

TyneMouth: NCL Europe's Spring Bulletin 2024

Welcome to NCL Europe: It is with great enthusiasm that I address you for the first time as the new Director of Newcastle Europe. European affairs and connections are a subject of close interest for me, and in that, I am delighted to help the Newcastle University community in develop our strong sense of community with Europe. I am incredibly thankful for the outstanding work of my predecessor, Dr Bernhard Malkmus, whose dedication and vision have laid a strong foundation upon which we can build.

As we embark on this new chapter together, I am reminded of the profound importance of Newcastle University's engagement in European matters. Considering the current societal, political and financial European landscape, it is crucial that we actively participate in shaping the present and future of Europe and contribute our expertise to the broader conversation. Our University's rich history, vibrant community, and world-class research position us as key players in addressing the challenges and opportunities facing the continent.

Newcastle Europe serves as a vital platform for facilitating dialogue, collaboration, and innovation in all matters related to Europe. We are a diverse group of colleagues and students who are deeply passionate about working in, with, and on Europe. Our collective efforts aim to foster understanding, promote cooperation, and drive positive change across borders and disciplines.

I am thrilled to announce the launch of Europe Week, a celebration of our shared *European identity*. Food, art, languages, or culture are some of the conduits that help us spark debate on what it means to be European and the values that unite us as a diverse and dynamic community. From Tuesday 7th to Thursday 9th of May, we invite you to join us for a series of engaging and thought-provoking events that showcase the richness and diversity of European culture, history, and heritage.

Throughout the week, you can expect a wide range of activities, including food events, art exhibitions, film screenings, panel discussions, workshops, and more. These events will provide opportunities for dialogue, reflection, and celebration as we come together to explore our shared European identity and deepen our connections with one another.

At NCL Europe, we firmly believe in the power of collaboration and inclusivity to drive positive change. We are committed to creating a welcoming and supportive environment where everyone feels valued and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives and experiences. Whether you are a student, faculty member, staff member, or member of the wider community, there is a place for you within our Europe Week festivities.

In closing, I would like to extend a special invitation to all of you to participate actively in our Europe Week events. Your engagement and enthusiasm are essential to the success of this initiative, and I am confident that together, we can make this celebration a resounding success that will spark further conversations and collaborations.

Thank you, and I am looking forward to seeing you at Europe Week!

Noelia Cacheiro

A Student Perspective

As a European country, we are incredibly fortunate to have such a diverse pool of rich cultural, linguistic, and political identities on our doorstep. And as a UK university, we benefit from a campus community enriched by people from across Europe, bringing new perspectives into our lecture halls. What attracted me to NCL Europe was a desire to highlight the opportunities that Newcastle University offers to engage with Europe's vibrant culture. From hosting insightful roundtables with European ambassadors, to promoting language learning opportunities at the LRC, to celebrating Europe Week, NCL Europe is the focal point for our engagement with our continent. And European engagement is essential for our mission and prestige as a university. In coordinating robust academic collaborations and research partnerships across the continent, NCL Europe enables us to advance our knowledge across disciplines of science, technology, and humanities, and stay at the forefront of cutting-edge developments. On a personal level, European engagement instils us with skills in cooperation and multicultural understanding which are paramount in our globalised world. As a student of Spanish, French, and Italian, I feel incredibly privileged to engage with European identities every day and hope that this Europe Week will be equally enriching for you.

-Mary Bryning (UG, Modern Languages)

A New Era of Opportunity with Horizon Europe

The UK's association to Horizon Europe and Copernicus beginning this year has been widely celebrated. It means that UK organisations are able to participate in Horizon Europe calls for proposals on the same terms as institutions from other Associated Countries, including leading consortia and receiving EU funding across all disciplines. As the world's largest programme of research and innovation programme, worth over £82 billion, Horizon Europe enables the UK community to work with partners from over 40 countries – including other countries that have joined, namely New Zealand, Canada and most recently South Korea.

As part of Europe Week, the Research Funding Development team will be presenting an overview of Horizon Europe and opportunities to engage, together with dedicated sessions with guest speakers on MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and ERC Grants to help us attract and retain talent at Newcastle University. These will complement events being planned throughout the year including around MSCA Doctoral Networks, Staff Exchanges, COST Actions and visits from UK national contact points on challenge-led opportunities. So stay tuned.

-Jarlath McKenna, Senior Research Funding and Development Manager

Snapshot of the Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom

The Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom ([SRUK/CERU](#)) is a volunteer-run, non-profit organisation which was officially established in 2012. SRUK/CERU is a network of Spanish researchers who carry their professional activities in the UK that facilitates the integration of newcomers and serves as a platform for exchanging advice and personal and professional experiences. SRUK/CERU facilitates collaborations between public and private institutions related to Research and Development (R&D) in the United Kingdom and in Spain, thus capitalising on the existing links between both countries and contributing to building new ones. SRUK/CERU also represents the community of Spanish researchers in the United Kingdom and serves as a scientific advisor to public and private institutions in both countries. Finally, SRUK/CERU acts as a [science communicator](#), thus seeking to improve the social perception of R&D both in the United Kingdom and in Spain. SRUK/CERU brings science closer to the public by means of seminars, scientific activities for all audiences, round tables, conferences, and symposia.

SRUK/CERU is an active [member](#) of the Red de Asociaciones de Investigadores y Científicos Españoles en el Exterior ([RAICEX](#)) and is spearheading the [CONNECTS-UK](#) initiative (Connecting European Communities Through Science in the UK). SRUK/CERU is spread across 9 local [Constituencies](#) in the UK and develops its initiatives by means of 7 Departments. Each of these is composed of a group of [volunteers](#) (> 100 Spanish researchers in the UK in total) who share experiences and spearhead [activities](#). SRUK/CERU contributes to the [personal and professional development](#) of its members by recognising academic excellence through awards, offering travel grants, workshops and a [mentoring programme](#) to its members and by promoting the role of [women in research](#), among others. Find out more about our activities by following us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Subscribe to our newsletter by navigating to the bottom right corner of our [webpage](#) and become a member [here](#)

This is the hyperlink to become a member: <https://sruk.org.uk/sruk-ceru-membership/>

--Sergio Serrano Blanco