



**40<sup>th</sup> Conference of  
Rectors and Presidents of  
European Universities of Technology**  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# **What are Universities of Technology for?**

## **Introducing the conference**

**Manfred Horvat**

Coordinator of the Conference

In the course of the 42 years since the first conferences in Aachen and in Vienna in 1980 and 1981, universities of technology have seen dramatic changes. I have to say that it was absolutely exciting to monitor the institutional developments in these four decades.

TUs have moved to central stage in society and are expected to take the lead finding appropriate solutions for the global challenges and contributing to sustainable development. That calls for reviewing their visions, missions, strategies and plans, structures, internal and external procedures and activities regarding education, research, innovation and outreach to the public.

Therefore, we thought that time would be well invested for asking the fundamental question **“What are universities of technology for?”**

The conference is planned to provide an open space for information, reflection, discussion and exchange as well as mutual learning - and also for identifying opportunities for cooperation.

On the first day, seven keynote lectures provided background reflections on our topic.

On the second day, leaders of nine universities presented their institution's position, roles and functions. The start was made by Rector Michael Zgurovsky's online presentation zoomed in from Kiev on "The post-war reconstruction of Ukraine based on the innovative ecosystem of the country's technical universities - "Sikorsky Challenge Ukraine". It is hoped that this presentation will inspire some of the conference participants or visitors of the website to develop ways and means for working with Ukrainian colleagues and institutions in the present difficult situation and in the future. The reports from the other eight universities provided an excellent overview on their strategies and approaches for coping with the present challenges and being prepared for the future.

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