EAB Meeting Minutes
Date: 21 April 2026

Participants

- David Bruneel
- Tuomo Kauranne
- Nathalie Destouches (AMB)
- Mathieu Roussay (AMB)
- Amine Nait Ali (AMB)
- Augustas Vaitkevicius (AMB)
- Elena Vlaxopanagiotis (Administrative Coordinator)

Excused:

- Joseph Leibenguth
- Benjamin Gallinet

1. PROGRAMME & CURRICULUM

1.1 Programme Overview

- Presentation by Elena Vlaxopanagiotis (slides attached)

1.2 Curriculum Structure

- Need to better balance:
  - Mathematics vs Physics
  - Theory and Applications
- Address the current gap between foundational knowledge and advanced topics

1.3 Quantum Teaching Development

- Quantum topics introduced in year 2 but still at an basic stage at Université Jean Monnet
- Feedback: students lack sufficient background

Recommendations:

- Introduce quantum courses earlier (from Year 1)
- Gradually increase the level
- Strengthen fundamentals before advanced content

2. EMERGING SKILLS & SCIENTIFIC PRIORITIES

2.1 Key Emerging Fields

- Photonic quantum computing
- Artificial Intelligence in optics
- Laser–matter interaction

2.2 Strategic Approach

- Develop topics step-by-step
- Identify priority areas before expansion
- Align academic development with industry needs

2.3 Student Profiles

- Diverse backgrounds are a strong asset
- International (including outside EU) profiles bring value
- Interdisciplinary skills are increasingly important

3. INDUSTRY COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS

3.1 Mentorship Programme

- Considered a positive experience
- Should be maintained and further developed

3.2 Sponsor Partnership Model

Objective: Create stronger links between companies and students

Proposed model (by EAB member):

- Companies present their activities and needs
- Students submit CVs
- Companies select candidates
- Internships evolve into:
    - Hiring opportunities
    - Part-time collaborations during studies

3.3 Key Challenges

- Matching students with the right company
- Managing company expectations (low-risk investment)
- Finding paying partners / sustainable funding

3.4 Proposed Solutions

- Build pools of student CVs
- Develop part-time university–company agreements
- Introduce second-year scholarships
- Maintain flexibility in engagement levels

3.5 Value for Companies

- Access to skilled candidates
- Fresh perspectives from students
- Potential innovation and new business opportunities

4. INDUSTRY NEEDS & FEEDBACK

4.1 Skills in Demand

- Laser–matter interaction (cross-sector applications)
- Optics development
- Artificial Intelligence

4.2 Internship Perspective (LASEA)

- Strong interest in internships
- Good alignment between UJM training and company needs

4.3 Constraints

- Budget depends on company performance

In Belgium:

- Internships are not salaried
- Only limited compensation is possible

5. ATTRACTIVENESS & RECRUITMENT

5.1 Key Challenge

- Attracting more students

5.2 Role of Scholarships

- Major factor in student recruitment
- Enables attraction of high-level candidates
- Supports retention of talent in Europe

5.3 Strategic Directions

- Reduce dependency on scholarships
- Strengthen programme reputation
- Showcase alumni success
- Highlight skills and career outcomes
- Build on existing internship networks

6. STRATEGY & IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Strategic Priorities

- Strengthen industry partnerships
- Improve student–company matching
- Align training with market needs

6.2 Expected Outcomes

- Publications
- Innovation outputs
- New industrial collaborations
- Recruitment opportunities

---

7. NEXT STEPS

- Prepare and share meeting slides and minutes
- Develop a strategy document (internal advisory)
- Engage with partners to collect needs
- Re-evaluate the model
- AMB will work on this at the next meeting

Next Meeting

- Planned in 3 months
- Scheduling via Doodle