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UPDATE FROM THE EUA

European University Association (EUA):

Main initiatives, events and publications in Autumn 2018

1. Autonomy
2. Learning and Teaching
3. Quality assurance
4. Internationalisation
5. Inclusiveness
6. University finances & EU funding
7. Research & Innovation
8. Doctoral Education

1. Autonomy

TRUNAK project: university autonomy in Kazakhstan

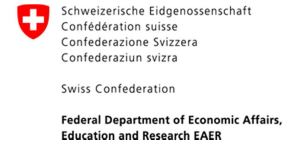
The Autonomy Scorecard methodology supports the implementation of the Erasmus+ [TRUNAK project](#) that focuses on improving the regulatory framework for universities in Kazakhstan (2017-2020). In 2018, the consortium undertakes an analysis of the state of play to develop recommendations to effectively enhance institutional autonomy in the country. The EUA analysis of the state of play will be presented at an international conference organised by the National Erasmus+ Office in Karaganda on 20 November 2018.

2. Learning and Teaching

TRENDS 2018

Following its 8th TRENDS survey to European higher education institutions, EUA will issue in Autumn 2018 the TRENDS 2018 report, which will focus on learning and teaching developments.

More information on Trends can be found [here](#).



EUA Learning and Teaching Activities

Following the successful first European Learning and Teaching Forum organised on 28-29 September 2017, EUA initiated a new round of [thematic peer groups](#), which meet several times throughout 2018 to discuss topics concerning active learning, teaching competences, career paths in teaching, and evaluation of learning and teaching. The four thematic peer groups will meet for a workshop in Porto on 19-20 November 2018 with the objective of exchanging and discussing the challenges and potential recommendations identified during the previous, group-internal meetings. These discussions and recommendations will then feed into the second edition of EUA's European Learning & Teaching Forum, which will be held in Warsaw, Poland on 14-15 February 2019. More information can be found [here](#). As in 2017, there will be a report summarising the work of these groups as well as recommendations brought forward by them.

European Forum for Enhanced Collaboration in Teaching (EFFECT)

The EFFECT project (Erasmus+ KA3, December 2015- March 2019) aims at facilitating European exchanges and collaboration on teaching enhancement, identifying and developing innovative practices, supporting the institutions in developing strategic approaches, and assessing the feasibility of a sustainable structure for the enhancement of L&T at European level.

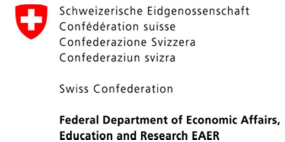
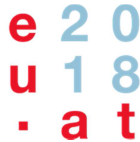
Among other activities, EFFECT developed a set of ten [European Principles for the enhancement of learning and teaching](#) which have been launched in autumn 2017. These Principles are non-prescriptive and underpin the need to re-emphasise the education mission of the university. They are intended to serve institutional leaders working with staff, students and other stakeholders to ensure the quality, relevance and attractiveness of higher education. The EUA Council, which gathers the Presidents of 33 European National Rectors' Conferences, endorsed the Principles in October 2017. EFFECT has been working to connect the Principles with practice, and engaged a selection of 12 European higher education institutions to test the Principles in their home institutions. The consortium also developed guiding questions to accompany institutions who would like to engage with these Principles, and use them as a reference document for reflecting on their institutional strategy and practices in L&T.

More information can be found [here](#).

3. Quality assurance

European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF)

The 13th EQAF will be held on 15-17 November 2018, hosted by WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) and AQ Austria. This annual event is co-organised by the E4 group (ENQA, ESU, EURASHE and EUA) and the theme of the 2018 Forum will be 'Broadening the scope of QA'. This edition of EQAF will explore how institutions and quality assurance agencies can build quality assurance systems that encompass a broad range of activities, including learning and teaching, research, governance and administration, and service to society. The deadline to register with the early-bird fee is 1 October



2018. After this date, late registration fees apply. The final registration deadline is 29 October 2018. Further information about the programme and registration is available [here](#).

4. Internationalisation

EUA supports the internationalisation of its members through conferences and projects. At the same time, it engages in international dialogue, in particular with sister organisations around the world. Over the last decade, internationalisation has emerged as an issue of high importance for universities. This has generated a network of international partners that continue to convene and collaborate in different settings and on different issues. Some examples of this are:

Centralised Support for Higher Education Reform Experts (SPHERE)

The University of Barcelona (coordinator) and EUA currently comprise the consortium SPHERE (Support and Promotion for Higher Education Reform Experts), an initiative funded by the European Commission. SPHERE provides training and networking for Higher Education Reform Experts (HEREs) and National Erasmus+ Offices (NEOs) in European neighbourhood countries (former Tempus countries) between January 2015 and December 2020. More information, as well as the list of upcoming events, can be found [here](#).

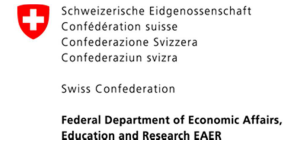
European Union Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (EU-SHARE)

EUA is involved in the project “European Union Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (SHARE)” (2015-2018), funded by the EU. EU-SHARE aims to strengthen regional cooperation by enhancing the quality, regional competitiveness and internationalisation of ASEAN higher education. The final SHARE conference will take place in Bangkok in October 2018. Further information about the SHARE project can be found [here](#).

ASEF Rectors’ Conference and ASEM Meeting of Education Ministers

As the representative of European universities, EUA is engaged in the Asia-Europe Meeting of Education Ministers (ASEM ME), which is organised on a biennial basis. The next meeting will take place in Bucharest, in May 2019.

EUA will continue its commitment towards the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Rectors’ Conference (ARC). Together with the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and the International Association of Universities (IAU), EUA will contribute to the programme of the conference, and develop ARC policy recommendations that will be conveyed to the ASEM ME. The next ARC Conference will take place at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) in Bucharest, in May 2019, back to back with the ASEM ME.



Modernisation of Institutional Management of Innovation and Research in Southern Neighbouring Countries (MIMIr)

Thirteen higher education institutions are participating in the MIMIr project (2015-18; Erasmus+) together with the Moroccan and Jordanian Ministries for Higher Education and Research, EUA and the Association of Arab Universities. They work together under the coordination of the University of Barcelona to develop innovation and research management capacity in the Arab world, particularly in Morocco and Jordan. More information can be found [here](#).

Development of the Internationalisation of PhD Studies in South-Africa (Yebo!)

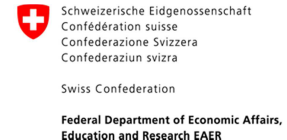
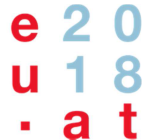
The Yebo! project (2017-20, Erasmus+) is focused on developing the internationalisation of doctoral education in South African universities. It will develop a web-based portal and organising thematic conferences and training sessions. The project builds on the FRINDOC framework for international doctoral education developed by EUA. Five European and seven South African higher education institutions together with EUA, the Coimbra Group and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development are involved in the project. The University of Montpellier is the project coordinator. More information can be found [here](#).

Harmonisation and Innovation in Central American Higher Education Curricula: Enhancing and Implementing the Regional QF (HICA)

[HICA](#), driven by university associations, universities and ministries, intends to support the reform, innovation and harmonisation of higher education curricula in six Central American countries. The project will further develop and implement a regional qualifications framework for Central American Higher Education ('MCESCA') – proposed by the prior project [Alfa PUENTES](#) - to which EUA also contributed as a partner.

Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA Initiative)

The HAQAA Initiative supports the development of a harmonised quality assurance and accreditation system at institutional level, national, regional and Pan-African continental level. In its first two years of implementation the Initiative, managed by the University of Barcelona, ENQA, DAAD, AAU and EUA, delivered the training course for a “common QA language” among key African QA stakeholders and disseminators, set up the Technical Working Group for drafting the African Standards and Guidelines for QA (ASG-QA), mapped the existing standards and guidelines, performed a needs assessment for standards and guidelines in QA, and completed a series of consultations with key stakeholders to endorse ASQ-QA. The ASG-QA is aimed to be a continental framework for quality assurance in higher education and it is planned to be endorsed by heads of state in Africa during 2018.



5. Inclusiveness

Refugees Welcome Map

In late 2015 EUA has launched the [Refugees Welcome Map](#) campaign, to showcase the commitment of the higher education sector in welcoming refugees. The interactive tool so far has gathered around 300 initiatives that focus on the integration of refugees through a number of concrete activities, such as bridging and language courses, community outreach and research, the adaptation of recognition procedures and scholarships for refugees.

Higher Education Supporting Refugees in Europe (inHERE)

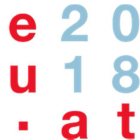
The information gathered in the map has been analysed through the inHERE project, co-funded by the EU and lead by UNIMED, in order to identify [good practices](#) which potentially can be upscaled or transferred to other institutions and their respective local contexts. The project has offered training to university staff on specific activities for refugee integration through a series of online events, as well as a staff training week in April 2018, and a policy dialogue event on the day before the EHEA Ministerial Conference in Paris. The final event will take place in Brussels on 19 September 2018 and beyond a presentation of the project outputs, a cluster meeting of 16 projects on the theme of refugee inclusion in higher education is organised. These projects are funded by different European programmes and funds. Therefore, the event will close with a panel discussion of representatives from four DG's: EAC (Erasmus+), Research (H2020 Science4Refugees), NEAR (Madad Fund) and HOME (AMIF fund). Presentations and materials can be viewed [here](#).

Towards Empowered Migrant Youth in Southern Europe (TandEM)

The TandEM project, co-funded by the AMIF fund and lead by the IOM (International Organisation for Migration), will carry out activities to foster the engagement of young third-country nationals (TCNs) and their peers in six Southern European Countries. The project will contribute to improving access to and integration of TCNs into higher education by conducting a comparative cross-country study aimed at understanding access-related needs and identifying operational recommendations to remove barriers. These will feed into a pilot student mentorship scheme.

EUA focus groups diversity & inclusiveness

In late 2017 and early 2018 EUA is organising two focus groups on [diversity and inclusiveness](#) and on [public engagement](#), based on the imperative for broader participation in higher education, which opens up discussions on the social responsibility of universities and points towards a number of strategic and practical questions for institutions about how to deal with issues of diversity, inclusion, equity and access. With the focus groups, EUA aims to give interested members the opportunity for open exchange and peer learning on concrete aspects, such as institutional strategies for diversity management, policies for equal opportunities, social innovation or widening participation of underrepresented groups.



Federal Ministry
Education, Science
and Research



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER

EUA Annual Conference (11-12 April 2019)

The 2019 EUA Annual Conference will be hosted by Sorbonne University on 11-12 April 2019. The conference topic will be 'Driving innovation in Europe's universities'. As usual, institutional leaders, higher education researchers and analysts as well as representatives of other bodies involved in educational policy will be invited to attend the conference. The event will be preceded by the EUA Board Meeting and a Leadership Roundtable on 10 April 2019. More information on the event can be found [here](#).

6. University finances & EU funding

EUA 4th Funding Forum: "Frameworks that empower, universities that deliver"

[This year's Forum](#) will be hosted by Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, on 18-19 October 2018. The event will feature well-known popular formats and step up interaction among participants through a variety of new activities. The event, which philosophy can be summarised by "*share and learn to grow and improve*", will focus on empowering institutions in financial and economic environments characterised by uncertainty and risk. Policy-makers will have the opportunity to explore reform mechanisms of interest. The Forum will enrich the perspectives of both institutional leaders and policy-makers engaged in funding reforms and more broadly in change management.

The Forum will also address the latest developments in the European context, providing an occasion to discuss how to make the next generation of European funding programmes, like Horizon Europe and Erasmus+, more efficient and effective.

Finally, the Forum will feature the key findings of the USTREAM project supported by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ programme.

Registrations close on 1st October 2018.

Simplification of EU funding

EUA understands simplification as the achievement of a coherent set of rules, mindful of the diversity of actions and beneficiaries accommodated in a programme, and that ensures both high-quality processes and an effective use of resources.

EUA presented an outline of the challenges surrounding simplification in research and innovation and shares its perspectives and solutions for effective simplification in its paper "[Taking simplification of EU funding to the next level: the university perspective](#)" (February 2018). EUA argues for the wider acceptance of nationally recognised institutional management and accounting practices of beneficiaries as the most significant way to enhance efficiency and participation in the programme.

In Autumn 2018, EUA releases a compendium of national and institutional accounting practices as well as strategic and practical recommendations to improve the acceptance of institutional accounting practices in funding schemes.

'EU funding for universities' campaign

EUA's work on FP9 and on Erasmus+ is included in its broader campaign '[EU funding for universities](#)', which also puts forward recommendations for impactful simplification and increased efficiency and value for money of EU funding programmes. In 2018, the campaign feeds into the debate leading to the adoption of the next multiannual financial framework of the European Union, and focuses on added value of EU-level investment in research & innovation. In addition to previous [membership consultations on Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+](#) EUA has published a list of concrete reasons to step up EU investment in research and innovation and in higher education exchange and cooperation [here](#). [More information under the section "Research & Innovation"].

Public Funding Observatory

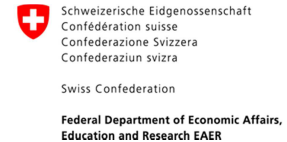
EUA released in December 2017 its latest edition of the [Public Funding Observatory](#), which tracks developments in national public funding to universities. The analysis reveals that since the 2008 financial crisis, the divide between higher education systems that increase public funding, and those that reduce investment, is getting wider, and that any recovery that can now be detected is slow and fragile. A preview of the 2018 data collection will be available at the October Funding Forum. Full results will be published early 2019.

Efficient university management: USTREAM project

The [USTREAM project](#) is supported by the Erasmus+ programme and examines the measures that are in place in universities across Europe to enhance efficiency at operational level, and also analyse policies at system level that support universities in their efforts to operate more efficiently, with a view to identify good practice examples and develop recommendations for further development. The project addresses the question of operational efficiency in universities in a European comparative way. In summer 2018, three national policy dialogue events were organised in Austria, Latvia and Lithuania with the aim to bring together relevant higher education stakeholders engaged in design and implementation of efficiency, effectiveness and value for money, ranging from university leaders to funders and policy makers. In Autumn 2018, EUA releases several thematic publications on the topic of efficiency, building on the findings from the different peer-learning seminars and the national policy events. The first report "Efficiency, Effectiveness and Value for Money: Insights from the UK and other countries" is [available here](#).

7. Research & Innovation

EUA contributed to several research and innovation (R&I) policy areas with the aim of supporting EUA members in following up and contributing to main developments at EU level. The work of EUA in R&I is coordinated through high-level working groups gathering input from all EU countries. Policy dialogues in 2017 revolved around the development of the next framework programme for research and innovation (Horizon Europe), Open Access/Open Science and Smart Specialisation Strategies. The field of Energy as a major underlying societal challenge continued to be a thematic focus area of the EUA Platform of Universities in Energy and Environment. In close relation with research and



innovation, Doctoral Education, a central activity characteristic of universities, was addressed through the EUA-Council for Doctoral Education (Section 7).

EUA proposals for the next framework programme for research and innovation (FP9)

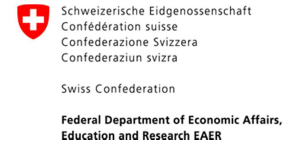
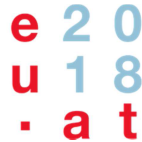
In November 2016, EUA published its [vision for the design of FP9](#) which identified three key thematic areas of concern for universities in the post-2020 period: 1) providing long-term policies and funding instruments for research; 2) reinforcing collaboration and minimising discrepancies across the EU; 3) seeking a stronger alignment of policies for education, research and innovation.

In view of the forthcoming negotiations for the next Multiannual Financial Framework, EUA has further defined its vision in November 2017 in the [position paper](#) entitled “From vision to action: EUA proposals for the next framework programme for research and innovation (FP9)” by providing a reflection on each thematic area and putting forward specific recommendations for the design of FP9 rules, programmes, instruments and criteria of participation.

EUA joined a broad coalition of major European university networks in March 2018 issuing a [call](#) to member states to double the investment in research, innovation and education. In April 2018, EUA also [responded](#) to the European Commission’s call for feedback on mission-oriented research and innovation (R&I) in FP9. The response of the association sets out four framework conditions for successful missions and identifies six challenges and opportunities for mission-driven R&I in FP9. In May 2018, EUA set out its proposals for designing the European Innovation Council (EIC). The Association [outlined](#) a broad and comprehensive sketch of the EIC for the benefit of society, including a call to clarify its relationship to existing instruments, such as the European Institute for Innovation and Technology. In June 2018, EUA [released](#) its analysis of the proposal by the European Commission for Horizon Europe providing views on the underlying principles, the overall structure and the rules of participation of the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Association also [joined](#) a coalition of 13 other university networks issuing a joint response to the proposal. In July 2018, EUA proposed [individual](#) and [joint](#) amendments for the rapporteurs in the European Parliament to be taken into consideration for their reports on the proposal of the European Commission.

Open Access/Open Science

Given the increasing importance of ease of access, fast circulation and valorisation of research results and data in the transition to a more open scholarly communication system for the benefit of science, the economy and society at large, EUA has developed a series of aims and recommendations to further assist European universities and National Rectors’ Conferences in moving towards open access to research publications and data. In 2017, EUA published its [recommendations on Open Access to research publications](#) (June), [recommendations on Research Data Management and Text & Data Mining](#) (October), as well as the [EUA political statement on Open Science](#) (October) with key messages from the university sector addressed to EU institutions and national governments. The documents were guided by the results of the [Open Access survey 2016-2017](#) – released in a [report](#) in February 2018 – and the work of the [EUA’s Expert Group on Science 2.0/Open Science](#). The package of the 2017 Recommendations illustrate the increasing and considerable work and engagement of European universities in the transition towards a more open scientific system. Another focus area in 2017 and 2018 are negotiations of large-scale contracts for scientific publications with publishers. Work in this area is led by the EUA High-Level Group on ‘Big Deals’ since 2016 and it resulted in a first [report](#)



mapping major scientific publishing contracts in Europe in April 2018. These efforts will continue throughout 2018 with particular attention to three priority areas: research assessment; citizen science; open science skills and education. As a first step in these areas, EUA [published](#) a roadmap on research assessment in June 2018. In September 2018, the Association also [indicated](#) its support for 'Plan S', an ambitious plan by eleven research funding organisations to accelerate the transition towards Open Access by 2020.

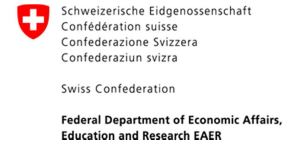
Smart specialisation (RIS3)

In June 2018, the Secretariat published a [response](#) to the European Commission Joint Research Centre's report on "A Regional Innovation Impact: Assessment Framework for universities". The report provides initial input to the discussion on EU-level regional innovation performance-based funding of universities and a related assessment framework. It outlines an assessment system for universities in which performance indicators are supported by narratives providing qualitative evidence of their contribution to regional innovation ecosystems. In its response, EUA stressed that such a system could be of great value to an individual university in its self-assessment and progress tracking over time. However, it should not serve to rank performance nor determine funding allocations for universities as they operate in different regional context. This response is a part of the EUA's recommendations on maximising the effectiveness of smart specialisation strategies published in February 2018.

EUA is currently involved in the organisation of the [4th Annual Workshop on Smart Specialisation](#) entitled "Universities as Regional Lead Institutions" (13 November 2018, University of Graz, Austria). The workshop is part of the events of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU and is organised in collaboration with Universities Austria (UNIKO) and the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI). The event will put special emphasis on their place in promoting innovation ecosystems beyond 2020 and on the further development of impact that universities can have on their regions. The discussion will be supported by a series of stimulating talks including evidence of good practices showcased by leading universities in linking education, research and innovation. The outcomes of the discussions will inform the EUA policy recommendations in this area.

UNiversities in the SET-Plan (UNISET) project

Co-ordinated by EUA, the FP7 UNI-SET project (2014-2017) aimed to mobilise European universities to contribute to the European energy goals spelled out in the European Energy Union, the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) and the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. UNI-SET has mapped existing energy-related Master, Doctorate and Research programmes at European universities and collected empirical data about the range of university activities in disciplines and scientific fields related to the SET-Plan. It has also been active in monitoring the skills and professional profiles needed in the current and future European energy sector. Results from these two activities informed the discussions at the UNI-SET Energy Clustering Events held between 2015-2017. In addition, the UNI-SET consortium provided [input](#) to consultations by the European Commission on the SET-Plan since 2015, published its [Roadmap](#) for European Universities in Energy in December 2016 and published the report "[Energy Transition and The Future of Energy Research, Innovation and Education - An Action Agenda for European Universities](#)", which seeks to stimulate new innovative approaches to learning, teaching and research. Moreover, the project



partners released the publication “Energy Research and Education at European Universities: The UNI-SET Universities Survey Report” ([link](#)). The results of the UNI-SET Employers are expected to be released in the 1st half of 2018.

The EUA Energy and Environment Platform (EUA-EPUE)

In 2018, [EUA-EPUE](#) will continue its work supporting universities in energy research and education, focusing on the energy transition, and expanding the platform’s multidisciplinary remit to include environment and climate change. An “Energy Clustering Event” was organised from 21 to 22 March at the University of Lorraine in Nancy, France and a second one is planned for the last quarter of the year. EUA-EPUE is also preparing a joint position paper with the European Energy Research Alliance ([EERA](#)) and [InnoEnergy](#) on the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (‘FP9’) with a particular focus on energy-related issues. Other activities, for example during the European Sustainable Energy Week 2018 and in relation to the Strategic Energy Technology Plan are being prepared by the platform. More information is available on the new [website](#).

8. Doctoral Education

Study on Doctoral Education

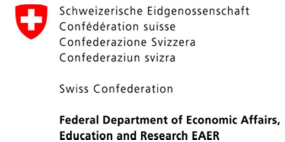
EUA is currently working on a Europe-wide study on the organisation of and challenges in doctoral education. The study is based on a survey to all European higher education institutions providing doctoral education, was open until the end of January. A report presenting the findings will be published in the beginning of 2019.

Development of the Internationalisation of PhD Studies in South-Africa (Yebo!)

Please see “Internationalisation”

EUA-CDE Thematic Workshop (January 2018)

The EUA Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) invited academic leaders, heads of doctoral schools and doctoral education professionals to the 2018 Thematic Workshop. They reflected on key practices that have been introduced, i.e. institutional structures, doctoral supervision, transferable skills training and career development, and intersectoral collaboration and their impact on doctoral education and its outcomes. Part of this discussion considered if and how universities are building an evidence-base by monitoring and evaluating the practices and structures they have in place. More information can be found [here](#).



Doctoral education event

EUA and the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts organised an event for European and national policy makers, leaders of higher education institutions and Brussels-based stakeholders on the contribution of doctoral education to higher education, research and society in Europe. A brochure was prepared for the event and is available [here](#).

EUA-CDE Annual Meeting (June 2018)

EUA-CDE brought together 225 participants on 7 and 8 June to discuss excellence through diversity in doctoral education. Hosted by the University of Ljubljana, exchanges on this topic were held against the background of an ever more international higher education landscape. Plenary sessions discussed various aspects of excellence through diversity in doctoral education, including its role as a central hub for mutual learning and collaboration in universities and its contribution to the internationalisation of higher education institutions. Exchanges between participants also shone a light on emerging topics such as doctoral candidates' wellbeing, which will be taken up in future activities. More information can be found [here](#).

The Meeting was preceded on 6 June by the Regional Rectors' Round Table on Doctoral Education with academic leaders from the Regional Platform for Benchmarking and Cooperation in Higher Education and Research. Participants discussed doctoral education challenges specific to their universities and region and held an exchange on strengthening their relations with the European doctoral education community.