The IDEA League, founded in 1999, is a strategic alliance among five leading European universities of technology, science and engineering. We are committed to bringing science to society. IDEA League was founded in 1999. Our five members are Delft University of Technology, ETH Zurich, RWTH Aachen University, Chalmers University of Technology and University Politecnico di Milano.

Each member has an internationally renowned portfolio of both research, education in engineering, design and science (both at bachelors and master's level); and is a key player in developing technology that ensures impact in society, including tech-entrepreneurship and tech start-ups.

The IDEA League:

- Develops cooperation programmes and projects for students, doctoral researchers, academic staff and professional support in order to enhance the quality of the skills of the people working and studying at the member institutions.

- Fosters university culture and governance to ensure impact in society in the long term.

- Is dedicated to measure and to demonstrate the impact of European universities of science, technology and engineering for society in order to increase the awareness of the EC politicians and policy makers, as well as national stakeholders, of the importance of TU’s for our economy, innovation and wellbeing.

The target groups of IDEA League comprises the researchers, students, people with a mandate and professional support, alumni and, finally, national and European policy makers and politicians. For these different groups the IDEA League organises programmes, activities and events and provides a network. Being small and efficient, the IDEA League facilitates to pursue common strategic discussions in a high trust environment. This is true for the top management and board of the five universities and all other representatives of the target groups.
The programme builds on the strengths and the complementary expertise in Earth Science at the three IDEA League universities. Started in 2005, the programme is established and highly appreciated both by students, academics and industry.

The programme consists of four modules, each taking a long weekend (Thursday-Sunday). The modules are organized at four of the IDEA League partner universities. For our highly talented students (both advanced bachelor and master students) the IDEA League has initiated the Challenge Program. Anually the IDEA League organizes five Summer Schools at five different locations. These schools offer the students of the network the unique opportunity to develop new insights into current research, and to enhance their skills and academic excellence.

The schools are open for IDEA League (master) students and Doctoral candidates. Although the detailed topic and organization varies from year to year, the general themes for the respective universities are: responsible engineer (TU Delft); interdisciplinary research (ETH Zurich); sustainability (Chalmers) and mobility (RWTH Aachen). Together with their peers from the partner universities, students are encouraged to form a network beyond the programme, possibly using the IDEA League student grant as a follow-up to the summer school to do an research exchange.

The IDEA League organizes activities, programmes and projects for the various target groups. Some examples of these activities are described below.

**Challenge Program**
For our highly talented students (both advanced bachelor and master students) the IDEA League has initiated the Challenge Programme. This is a programme of extra-curricular activities, offered by our five universities. The aim of the programme is to develop skills and expertise with regard to personal leadership, management, responsible engineering and entrepreneurship. One of the key elements is that there is an individual assessment in which the personal skills and traits are evaluated. During the different modules, students reflect on their assessment. The programme consists of four modules, each taking a long weekend (Thursday-Sunday). The modules are organized at four of the IDEA League partner universities.

**Master’s Programme in Applied Geophysics**
IDEA League is very proud of its Joint Masters' Programme in Applied Geophysics. Started in 2005, the programme is established and highly appreciated both by students, academics and industry.

The Master’s in Applied Geophysics is a two-year joint degree programme offered by Delft University of Technology, ETH Zurich and RWTH Aachen University. The programme builds on the strengths and the complementary expertise in Earth Science at the three universities. It offers you a combination of study and research, leading to an outstanding qualification in Applied Geophysics relevant for careers in the areas of Earth resource exploration and management (hydrocarbon, geothermal) and environmental and engineering investigations. Graduates from the programme are both immediately attractive for positions in industry as well as well prepared for doctoral studies in Earth sciences.

**Summer Schools**
Annually, the IDEA League organizes five Summer Schools at five different locations. These schools offer the students of the network the unique opportunity to develop new insights into current research, and to enhance their skills and academic excellence. The schools are open for IDEA League (master) students and Doctoral candidates. Although the detailed topic and organization varies from year to year, the general themes for the respective universities are: responsible engineer (TU Delft); interdisciplinary research (ETH Zurich); sustainability (Chalmers) and mobility (RWTH Aachen). Together with their peers from the partner universities, students are encouraged to form a network beyond the programme, possibly using the IDEA League student grant as a follow-up to the summer school to do an research exchange.

**Doctoral Schools**
Annually the IDEA League organizes Doctoral Schools for selected Doctoral candidates at our five universities. The Doctoral School of IDEA League has the goal to facilitate a group of Doctoral candidates to search for solutions for societal challenges. The Doctoral schools aim for an innovation training programme for a selected group of IDEA League students, but also for the long-term effect of deepened co-operation between the academic partners of the IDEA League network. Examples of Doctoral schools are: Quantum Information Processing, Urban Systems and Ageing and Sustainability.

**Mobility Funds**
Each year, the IDEA League offers the students of its partner universities over 180 monthly grants for a short-term research exchange. In general, these grants are awarded based on academic merit. The grants are made available to IDEA League students who want to do a short-term research stay at an IDEA League partner university, for example, the experimental part of a thesis would fall under this category. The grant is awarded by the sending IDEA League university on a competitive basis. Both Bachelor, Master and PhD students are eligible.

**Funds for Study Associations**
The IDEA League invites the students of its partner universities to apply for funding for joint projects of the Study Associations. Joint activities of the students are an important bottom-up aspect of our cooperation process. The IDEA League welcomes any proposal that will contribute to stimulating and strengthening the cooperation between IDEA League partners and will facilitate a sustainable network in the future.

**Researchers and Professional Support**
The IDEA League facilitates the mutual learning of its professional support, e.g. the people with a mandate in Finance, ICT, Human Resources and Data Management, to name a few. This exchange between the professionals of our universities can take many forms. One example is the exchange in working groups (e.g. on Horizon 2020, or CDIO). Experts of the universities in a certain field exchange best practices and think together. Another way to facilitate mutual learning is the organization of visits (e.g. on Human Resource issues) or in the form of job shadowing and sabbaticals spent at each other’s institutions.

**Economy and Innovation**
TUs are the main ‘producers’ of techno-start ups. The incubators have proven to serve as excellent breeding places for successful start-ups. These start-ups are indispensable for the innovation force of a region or country. Moreover, successful start ups create jobs. In this way, start ups create added value both for the regional and national economy. In this dimension, we seek to translate the value of TUs in economic and policy terms.

**Societal Challenges**
Anno 2016, the main societal challenges we are facing, are issues related to health, food, infrastructure climate, water, energy and migration. A key question on this dimension is the contribution of TUs addressing societal challenges. We are fully aware that all these societal challenges, without exception, ask for an interdisciplinary approach of the humanities, social sciences and science and engineering disciplines. We are especially interested how this interdisciplinary research can be facilitated.

**Impact of universities of Science and Technology**
IDEA League is dedicated to measure and to demonstrate the impact of European universities of science, technology and engineering for society in order to increase the awareness of the European politicians and policy makers, as well as national stakeholders, of the importance of TUs for our economy, innovation and wellbeing. In reports and articles, we explore the impact in three dimensions:

**People**
An important task for TUs is to educate students. What is the role of TUs in bringing science to society through educating people? An important research question is, for example, what role do alumni of universities of technology play in society at large?

**Economy and Innovation**
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**Education**
IDEA League organises activities, programmes and projects for the various target groups. Some examples of these activities are described below.

**Exchange**
IDEA League organizes activities, programmes and projects for the various target groups. Some examples of these activities are described below.

**Collaboration**
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About the IDEA League
The IDEA League is a strategic alliance among five leading European universities of technology.

Each member has a respectable research-oriented profile and is the largest producer of engineering and science graduates in its own country. One of the IDEA League’s main ambitions is to re-establish Europe as a technological and scientific leader by bundling academic resources and knowledge. The term IDEA comes from the first letter of each of the founding institutions.

Our joint activities in education, research and quality assurance, as well as our joint participation in EU programmes and initiatives make us a model of European cooperation. Together, we create added value by pooling resources for collaborative and complementary programmes for our students, researchers and staff.

For more information about the IDEA League or to download the PDF version of this booklet, please visit our website via: www.idealeague.org.

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