

JULY 6-7 2026

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Kircher Network General Assembly of Presidents and Deans

IGNATIANUM UNIVERSITY
MIKOŁAJA KOPERNIKA 26, 31-501 KRAKÓW, POLAND



6-7 JULY 2026 | IGNATIANUM UNIVERSITY

Goals of the meeting

- KIRCHER NETWORK GENERAL ASSEMBLY •
 - Report on the Network's activities and financial status since the 2025 Assembly.
 - Discuss the Operational Plan 2026 - 2027 and the proposed tiered contribution structure for 2026–2027.
 - Review the timing, criteria, and procedures for planning the selection of the Network's next President.
 - Review developments and initiatives of the International Association of Jesuit Universities.
 - Review updates from the Jesuit Conference of European Provincials.
 - Review developments in collaboration initiatives with AJCU–Africa and Madagascar universities and centres to strengthen communication and collaboration.
 - Reflect on Democracy in Crisis and Europe's Strategic Autonomy: Tensions and Challenges for Jesuit Universities in Europe and the Near East, particularly regarding integral formation, academic freedom, and research.
 - Exchange experiences of reconfiguration, reorganisation, and collaboration among Schools of Theology and Philosophy, and reflect on whether and how strengthened academic collaboration at the regional level can meaningfully support these processes and help shape future pathways.

KIRCHER
Network
Jesuit Higher Education
in Europe and the Near East



Contact: kirchernetwork@jesuits.eu



WEBSITE OF THE EVENT



EVENT PROGRAM

• MONDAY, JULY 6TH •

Welcome Cocktail at Ignatianum University on **Sunday, the 5th, at 19:00 for all arrivals.**

8:30 PRAYER: BRUNO NOBRE, SJ.

8:40 WELCOME REMARKS

Tomasz Homa, SJ., President of Ignatianum University in Krakow; and Philip Geister, SJ., President of the Kircher Network

8:50 Brief introduction of participants.
Presentation of the Meeting Goals. Philip Geister, SJ.

9:05 SESSION 1: REPORTING & PLANNING:

Report on the Kircher Network's Developments and Finances

9:30 Q&A

9:40 Discussion of the Operational Plan and the Proposed Tiered Contributions for 2026 –2027

10:10 Coffee break

10:25 Discussion on the Timeline and Criteria for the Election of the Network's Next President.

11:00 SESSION 2: UPDATES FROM IAJU AND THE JCEP:

Updates on the developments of the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU). Philip Geister, SJ.

11:15 Q&A

11:35 Remarks and Updates from the Jesuit Conference of European Provincials, Dalibor Renić, SJ (President of the JCEP).

11:50 Q&A

12:00 SESSION 3: ADVANCING COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE KIRCHER NETWORK AND AJCU–AFRICA & MADAGASCAR:

3.1. Updates on collaboration with AJCU–Africa & Madagascar. Philip Geister, SJ, and François Kaboré, SJ (AJCU–AM), joining via videoconference (20 minutes)

3.2. Brief updates on bilateral collaborations between member institutions and AJCU–Africa & Madagascar. Short contributions from Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL), Loyola University Andalusia, the University of Namur, and Loyola Paris

3.3. Wrap-up and next steps



EVENT PROGRAM

• MONDAY, JULY 6TH •

13:00 Lunch at Ignatianum University

15:00 **SESSION 4: DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS & EUROPE'S STRATEGIC AUTONOMY: TENSIONS FACING JESUIT UNIVERSITIES.**

At the Intersection of Academic Freedom and the Jesuit Mission to Uphold Christian and Human Values

Panel discussion: (25 minutes per panellist).

- Annick Castiaux, President of the University of Namur.
 - Antonio Allende, SJ., President of Pontifical Comillas University.
 - Johannes Wallacher, President of the Munich School of Philosophy.
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16:15 Coffee break

16:35 **Q&A**

Discussion: How do we face these tensions? How do we balance them? Is there a common base and a need to work together on this issue?

17:45 Adjournment for the day

18:00 **Eucharist**

Celebrant: PME Provincial, Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Kopernika 26).

19:30 **Welcome Dinner.** Restaurant "Barka Aquarius" (a barge moored on the Vistula River near the Wawel Hill; Bulwar Czerwieński 81).



BASILICA LOCATION



WELCOME DINNER
LOCATION

EVENT PROGRAM

• TUESDAY, JULY 7TH •



CLOSING DINNER LOCATION

- 9:00 PRAYER:** JACEK POZNAŃSKI, SJ.
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- 9:10 SESSION 5. THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY AT A CROSSROADS: HOW CAN OUR INSTITUTIONS RECONFIGURE AND COLLABORATE IN A TIME OF TRANSITION?**
- 5.1 Framing the Discussion:** Session ´s objectives and methodology, and introduction of the institutions sharing their experiences. Philip Geister, SJ.
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- 9:20 5.2. Sharing Experiences of reconfiguration (45 minutes):** Four institutions will be invited to present their experiences of reinvention, reorganisation, or collaboration (15 minutes each).
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- 10:05** Q & A and instructions for the Group Reflection
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- 10:20** Coffee break
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- 10:35 5.3. Group Reflection: Exploring Collaboration**
- What meaningful and viable forms of collaboration could emerge among our institutions to help us reconfigure ourselves for mission in this time of transition?
 - How can the Kircher Network best support and advance these processes?
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- 12:05 5.4 Plenary:** Sharing the discussion notes with the plenary (each moderator will have 8 minutes to report).
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- 12:30** Q & A and comments
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- 12:45** Wrap-up of Session 5. Philip Geister, SJ
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- 12:50** Define the venue and dates for the 2027 General Assembly
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- 13:00** Lunch at Ignatianum University
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- 14:00** Leaving Ignatianum for the Wawel Hill (around 30 minutes on foot).
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- 15:00** Cultural Visit: Guided tour in two groups starting from the Wawel Hill, then the Royal Way and the Jesuit Heritage on the way to the Main Market Square.
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- 17:00 Eucharistic**, celebrant: Philip Geister SJ, St. Barbara Jesuit Church (Mały Rynek 8).
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- 19:00** Closing Dinner. Restaurant “Wiejskie Jadło” (Grodzka 9).
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KIRCHER NETWORK GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PRESIDENTS AND DEANS 2026
IGNATIANUM UNIVERSITY, KRAKOW (POLAND)