

EUA's key objectives for 2017-2019

Introduction

Over the past 15 years EUA has prepared rolling Work Programmes setting out in detail key priorities, including policy initiatives, projects, membership activities and a range of events. Following discussion in the Board there was consensus that while this made sense for a new organisation that needed to develop its profile, mission and related activities, looking forward, it would be more important to propose a set of key objectives for the association for a given two-year period. At the same time this would be accompanied by efforts to reflect the great wealth of activities and events carried out in a given year through the Annual Report.

2016 has been a turbulent and stormy year, the events of which have, and will continue to have major implications for Europe and Europe's universities. In its work programme 2016-17, EUA sought to highlight the role of universities as key societal actors. The events of 2016 have demonstrated just how important this will be in future. EUA's catchphrase "Strong universities for a strong Europe" is more relevant than ever before.

EUA's key objectives 2017-2019

1. Encouraging, supporting and facilitating continued pan-European university cooperation

EUA will continue to engage European universities, and provide a platform for dialogue across 47 higher education systems and over 750 individual universities, proposing a range of membership activities that enable in-depth exchange with members and other relevant stakeholders. In the broad range of policy areas in which the association has developed expertise, EUA will also step up its efforts to enhance its advocacy work in all policy areas that affect universities, in particular at EU level and in collaboration with its NRC members. As the only sector-wide organisation of European universities EUA will also strengthen further its interaction with a broad range of university networks in Europe and beyond.

2. Promoting and communicating the impact and value of universities for society and for Europe

EUA will strengthen its efforts to promote and reinforce universities as key societal actors and to increase understanding and trust between universities and their stakeholders. EUA's objective is to show the purpose, value, and results of universities' achievements in research and innovation, learning and teaching, and service to society, as well as to support individual institutions in fulfilling their missions. EUA will strengthen its efforts to demonstrate the important contribution that universities make to society as the largest provider of higher education, while also continuing its efforts to address directly key societal challenges, for example through the UNI-SET project and the recently published 'Roadmap for European Universities in Energy'.

3. Supporting the core activities of European universities:

- **Improving the student experience through an increased focus on learning and teaching:**

EUA is actively expanding its activities in the field of learning and teaching, in particular through the creation of a dedicated new Learning and Teaching Forum, designed to

bring EUA members together to share and develop good practices with a view to proposing university driven policies in this area. In 2017-2019 EUA will also: maintain its emphasis on quality assurance related actions and on the improvement of teaching methods, for example, through the EFFECT project and continue to ensure that universities are able to impact both on the Bologna Process in the run up to the 2018 Bologna Ministerial Meeting, and on relevant EU-driven higher education policies.

- **Promoting and enhancing the impact of university based research**

EUA will continue to strengthen its efforts to influence EU research and innovation policies on behalf of the university sector by providing input to all research and innovation related policies important for universities (such as the 9th Framework Programme, European Research Area, open science, regional innovation and energy etc.). In 2017-2019 EUA will also increase its efforts to promote the role of universities in creating innovation ecosystems and to support the education and training of early career researchers, in particular through the further development of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education. A further priority will be to build on the unique position of universities whose mission includes both teaching and research to improve the linkages between research and higher education policies.

- **Supporting global university cooperation and networking**

EUA will continue to build connections with partners around the globe while maintaining a particular emphasis on encouraging and facilitating close collaboration with and between European neighbourhood countries. This dialogue will be facilitated in particular through the continued series of annual Arab-Euro Conferences on Higher Education involving EUA and the Arab Association of Universities and the SPHERE project. EUA will also consolidate its global reach with projects in Africa and Asia and a continued dialogue with partners in the rest of the world on issues of common interest, with the remit of representing the European university sector.

4. Reinforcing and improving the framework conditions for European universities and promoting university values

- **Advocating for 'sufficient, sustainable and simple funding' for universities at national and at European level and promoting and university autonomy.**

EUA will argue for coherent and efficient funding frameworks and instruments at European and national level. This will be done for example through EUAs Funding campaign as well as specific advocacy work with regard for the next Framework and Erasmus programmes, informed by the related midterm reviews. EUA will continue to monitor, analyse and report on the national and European funding trends to support evidence-based decision making. In parallel EUA's Autonomy Scorecard will be updated in early 2017 and the results presented at the 2017 Annual Conference entitled 'Autonomy and Freedom', being held in early April in Bergen

- **Promoting and communicating university values, specifically academic freedom, tolerance, inclusiveness and openness, as a crosscutting theme**

EUA will reinforce its work on university values through a number of initiatives, including the campaign "European Universities for an Open World" and work on the Refugees Welcome Map, which will be intensified. EUA will also strengthen the ties to other organisations working on the issues, including the International Association of Universities and the Magna Carta Observatory.

Moreover, in 2017-2019 EUA will seek to underline the role of universities in social inclusion and the empowerment of citizens.

EUA will concretely work towards these goals by

1. Actively engaging national associations – through the statutory meetings, including the RPWG and other bodies, enabling policy coordination leading to the development of Europe-wide positions on key topics
2. Reaching out to individual members wherever they are, on topics of importance for them and their activities
3. Offering to members and partners a wide range of targeted high level events and workshops, focused on specific memberships communities continuing existing activities and (such as EQAF, EUA-CDE, Funding Forum, and the Energy Platform) and launching the Learning and Teaching Forum
4. Collecting empirical evidence relevant to universities, enabling the compilation and analysis of comparable data to inform the policy process in a range of areas, using the unique size and scope of the association
5. Engaging in targeted projects with partner institutions and organisations where this is relevant for EUA’s strategic priorities
6. Continuing to invest in member services and in the development of additional direct services to members
7. Continuously improving the development and range of EUA’s communication tools to enhance visibility

EUA events 2017

sorted by date

10th EUA-CDE Workshop

"Ethics and integrity in doctoral education and research training"
Hosted by Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal
18-19 January 2017

EUA Webinar

"Universities supporting social inclusion"
25 January 2017

EUA Board and Council meeting

Brussels, Belgium
26-27 January 2017

EUA Webinar

"The future of Erasmus+"
22 February 2017

EQUIP Focus Group

"ESG 2015 impact, challenges and solutions"
Vienna, Austria
2-3 March 2017

MIMIr Conference

Brussels, Belgium
23-24 March 2017

4th UNI-SET Energy Clustering Event

Universities in the Energy Transition: Focus on "Sustainable transport" & "CCS/CCU"
Hosted by Imperial College London, United Kingdom
27-28 March 2017

EUA Webinar

"Open Science in universities: implications for research and for doctoral education"
29 March 2017

EUA Board and Council meeting

Hosted by the University of Bergen, Norway
5 April 2017

EUA General Assembly

Hosted by the University of Bergen, Norway
6 April 2017

EUA Annual Conference 2017

"Autonomy and freedom: The future sustainability of universities"
Hosted by the University of Bergen, Norway
6-7 April 2017

Fourth Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE 4)

“Research for sustainable societies – the role of universities”

Hosted by University Mohammad V, Rabat, Morocco

24-26 April 2017

EUA Webinar

“IEP: what’s it all about”

26 April 2017

EUA Webinar

31 May 2017

5th UNI-SET Energy Clustering Event

Hosted by KU Leuven, Belgium

31 May-2 June 2017

10th EUA-CDE Annual Meeting

Hosted by Tallinn University, Estonia

15-16 June 2017

IEP Annual Seminar

Zürich, Switzerland

21-22 September 2017

1st European Learning & Teaching Forum

Co-organised by CPU and hosted by University Pierre and Marie Curie, Paris, France

28-29 September 2017

6th UNI-SET Energy Clustering Event

Brussels, Belgium

October 2017

12th European Quality Assurance Forum

Hosted by University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia

23-25 November 2017