



EUA

European University Association

Universities Integrating the European Higher Education Area and European Research Area

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Overview of Presentation

1. EUA Membership and Role
2. EUA Input to EHEA and ERA Policy Developments
3. Key Challenges for Universities' Successful Integration of the EHEA and ERA
4. Framework Conditions required to meet these Challenges

EUA: Its Status and Membership

- Based in Brussels as a non-governmental membership organisation since 2001.
- EUA acts as the main stakeholder for Europe's Universities.
- EUA membership represents 34 National Rectors' Conferences and over 850 individual research based higher education institutions across 46 countries.

EUA: Dual-Fold Role

- Provides a forum for debate and mutual learning through conferences, workshops, projects and specific services for its membership.
- Brings empirical evidence from universities' experiences and activities across their missions to inform European policy-making process in developing new instruments that assist their future development.

EUA input to EHEA and ERA Policy Development

- EUA's core message: Universities are the key integrating environment of EHEA and ERA.
- EUA's role in the "Bologna Process" of European Higher Education reform providing key input as a 'driver' to the process and its implementation.
- EUA's role in establishing Europe's Universities as a main stakeholder in the 'ERA Green Paper' consultation and its follow-up on the future development of the European Research Area (FPs, ERC, EIT, etc)

Key Challenges for Universities' Successful Integration of the EHEA and ERA

- I. Next stage of “Bologna” reforms implementation.
- II. Research and Innovation – changing nature and mission diversity.
- III. International competition and cooperation.
- IV. Building partnerships.

I. Next Stage of “Bologna” Reforms

- Meeting the core challenges of curricula reform and student centred learning in the new structures.
- Employability as a key concern across the three cycles.
- Taking forward the EUA Life Long Learning Charter, part-time learners, and widening participation
- Strengthening the links between teaching and research in curricula development, new qualifications and teaching methodologies

II. Research Innovation - Changing Nature and Mission Diversity

- Continued development of distinctive research profiles including regional clustering and networking at European level.
- Fostering interdisciplinary collaboration mechanisms to address 21st century global research challenges in energy, health, societal change etc.
- Ensuring high quality research environments and critical mass in terms of human resources and research infrastructure, particularly for doctoral studies.
- Developing improved career opportunities for young researchers.

EUA dialogue with European Commission

I. European Research Council

- EUA contributed as an strong advocate of the need for a European Research Council from its 2003 position paper onwards
- EUA invited by the ERC Identification Committee to nominate prospective candidates for the membership of the ERC Scientific Council
- Dialogue established by the EUA Research Policy Working Group with ERC Scientific Council providing viewpoints / feedback on ERC strategy papers, structure of review panels and their membership, ERC grants cost model
- ERC President, Professor Fotis Kafatos, invited to EUA Lisbon Convention (March 2007) and Council for Doctoral Education Launch Conference (June 2008) to discuss ERC future policy development and its impact on university-based research careers
- EUA written input to ERC mid-term Review Panel, May 2009. Contribution to Swedish Mini-Seminar on ERC, September 2009

II. European Institute of Technology (EIT)

- EUA works as an active European Stakeholder in the development of the EIT to ensure that universities' central interests in this new research and innovation instrument are recognised.
- EUA's input has sought to ensure that:
 - ✓ Universities are recognised as essential partners in the knowledge and innovation communities (KICs)
 - ✓ Universities in KICs will be the degree-awarding partners
 - ✓ EIT Governing Board should be an independent body
 - ✓ Open procedures and calls for selection of KICs
- EUA invited by EIT Governing Board Identification Committee to provide input on membership selection criteria, and to nominate candidates for EIT Governing Board.
- EIT Governing Board Chairman and EUA President met in July 2009 to discuss further the role of universities in the EIT
- EUA contribution to Swedish Presidency Conference on 'Knowledge Triangle' September 2009

III. European Research Area Board (ERAB) and DG Research Expert Groups

- EUA was invited to also provide input to the ERAB Identification Committee on membership criteria and nominations. ERAB acts as a high level independent advisory group on research and will produce its report on “ A vision for the European Research Area” (October 2009)
- EUA is represented also on the following DG Research Experts Groups:
 - ✓ Sounding Board on FP7 rules of participation
 - ✓ Assessment and Evaluation of Research – Methods/Good Practices
 - ✓ Conditions of Funding Schemes for University-based Research
 - ✓ Advisory Committee for the October 2009 ERA Conference
- Through such participation EUA seeks to bring its members' experiences and needs into improving European programmes for benefit of University-based researchers

III. International Competition and Cooperation

- Becoming a more strategic element of university mission.
- Building upon experiences of European cooperation in student exchange, joint degrees, research networking and project development.
- Fostering an international outlook and wider opportunities for teachers and researchers at all stages of their career.
- Requires removing continuing obstacles to mobility within national frameworks (pensions, social security etc)

IV. Building Partnerships

- Increasingly important in all areas of university missions, curricula development, research collaboration and innovation activities.
- ‘Open Innovation’ model of university / business cooperation.
- Enhanced employability and entrepreneurial attitudes of university graduates, inter-sectoral exchange of staff and ‘knowledge exchange’
- In research and innovation activities building partnerships requires sound project management and improved intellectual property management reflecting respective interests.

(III) Mobilising universities as research institutions to address 21st Century global economic challenges - Energy

- The EUA has recently accepted the invitation by the European Commission, (DG Research), to join as an observer, together with EUROHORCS, in the new European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) which has been launched in the framework of the EU SET-Plan and comprises of major national research institutes in energy technology research.
- EUA has decided to create a **“European Platform of Universities Engaged in Energy Research”** as a parallel mechanism for consultation and engagement by universities to that already established by the national research institutes.
- EUA hopes that this new European Platform can make a contribution to achieving the European policy goal of overcoming the fragmentation of research in this key field through bringing university-based research and postgraduate training programmes into the framework of the EERA.
- EUA sees EERA as an important pilot action in the potential development of the new instrument of “joint programming” within the “Ljubljana Process” in which university-based research needs to contribute and be strengthened.

Framework conditions required to meet these challenges

- Autonomy and Sustainable Funding
- Priority investment in Higher Education and Research
- A varied range of European funding instruments

Autonomy and Sustainable Funding

- More autonomy to enable university leaders to
 - ✓ To design internal structures
 - ✓ Decide on academic programmes
 - ✓ Select, manage and train staff
 - ✓ Decide upon the use of their own resources
- Support for universities to move towards full costing of their activities and the diversifying of their funding base.

Need for Priority Investment in Higher Education and Research

- The current economic downturn has brought into focus more sharply the need for Europe to invest more in higher education and research to remain a globally competitive region.
- To underpin the dynamic development of the European Higher Education and Research Areas, Europe needs to:
 - ✓ Invest urgently to avoid losing the present generation of young researchers
 - ✓ Tap unused potential in our populations by increasing lifelong learning commitments
 - ✓ Invest in the upgrading of university facilities and campus infrastructure

Required = A varied range of European Funding Instruments

- To support Europe's Universities to meet the above major challenges for the achievement of the 'modernisation agenda' / 'knowledge triangle'.
- To support the development of varied university missions across Europe and its regions.
- To help achieve the global, regional and local outreach of Europe's Universities in building partnerships to enhance their missions.
- EUA will continue to be actively engaged on behalf of Europe's Universities in providing its input and views on future developments of existing European instruments and propose new ones.
- Thanks to the Swedish Presidency for giving priority to discussion of this crucial agenda for Europe's Universities.

Thank you for your attention

For further information visit:

www.eua.be

