

KIRCHER NETWORK

24-28 STRATEGIC PLAN

KIRCHER
Network
Jesuit Higher Education
in Europe and the Near East

STRATEGIC PLAN APPROVED DURING THE KIRCHER
NETWORK'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

Planning for the future:

Kircher Network Strategic Plan (2024 - 2028)

The Kircher Council has prepared this document following the resolution of the 2023 Namur Assembly to prepare a new Strategic Plan for 2024 - 2028. The Council has diligently ensured that this draft aligns with the shared vision of member institutions and the strategic goals set forth for the network. It incorporates valuable input from the Namur Assembly and suggestions from the presidents and deans, as was requested in the President's letter dated May 3, 2024, presenting the draft.



Mission

As a regional association belonging to the IAJU, our mission is to strengthen academic collaboration, the Jesuit identity, and the sense of shared apostolic mission among our member institutions in all aspects of academic life, and the communities within which our institutions operate.



Vision

In five years, we will become a network of interacting Jesuit higher education institutions mutually reinforcing their Jesuit identity and working on strategic goals for their shared apostolic mission in coordination with the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU) and the European Jesuit Provincials.



Values

In realising our vision, we are committed to:

- **Cultivating Christian and human values** - truth, virtue, and excellence- in all our academic endeavours;
- **Promoting collaborative efforts, meaningful partnerships, and solidarity** among our member institutions and with other Jesuit institutions to create mutual benefits;
- **Fostering inclusion and solidarity** with those who are marginalised and with those who do not have a voice.
- **Advancing pluralism, justice and reconciliation**, and a commitment to the common good within our academic communities and societies;
- **Promoting a culture of caring for Earth** as our common home and fostering sustainable development.



Strategic objectives

1 Promote partnerships and collaboration in teaching and research among our member institutions and between them and other IAJU universities in key areas for advancing their apostolic mission

To achieve this, we will:

- Facilitate the exchange of professors, researchers and students, both online and in person.
- Promote joint research by broadening participation in HEST [1] clusters and forming new groups focused on strategic topics related to the UAPs[2].
- Develop joint courses and programs using pedagogical E-Learning and digital technology tools, micro-credentials, summer school formats and other innovative learning approaches.
- Facilitate reflections and exchange of experiences among member institutions, focusing on organisational issues, challenges, and opportunities of higher education institutions and community projects, nurturing a culture of shared knowledge and innovation.
- Strengthen cooperation between Jesuit Worldwide Learning and other institutions within the Kircher Network.

[1] HEST - Higher Education for Social Transformation Programme.

[2] UAPs - Universal Apostolic Preferences.

2 Support our member institutions in fostering the formation of faculty members and administrators in the identity and mission of Jesuit Higher Education institutions

To achieve this, we will:

- Offer European collaborative training initiatives that synergise with the efforts of the institutions to imbue their faculty and staff with a deep understanding of mission and identity.
- Foster the exchange of resources and best practices through workshops tailored for people responsible for identity and mission.
- Facilitate the exchange of insights on safeguarding policies, monitoring protocols, formative practices, and research endeavours on safeguarding and institutional power relations among member institutions and between them and other IAJU universities.

3 Nurturing values-based education and our member institutions' distinctive Jesuit pedagogical approach to education

To achieve this, we will:

- Create a group of peers tasked with fostering reflection, training and sharing best practices in values-based education, Ignatian Pedagogy, pedagogical innovation and the evolving significance of meaningful education amidst the rise of AI and digital transformation within higher education.
- Organise symposia and workshops to discuss and exchange best practices and expertise on life-long learning.

4 Promote efforts to address the challenge of connecting theological reflection with contemporary issues

To achieve this, we will:

- Organise dialogues among presidents and deans of theology on the key issues, challenges and strategies for advancing theological education in the contemporary context.
- Enrich the Kircher Theological Symposium initiative to include a forum for interdisciplinary discussions fostering a deeper understanding of the relevance of theological perspectives in addressing complex contemporary challenges.

5 Strengthen the institutional capacity of the Kircher Network to accomplish its goals more effectively

Specifically, we will:

- Establish a formal juridical identity for the Kircher Network.
- Strengthen the coordination with the Jesuit Provincials to optimise resources, particularly in sharing Jesuit professors and formation activities centred on identity and mission.
- Expand fundraising efforts to secure support for the Network's joint collaborative projects.
- Enhance the Network's platforms and communication channels to ensure effective communication and collaboration among member institutions, facilitating the exchange of ideas, resources, and expertise and fostering joint projects.

[Kircher Network website](#)

