

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study assesses how the 23 LERU Universities located in 12 countries throughout Europe contributed to the economy in 2016. It considers the quantifiable role that the LERU Universities have on the economy through their core activities, students, research, commercialisation and graduates. The economic contribution was measured in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA), being revenues less cost of revenues, and the number of jobs supported.

In 2016, the 23 LERU Universities contributed to the European economy **€99.8 billion GVA** and **1.3 million jobs**.

Each €1 GVA directly generated by the LERU Universities contributes almost €7 GVA to the European economy and every job directly created by the LERU Universities supported almost 6 jobs in the European economy.

Between 2014 and 2016, the economic contribution of the LERU members increased from €71.6 billion GVA to €99.8 billion GVA, an increase of €28.2 billion GVA. The largest contributing factor to the growth in contribution to the European economy was the growth in the size and scale of the LERU members.

The direct GVA of the LERU Universities is estimated to be **€14.5 billion** across Europe in 2016, directly supporting **222,800 jobs**. The contributions associated with the core activity of generating income, supporting employment, spending on goods and services and capital projects results in an estimated contribution of **€29.2 billion in GVA** and **500,100 jobs** in Europe.

The combined student population of all 23 LERU member universities is greater than some European capitals, with a combined student body of 789,000 people. The economic value associated with student spending, student employment, student volunteering and student placements is estimated at **€14.1 billion in GVA** and **373,500 jobs**.

The LERU Universities create economic benefits by transferring tangible and intellectual property, expertise, learning and skills from LERU members to businesses and the wider community. This knowledge transfer encompasses a broad range of activities and is not limited to the fields of science and technology. The combined contribution due to knowledge transfer, enterprise and innovation activity generated and sustained by the LERU Universities is **€33.0 billion GVA** and **396,500 jobs**.

The LERU Universities make an important contribution to the tourist economy of the areas in which they operate. The contribution the LERU Universities make to the economy through attracting tourist visitors results in an estimated **€0.3 billion GVA** and **7,900 jobs**.

One of the most important ways in which universities generate economic contribution is via the 'human capital' created through graduates. The overall contribution of teaching and learning at the LERU Universities is an estimated earnings premium contribution of **€23.2 billion GVA**.

Extrapolating this impact across the whole Research Universities sector across Europe suggests that the sector contributes **€400 billion GVA** per annum and supports **5.1 million jobs** across Europe. This is equivalent to 2.7% of the total GVA of the European economy and 2.2% of all European jobs.