The collaboration between Leiden University, TU Delft, and Erasmus University Rotterdam is a strategic alliance based on a shared vision and objectives. The agreements governing the alliance are contained in a set of joint regulations.

The idea behind the collaboration is that it is shaped from the bottom up, based on substance, where working together creates added value. In the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus centres scientists collaborate on complex social challenges. The Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Centres are multidisciplinary and inter-university theme-based centres that were launched in 2013 under the flag of the strategic alliance between the three universities.

Through innovative and outstanding teaching and research, they seek to contribute towards understanding and solving the major and complex social issues of our time. They work with societal partners and seek to form a basis for further academic and public-private partnerships.

The current centres are: for BOLD Cities, Education & Learning, Frugal Innovation in Africa, Global Heritage & Development, Sustainability, and Medical Delta. The Medical Delta is the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus consortium for health and medical technology. The partners in Medical Delta are the three universities, the Erasmus Medical Centre and the Leiden University Medical Centre, together with more than 150 companies, science parks, and public-sector bodies.

More information on the LDE-agreement can be found on: https://www.leiden-delft-erasmus.nl/en/home.

The LDE-agreement is similar to the recent convergence between the Erasmus MC, Erasmus University and TU delft. However, the LDE agreement places more emphasis on research. This topic is relevant for researches since there are multiple possibilities to work together with other researchers from different Universities, as well as grants. For students, this alliance allows students to take part in Minors from Delft and Leiden.

The council sees extreme value in cooperation between universities. It further helps setting the Erasmus University apart from other universities and allows for us to develop a distinct profile. It allows us to improve our own education for our students and to improve the quality of the research we do. Partnerships like these also allow the Erasmus University to create a bigger possible societal impact.

Recently, the EB asked for consent over a new agreement, the council unanimously voted against this proposal. The most important reason for this was that there would be less oversight by participatory bodies. Because of this, both parties agreed to create an LDE-council.

Lastly, within the council there is some debate over the added benefit of Leiden in light of the convergence with EMC and Tu Delft. Some members would prefer ending LDE and intensifying the other convergence project with Delft and EMC.