

**PRESS RELEASE, January 2020**



**The Universities of Applied Sciences Network (UASnet), since 2011 the biggest membership organisation of UAS's in Europe has dissolved itself as of December 2019.** UASnet, focusing on Research and Innovation in the EU and covering more than 1 million higher education students and 156 UAS's, represented the official national (or regional) associations of UAS's in the following countries: Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium (Flanders & Wallonia), Ireland and Portugal.

**In 2016 UASnet took the initiative to broaden their network in Europe and to unite more UAS's in an informal platform focused on applied research and innovation, called UAS4EUROPE.** This new platform includes the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences, the Österreichische Fachhochschul-Konferenz (FHK), the Hochschule Bayern and the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE). Past years UAS4EUROPE has successfully been recognized as the voice of European UAS's when it comes to applied research and innovation.

“The European Commission has praised the UAS4EUROPE policy papers and input. Jean-Eric Paquet welcomed the views of UAS4EUROPE in the first days he started as Commissioner in May 2018”, explains resigning UASnet-president Henrik Wolff. “Last year (2018-2019) UASnet chaired the UAS4EUROPE-platform (rotating chairmanship). **Now, in 2020 it is the perfect moment to dissolve UASnet and give full birth to the bigger UAS4EUROPE-platform. As a result, UASnet -as such- will no longer be active in UAS4EUROPE.**”

Three UASnet-members, The Netherlands Association of UAS (Vereniging Hogescholen), the Danish Rector's Conference of University Colleges Denmark (Danske Professionshøjskoler) and the Rector's Conference of Finnish UAS (ARENE) decided to attend directly the meetings of UAS4EUROPE in Brussels to have a strong grip on the EU-research programs, e.g. “Horizon Europe”. The other former members of UASnet will be represented indirectly in the UAS4EUROPE-platform, i.e. via EURASHE. It is possible that in the future some of them might also apply for direct partnership in UAS4EUROPE.

Contact & Info:

Henrik Wolff, former president of UASnet, +358 50 649 36

Bruno Van Koeckhoven, former secretary-general of UASnet, +32 497 17 90 50

## Former members of UASnet

Finland	The Rector's Conference of Finnish UAS (ARENE)
Estonia	Estonian Rector's Conference of UAS (RKRN)
Lithuania	Lithuanian Director's Conference of UAS (LKDK)
Denmark	Danish Rector's Conference of University Colleges Denmark (Danske Professionshøjskoler)
The Netherlands	The Netherlands Association of UAS (Vereniging Hogescholen)
Belgium (French)	Synergie entre les Hautes Écoles et les Entreprises pour la Recherche Appliquée - SYNHERA
Belgium (Dutch)	The Flemish Council of Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts (VLHORA)
Ireland	The Technological Higher Education Association (THEA)
Portugal	Portuguese Coordinating Council of Polytechnic Institutions (CCISP)