

HRK German Rectors' Conference

The Voice of the Universities

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IS KEY TO EUROPE'S UNIVERSITIES' INTERNATIONAL ATTRACTIVENESS

The rectors' conferences of France - France Universités and CDEFI (the French Engineering School Directors' Conference), Poland - KRASP, and Germany - HRK, consider European and international cooperation as a cornerstone of the successful work of our universities. Therefore, the mobility of students and researchers in our member states and the European Union is of major importance.

In the report entitled [*Much More Than a Market*](#), former Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta's proposal of a fifth freedom, encompassing the free movement of research, innovation and education, could therefore not have been more timely.

The conferences support the general idea and remain committed to advancing academic freedom and institutional autonomy in order to develop a thriving academic environment and make our countries and the European Union innovative and competitive.

European and international mobility enriches the educational experience, broadens perspectives, and fosters mutual understanding. By enabling students to study and work in different countries and cultures, it prepares them to become responsible European citizens who successfully navigate challenges and contribute to our interconnected societies.

Furthermore, the conferences are convinced that in the years to come, the internationalization of European university alliances will also drive academic excellence forward and allow for diverse educational experiences.

Fostering critical and constructive thinking in universities is especially key to our educational philosophy. Encouraging students to call into question and analyze preconceived ideas prepares them to solve complex problems and make informed decisions in a rapidly changing world.

Promoting student engagement, intercultural competence, and multilingualism is no less crucial for building an inclusive society. These skills help people appreciate different cultures and perspectives, nurture tolerance and cooperation.

A Union of research, innovation, and education, one that facilitates deeper transnational cooperations between our institutions, that drives progress and ensures that our member states and Europe in general remain at the forefront, is essential to our vision of a shared future.