

# **Global Trends in Higher Education - Challenges Opportunities & Innovations - A European perspective**

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## Overview

### I. The European context

### II. Improving the quality of higher education

- ✓ Student centred learning, employability and learning outcomes
- ✓ Quality enhancement and quality assurance

### III. Autonomy and Funding

- ✓ Balancing autonomy and accountability
- ✓ Funding mechanisms and the size and shape of national systems

### IV. A European perspective on internationalisation

- ✓ From intra-European cooperation to global engagement – lessons learned
- ✓ Divergences between national/regional agendas and university interests
- ✓ Making 'new' internationalisation work: challenges and opportunities

## The European University Association (EUA)

- 34 national university associations across Europe
  - ✓ Common policies for the European Higher Education and Research Areas
  - ✓ Comparative cross-system research and analysis
- Over 870 individual university members in 47 countries
  - ✓ Institutional development
  - ✓ Exchange of good practice thro' joint European projects and events
- Independently managed à la carte member services
  - ✓ Institutional Evaluation Programme (EUA-IEP)
  - ✓ Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE)

## I -The European context: overview

- Globalisation and knowledge-driven societies
  - ✓ Widening and diversifying access
  - ✓ EU 40% benchmark for graduates in the population 30+ by 2020
  - ✓ Focus on excellence and greater societal relevance
- Aging populations and economic crisis
  - ✓ HE competes with other social sectors for scarce resources
  - ✓ Investment in HE and research seen as a way out of the crisis – difficult European wide discussion – diverging trends across national systems
- Push for greater efficiency and increased competitiveness of higher education and research
  - ✓ Concentration of resources, rankings and world class institutions
  - ✓ 'New' internationalisation pushing student recruitment and increased research collaboration – challenges of finding a European approach

## I - Roles and Responsibilities (2)

- European Higher Education Area: Bologna Process = 47 countries – convergence through common policies and frameworks
- The European Research Area (EU27+) – budgets for research & innovation continue to grow, of major importance for universities, e.g. the European Research Council
- Higher education remains a national responsibility, while there is a European 'competence' for research

## I - National systems - a rapidly changing landscape (3)

- A decade of reform: 1999 and 2009
  - System convergence
  - More autonomy
  - More funding
- Since 2009 – highly divergent national responses to economic crisis
  - Drastic cuts in HE funding in many countries
  - More targeted funding and greater focus on employability
  - Discussions on tuition fees as one element of private funding
- Some trends
  - Autonomy but with heightened external accountability requirements, e.g. on funding and quality assurance
  - Fragmentation > differing policies in North/West and South/East Europe

# Research & Innovation in Europe

## - Universities as key actors -

- Drivers of change
  - ✓ Emergence of complex global research challenges
  - ✓ Growing collaboration and competition
  - ✓ Demand for highly qualified graduates and young researchers
- Conditions for success
  - ✓ Autonomy & sufficient funding – to attract the best and offer competitive salaries
  - ✓ For many countries = more targeted funding & “excellence schemes”
- European research funding crucial leverage for universities
  - ✓ Funding increased significantly over the last decade – will this continue?
  - ✓ European Research Council has had a major impact
  - ✓ Impact on cross border cooperation
- Importance of collaborative research and partnerships



## I. EU policies & programmes (4)

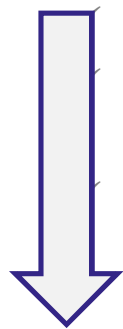
- EU own resources = 1.23 of GNI maximum; return on investment on R&D at EU level particularly high
- Investment in knowledge, research, innovation and education is the 'growth agenda' at the heart of the **Europe 2020** budget proposal 2014 - 2020.
- European Higher Education Area – Bologna Process continues, increasingly linked to EU agenda
- New generation of European programmes 2014/2020
  - dependent on agreement on the overall EU budget :
    - ✓ ERASMUS for ALL (€19+ Billion)
    - ✓ Horizon 2020 R&D (€80 Billion) – excellent research; industrial competitiveness & addressing 'Societal Challenges'
    - ✓ Cohesion Funds and "Smart Specialisation Strategies "



## II – Improving the quality of higher education

## II. “Quality Higher Education for All”

### ■ Europe-wide agendas (Bologna Process /EU)



Restructured curricula > Qualifications Frameworks

Widening access and the social dimension (reducing inequalities, improving student support)

Commitment to student centred learning & more innovative teaching methods

Enhancing employability and stepping up lifelong learning

### ■ More emphasis on graduate skills & competences has led to greater focus on learning outcomes – an important but challenging enterprise in highly differentiated systems

### ■ European Union benchmarks for 2020

✓ 40% graduate quota

✓ 82% to find employment within 3 years on graduation  
...10...

## II. Quality enhancement & quality assurance (2)

- European quality framework > Bologna Process, developed by the stakeholders - European Standards and Guidelines for Quality in the EHEA (ESGs)
- Evaluation has shown that they have proved helpful for all partners, including for universities in their quality enhancement processes
- Revision now underway – challenge is to maintain stakeholder responsibility & not to equate learning outcomes with the quality of higher education provision
- Stakeholders also manage the European Register of QA agencies (EQAR) that promotes recognition of cross border quality assurance and accreditation procedures

# III Autonomy, Funding and the size and structure of higher education systems

### III. Autonomy & funding

- University autonomy and financial sustainability are at the heart of the national and European debate
  - Differentiated view on autonomy in the different European systems (EUA Autonomy Scorecard)
  - Importance of full costing of all activities & projects
- Widely divergent policies at national level - danger of fragmentation
  - ✓ between countries and types of institutions due to excellence initiatives & performance based funding schemes, e. g. via performance contracts;
  - ✓ in a fledgling stage, with formula based funding still more common
  - ✓ Risk of decreased cooperation among institutions if too much emphasis on performance based funding?

### **III - Funding and system consolidation**

- Universities are moving to increased diversification of income streams
- Challenge is to ensure that this is based on sufficient and sustainable public funding
- System consolidation and mergers
  - ✓ bottom-up & top down - in response to economic downturn, international competitiveness ,
  - ✓ the importance of universities to society and the economy
  - ✓ build 'world class universities' ('excellence initiatives')
  - ✓ No real evidence of effectiveness until now

## IV. Internationalisation

« Internationalisation is changing the world of higher education, and globalisation is changing the world of internationalisation. »

-Jane Knight-





## **IV. From intra-European cooperation to global engagement**

- European universities have led the way in internationalisation (IAU Survey 2011)
- Rapid development of intra-European mobility & joint programmes > 25 years of EU funding thro' ERASMUS
  - ✓ 20% EU benchmark for 2020
- New approaches, the focus is shifting:
  - ✓ Student recruitment seen as a lucrative 'growth business' - Europe has 1.5 Mio+ non European students
  - ✓ Graduate students are the main targets
  - ✓ Strategic approaches are being developed by HEIs & governments
  - ✓ Fast growing research collaborations and institutional networking, strong focus on doctoral programmes and young researchers
  - ✓ Discussion is just beginning in Europe on new delivery mechanisms

## **IV. Tension between national/European policies and university priorities? (2)**

- Governments tend to focus on economic benefits of internationalisation as a source of revenues & a way to maintain a competitive research base
  - ✓ National agendas for higher education collaboration necessarily in the interest of universities
- Universities look to enhance the quality of the student experience and their research collaborations
  - ✓ European universities' cooperation is supported within Europe, outside most countries have their own national strategies
  - ✓ But strategic approaches are being developed at European level – represents a major challenge
  - ✓ The near future: Global universities? First examples of multi-campus study course offers

## IV. Challenges and Opportunities (3)

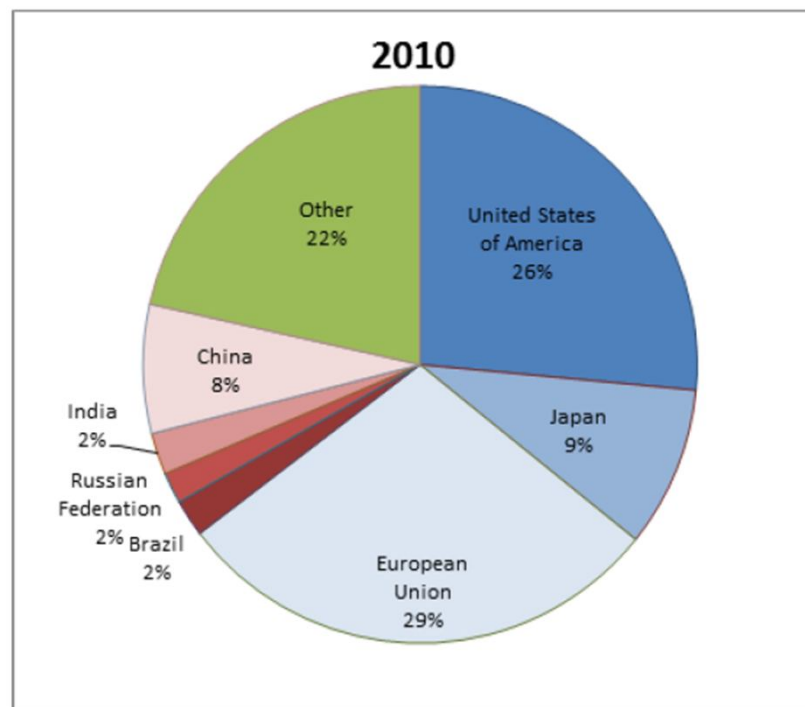
- Growing international impact of emerging countries – politically, economically and culturally
- Increased competition among world regions but also pressure for international research collaboration in particular in responding to the grand challenges
- Specifically for Europe:
  - ✓ Challenges within Europe – how to avoid fragmentation and promote more balanced interaction
  - ✓ Challenges of responding to major political change taking place on Europe's doorstep (North Africa and Eastern Mediterranean)

## In conclusion: Anticipating the Future - A European foresight exercise

- 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**

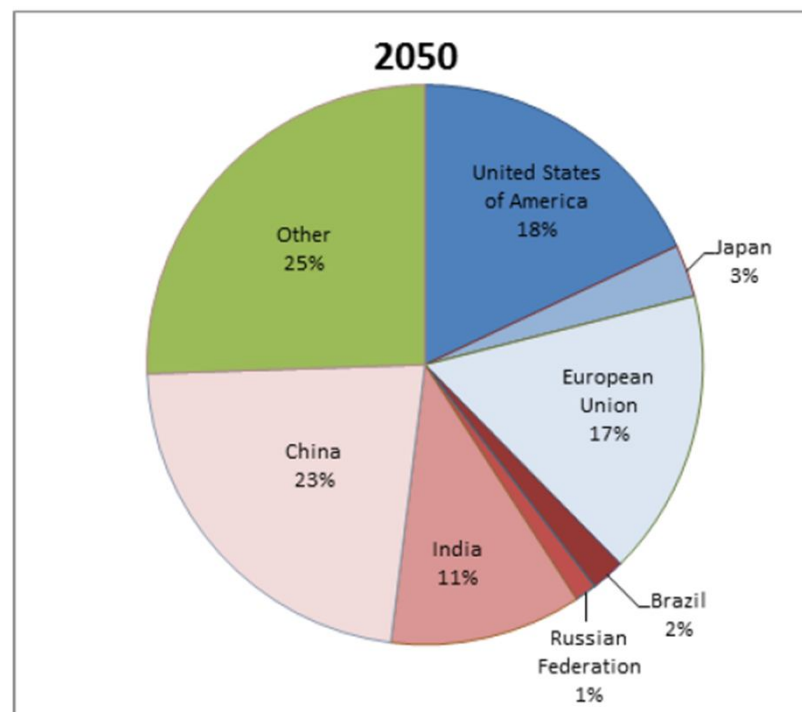
## EC - Global Europe 2050

Figure 1 - Regional shares of the world GDP in 2010 (constant 2005 USD)



Source: CEPII

Figure 4 - Regional shares of the world GDP, 2050: "EU Renaissance"



Source: CEPII