to unpack—not only our bags, but also the many inspiring moments we shared together. This edition of the Summer School brought us a truly memorable experience: from a dynamic and entertaining 3-Minute Fame contest, to a meaningful and hands-on zero waste workshop, and a highly enriching Personal Mentorship Programme symposium. Each activity added its own spark to the event, creating a vibrant and collaborative atmosphere throughout.

Our Polish colleagues welcomed us with exceptional warmth and hospitality—and even the sunshine was on our side. These few days were a perfect reminder that nothing compares to meeting in person when it comes to strengthening collaboration, deepening friendships, and building motivation for the projects ahead.

It was also a pleasure to have colleagues from Work Package 2, centered on education. Their presence sparked numerous engaging and productive discussions, especially around how our respective areas of activity can better connect and complement one another. These exchanges were particularly valuable as we begin to shape perspectives for the next phase of EU GREEN, opening the door to new synergies and collaborative opportunities.

As we look ahead, our journey continues—next stop: Germany, where we will gather again for the upcoming Research Week. Another exciting opportunity to reconnect, exchange ideas, and push our work even further.

Were you unable to join us in Poland, or are you considering taking part in the next event? It's not too late to get involved. You can explore the latest version of the programme and find the registration link below. We would be delighted to have you with us for the next chapter.



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A EU GREEN PhD Thesis to Fight Blood Cancer



It was a perfect match. When Professor Damien Luque Paz (University of Angers, France) reached out to Professor Thomas Fischer (Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg, Germany) to write a joint PhD project proposal, both colleagues

The team knows they are tackling an ambitious challenge, but they remain hopeful. *"In cancer research, many things take ten years,"* said Prof. Fischer. *"But sometimes, you find a solution in just two years. You never know."*

were already working on the same disease, a very rare cancer with only several thousand diagnoses per year in France.

"I was very lucky," said Prof. Luque Paz. "I was on my computer, checking the universities in the alliance one by one and looking for potential collaborations. I searched for teams working on hematologic cancers. I knew Prof. Fischer—not personally, but through his publications and those of his unit. I didn't realize he was at Magdeburg or that Magdeburg was part of the alliance. So, I sent him an email: 'Hello, we're in the same alliance. Would you like to write a thesis project proposal with me?' And he said yes!"

The possibility of a new collaboration came as a happy surprise in Prof. Fischer's inbox, and negotiations soon began between Angers and Magdeburg.

The project, funded equally by both institutions, addresses myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN), a hematologic cancer characterized by an excess of blood cells and bone marrow disorders. Thomas Lemeunier-Lelievre, the PhD candidate who successfully responded to the call, explained: *"Monocytes are immune cells that play a key role in inflammation. They are the first actors of innate immunity—the first to defend the body against bacterial infections."*

A central focus of the thesis is to investigate the role of monocytes in driving inflammation and promoting fibrosis development within the bone marrow. Prof. Fischer added: *"In this type of blood cancer, inflammation can cause fevers, a high risk of blood clots in the lungs, legs, veins, and sometimes even cardiac infarction or brain haemorrhage. By better understanding the basis of this inflammation, we can help relieve patients of these symptoms."*

The two labs bring complementary strengths to the project. *"While our unit have access to patient samples and cell line models, we don't currently work with mice due to limited personnel. Prof. Fischer, however, has access to mouse models, so our approaches are highly complementary,"* explained Prof. Luque Paz.

For Thomas Lemeunier-Lelievre, the benefits of this collaboration outweigh the difficulties. *"The main challenges are logistical. We're still figuring out how to transfer these mice to Magdeburg if we want to work on them. Splitting a three-year program between two countries is also a challenge. But working abroad means being open to another vision of science."*

On a larger scale, Prof. Fischer highlighted the broader impact of this project: *"This collaboration brings countries and people together. It's not just about scientific sustainability, but also about building relationships, friendships, and mutual understanding. Our labs working together creates synergies and makes us more competitive in the field. It shapes our scientific profile. It's what Europe is all about."*

Thesis title: *Role of monocytes and macrophages in myeloproliferative neoplasms*

Candidate: Thomas Lemeunier-Lelievre

Supervision: Prof. Thomas Fischer, Otto-von-Guericke (University Magdeburg, Germany) and Prof. Damien Luque Paz (University of Angers, France)

Funding : Agence Nationale de la Recherche, Région Pays de La Loire, Université d'Angers, Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

News & Notices



Research Week, 2-4 June 2026

The Research Week is the yearly event dedicated to researchers from the alliance. This year, for the first time, the event will also include an EU GREEN brokerage event, a matchmaking event focusing on building project consortia and applications for Horizon Europe calls. We look forward to seeing you there!

[Read more](#)



A Joint EU GREEN Publication on Mental Health

EU GREEN health researchers (cluster 1) have published a collective paper on the highly important topic of seeking support for mental health issues amongst European university students. They found risk was higher among younger students, female students and those from lower-income backgrounds.



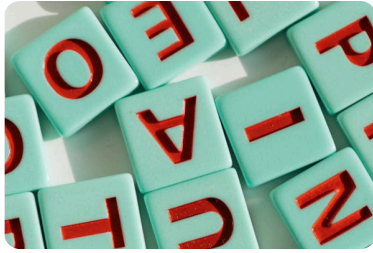
Call for Researchers' Mobility

Start planning your own visit to launch or reinforce research cooperation with other EU GREEN researchers!

Deadline closes on Wednesday 30 September 2026. Mobilities must take place before 31 December 2026. Contact your local team to ensure funding.

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Erasmus+ SLS4 Teens Project Comes to an End

SLS4Teens aimed at improving the teaching-learning of languages using innovative methods of oral learning and of the emotional and affective security of learners. In this project, Master students and active teachers were trained in 7 innovative modules designed by 5 partner universities: University of Nantes, Otto-von-Guericke University of Magdeburg, University of Parma, University of Extremadura and University of Angers.

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CFP on AI, Entrepreneurship and Societal Transformation

Artificial Intelligence is reshaping industries, entrepreneurship, and social dynamics at an unprecedented pace. This edited volume (Springer) explores intersections between AI, entrepreneurship, ethics, sustainability, education, and industrial dynamics, emphasizing responsible and human-centered innovation. Chapter proposal submission deadline: 15 June 2026

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How to write a successful MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship project

Join the next webinar to learn more about the MSCA proposal writing process. This session will be dedicated to practical hints and tips on how to write a competitive proposal, including advice from a successful applicant from the University of Angers. The session will take place Tuesday 9 June, from 10:00 to 12:00 CET. Registration is mandatory.

[Read more](#)



Inna Mashevskva Wins 3-Minute Fame Contest

The competition brought together **29 early-stage researchers from across Europe**, each taking on the challenge of presenting their doctoral research in just three minutes. In this format, participants are required not only to demonstrate scientific rigour, but also to translate complex ideas into clear, engaging narratives accessible to a wider audience. This combination of precision and storytelling lies at the heart of the competition's success.

The jury awarded first prize to Inna Mashevskva from the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences. Second place went to George Tamas from the University of Oradea, while third place was

awarded to Giorgia Conti from the University of Parma. Their presentations stood out not only for their scientific quality, but also for their ability to engage, inspire and communicate effectively. Congratulations to all the participants!

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Thank you for reading!

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