

Meeting of the Hest Cluster on Ecology and Environmental Challenges

BRUSSELS, JANUARY 15-16, 2026

NOTRE DAME DU CHAMP-D'OISEAU



KIRCHER
Network
Jesuit Higher Education
in Europe and the Near East



Location & Accommodation

Notre Dame du Champ-d'Oiseau

Avenue des Franciscains 3A 1150 Brussels Belgium

Goals for the meeting

1. Relaunch the cluster
2. Share institutional good practices and opportunities for academic collaboration. Institutions are invited to prepare a brief presentation (maximum 7- minute) highlighting good practices or initiatives related to ecology and sustainability.
3. Discuss potential joint projects to be developed over the next three years. Institutions are encouraged to present concrete, value-added, and feasible proposals capable of generating real collaboration among our universities.
4. Define next steps and an action plan for the cluster.



Program

THURSDAY 15

Moderators: Richard Mauron and José Carlos Romero

Secretaries: TBD

8:00 Mass (optional)

9:30 Welcome - Philip Geister, SJ. President of the Kircher Network

9:35 Introduction to the Meeting: Goals, Agenda and Round of introductions - Richard Maroun and José Carlos Romero

Session 1: Reviewing the Regional and Global Contexts for Collaboration

10:00 Previous Advances of the Cluster: Achieved Goals - Richard Mauron

10:20 Strategic Objectives and Projects of the Kircher Network - Philip Geister, SJ. and Susana Di Trolio

10:40 Updates on IAJU Task Force on Economic and Environmental Justice - Nancy Tuchman.

11:10 Q & A

11:30 Coffee break

12:00 Presentation of JESC (Jesuit European Social Centre) and its projects on Ecology – Filipe Martin, SJ.

12:30 Q & A

Session 2: Sharing good practices and opportunities for academic collaboration

15:00 Sharing opportunities for academic collaboration and good practices. Presentations by participating institutions (7 minutes each, followed by 7 minutes Q&A). All institutions are invited to briefly showcase their experiences.

Examples of institutions presenting:

- Campion Hall's Integral Ecology Research Network (IERN).
- UNIJES new Research Center on Environment and Ecology.

16:30 Coffee break

Session 3: Re-thinking the future of the Cluster: Action Plan 2026 - 2028

17:00 Re-thinking the future of the Cluster: Action Plan 2026 - 2028 17:00 Work in small groups - Proposals for Potential Joint Projects of the Cluster (Each group to propose no more than two feasible projects adding value to participating institutions)

18:30 Recap of the Day – Richard Maroun

18:45 End of day one

19:00 Dinner

FRIDAY 16

Moderators: Richard Mauron and José Carlos Romero

Secretaries: TBD

8:00 Mass (optional)

9:00 Continuation of Small Group Work: Potential Joint Projects

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Plenary: Reports from small groups - Pooling proposals (Each group presents its two proposals – 20 minutes per group)

12:30 Dialogue: Prioritizing and Deciding Future Projects. Richard Maroun

- Which joint projects will the HEST Cluster prepare and start developing in 2026?

13:30 Lunch

14:30 Continuation: Prioritizing and Deciding Future Projects

15:30 Wrapping Up: HEST Cluster Action Plan for 2026–2028. Richard Maroun, José Carlos Romero and Susana Di Trolio

- Agreements and next steps
- Possible collaboration with IAJU and JESC and IAJU

16:00 Final remarks

16:15 Adjournment
