

## Higher education cooperation for development and Sustainable Development Goals

### Meeting global and regional challenges

Seminar co-organised with the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA) and the European University Association (EUA)

**Wednesday 18 October 2017, 14.30 – 16.30**

**European Parliament, Brussels**

Room: ASP 5E2 (Spinelli building)

#### **Concept note**

The new European Consensus on Development Cooperation was adopted in a Joint Statement by European Council, European Parliament and European Commission called “Our World on Dignity, our Future” on 30 June 2017<sup>1</sup>. The Consensus settles a framework for action for the objectives and principles of EU external action as laid down in the Lisbon Treaty, and supports the Global Strategy on the EU’s Foreign and Security Policy (June 2016), while integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a cross-cutting dimension. In the discussions on how the civil society and stakeholders contribute to these policy agendas and to SDGs more generally, education has been emphasised both as integrally part of the SDGs, and as a mean to develop self-sustainable societies in terms of contributing to entrepreneurship, employability and qualified jobs.

This seminar aims at exploring the essential contribution that the higher education sector and research institutes together make, as key actors in research and innovation capacity building on local and global challenges, contributors to national human resources development, partnership and prosperity, and education providers to address democratisation and citizenship skills for a better a prosperous livelihood. The presentations and discussions at the seminar will follow 4 key messages:

1. Higher education institutions (HEIs) are important drivers for social and economic development. This is the case in Europe and elsewhere, also in developing countries. Therefore, supporting higher education and research capacity building is a development goal, fully in line with the SDGs.
2. Partnerships and cooperation between higher education, research institutes, civil society organizations and public sector in research, education and innovation contribute to social and economic development, in a versatile, flexible, culturally sensitive and economically efficient fashion. This has the potential to generate, apply, and disseminate innovative, highly sustainable outcomes – to benefit local development and societies at large.
3. A more integrated European approach to the SDGs should be reached, creating synergies through appropriate instruments and policy incentives. It would be important to showcase how this could be approached through the fields of higher education, research and innovation.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626_en.pdf)

4. Engagement of, and partnerships between HEIs do cross the boundaries between development cooperation, institutional capacity building, research, and education. This should not be an obstacle to, but rather a reason for funding them.

#### 14.30 **Opening address**

Marjolein van Griethuysen, European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA)

Thérèse Zhang, European University Association (EUA)

#### 14.40 – 15.00 **Keynote address**

Ayanda Vuyo Noma, Director and Deputy President for Innovation and Technology Transfer, Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA), and University of South Africa

#### 15.00 – 15.30 **How can higher education and research make a difference in the cooperation and development agenda?**

- Inge Hutter, Rector of the International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands
- Christoph Hansert, Head of Section for Development Co-operation – Strategy, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany
- Vincent Wertz, Chair of Development Co-operation Committee, Academy for Research and Higher Education (ARES), Belgium
- Q&A with the audience

Session moderated by Thérèse Zhang, EUA

#### 15.30 – 16.20 **Panel discussion: Practitioners talk with policy makers**

With the speakers above and the participation of the representatives from the European Commission and from the European Parliament:

- Wieke Waterschoot, DG DEVCO
- Deirdre Lennan, DG EAC (TBC)
- Robert-Jan Smits, DG RTD (TBC)
- MEP ITRE ( TBC)
- Hristov Malinov, MEP CULT (TBC)
- Bogdan Wenta, MEP DEVE

Session moderated by Marjolein van Griethuysen, EARMA

#### 16.20 – 16.30 **Closing remarks**

Thérèse Zhang, European University Association (EUA)