



European policy developments and university priorities - an EUA perspective -

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I. - EUA - the second decade

- EUA membership now represents 34 European Rectors Conferences and over 870 individual research based institutions across 47 countries.
- 40 staff members in the Brussels Secretariat

Challenge for the next decade: promoting a successful and diverse European university sector by

- Providing leadership and support to members
- Doing more to influence political decision making in difficult times for Europe
- Offering more targeted services to members, taking account of the changes in the HE landscape & growing diversity of membership
- Going deeper into institutions while still focusing on senior management.

I.2 European Policy Developments Anticipating the Future

- **Global Europe 2050 - EC foresight study**
- **3 scenarios:**
 - ✓ 'nobody cares' = Europe muddles through
 - ✓ EU under threat = economic decline and protectionist reactions
 - ✓ A European renaissance = a stronger Europe with more efficient innovation systems –
- **6 dimensions:**
 - ✓ Global demographic and societal challenges
 - ✓ Energy and natural resources, environmental change,
 - ✓ Economic and technological development
 - ✓ Geopolitics: border issues, integration and the global role of the EU
 - ✓ Regional and territorial development and mobility
 - ✓ Education, Research and innovation

I.3 - The context for Universities and EUA activities

- Aging populations, economic crisis and often drastic cuts in funding across Europe
- Challenges of improving the provision, relevance and efficiency of higher education
- In a context in which rapid globalisation is driving both more cooperation and competition
- With knowledge-driven societies requiring greater responsiveness & accountability as well as both a focus on excellence and increased access to HE

II. European policies & programmes

- Investing in knowledge, research, innovation and education is at the heart of the *Europe 2020* agenda but will the Heads of State agree?
- European Higher Education Area – Bologna Process continues, increasingly linked to EU agenda
- New generation of European programmes 2014/2020 and their direction are important for universities
 - ✓ - ERASMUS for ALL (€19+ Billion)
 - ✓ - Horizon 2020 - (€80 Billion) - bottom up instruments (Marie Curie, ERC) as well as ‘Societal Challenges’ focused cooperation programmes
 - ✓ - Cohesion Funds and “Smart Specialisation Strategies ”

II. 2 Challenges (other than the budget)

- Ensuring that the role of universities (as institutions) as key stakeholders in promoting the EHEA and the ERA is understood
 - ✓ Example of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn - overcoming together the barriers to the development of the ERA
- Overtaken by concerns about 'growth and jobs' and a narrow focus on outcomes?
 - ✓ For teaching and learning there is a danger that this means a focus on employability & graduate competences – danger of universities being seen as a 'hindrance' & that quality is equated to graduate outcomes

III. EUA priorities

1. Higher Education Policy & Practice

- A university presence in various Bologna WGs & 'EC peer learning activities'
- Following carefully specific areas such the Professional Services Directive or OECD's AHELO feasibility study to develop generic learning outcomes
- Working with members thro' projects : 4 examples 2012
 - ✓ Engaging in *Lifelong Learning (SIRUS)*
 - ✓ *Mobility*: Closing the gap between policy and practice (*Maunimo*)
 - ✓ *Tracking Learners'* and Graduates Progression Paths (*Track-It*)
 - ✓ *Co-Doc*: Cooperation on Doctoral Education between Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe

2. Quality Assurance & Quality Management

- Revising the European Standards & Guidelines for Quality in the EHEA (ESGs) – process just launched
- Annual European Quality Forum (EQAF) - attracts ever more participants each year
- Participation in the Executive Board and GA of the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR),
- Close involvement in international discussions on QA
- EUA's Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP) is presently evaluating all Romanian universities
- Project work continues to grow, e.g.
 - ✓ The impact of rankings on institutions
 - ✓ Improving quality in the Western Balkans (through TEMPUS)

3 - Research and Innovation

- Strengthening the role of universities as 'research performing organisations'
 - ✓ Range of policy positions on Horizon 2020 -content, funding, and the crucial Rules of Participation, especially the cost models
 - ✓ Implementing the Memorandum of Understanding with DG Research committing EUA to working with members to advance the ERA
- Focus on doctoral programmes and young researchers
 - ✓ EUA Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) with over 200 members
 - ✓ A range of projects on different aspects of doctoral education including collaborative research university/enterprise
- New activity– European Platform of Universities engaged in Energy-related Research (EPUE) – EUA's first move into a 'grand challenge' field
- Exploring open access to publications & data

4. Increased focus on internationalisation

- Affects all that EUA does as universities' global engagement increases, e.g. Student recruitment , addressing the global challenges etc..
- Strategic approaches to EU internationalisation being developed by DG EAC & RES – tension between institutional strategies & national/EU priorities?
- EUA focus on global dialogue & project work with all regions, e.g.
 - ✓ Growing importance of regular Transatlantic Dialogue with Canada and the US
 - ✓ Project: Europe-Africa Quality Connect
 - ✓ Project: ALFA PUENTES – Cooperation Europe/Latin America

5. Autonomy, Governance and Funding

- EUA work on autonomy and funding is crucial as these are the cornerstones underpinning the development of universities and systems across Europe
- EUA reports on trends in and changing modes of public funding across Europe, and investigates the complex financial management challenges for universities faced with increasing numbers of funding sources
- EUA collects data and has published widely on that state of university autonomy in Europe, looking at academic, organisational, staff and funding autonomy

Financial Sustainability

Identifying costs of all activities and projects

EUIMA - Full Costing
"Towards full costing"

Diversification of income streams

EUDIS

Sufficient and sustainable public funding

Public funding observatory

Performance-based funding systems

HORIZON 2020 debate

Universities
Funders
Public authorities

University Autonomy in Europe



How autonomous are Europe's universities?
Select one of the countries on the right to find out.



Sweden

19th in Organisational
15th in Financial
3rd in Staffing
14th in Academic



United Kingdom

1st in Organisational
3rd in Financial
2nd in Staffing
3rd in Academic



Portugal

7th in Organisational
7th in Financial
18th in Staffing
21st in Academic