

European University Association

welcome  
to **EUA**



**EUA**

European University Association

# Welcome to EUA

With 850 members across 47 countries, the European University Association is the largest and most comprehensive organisation representing research-based universities in Europe. 17 million students are enrolled at EUA member universities. EUA is unique in that it represents 33 national university associations and 800 individual universities, a large membership that enables it to act as the voice of universities in European level policy debates.

This membership base has its roots in EUA's history: the association is the result of a merger between the Association of European Universities (CRE) and the Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences, which took place in Salamanca, Spain on 31 March 2001. The combination of two types of members is still reflected today in EUA's governance and key areas of activities:

On the one hand, EUA is a key partner representing the university sector for policy makers at European level. EUA's advocacy work is based on empirical evidence collected from the sector on a range of crucial topics. On this basis, EUA is able to provide expertise and inform policy making in the areas related to education and research and that are of interest to European universities.

On the other hand, EUA supports its members by providing them with a unique forum to keep abreast of the latest trends in higher education and research policies and cooperate with each other. With this purpose in mind, EUA organises a wide range of activities, including events and projects, for members to take part in. They cover various topics relevant to institutional leadership and management and many of them are made possible through external project funding or additional funding by members.

More information on on-going and past activities is available at [www.eua.be](http://www.eua.be).

The following annexes summarise some key characteristics of EUA:

- How EUA is governed
- EUA's policy work
- EUA's membership categories
- EUA's membership benefits
- Membership Commitment

# How EUA is governed

## President

- The President, elected every four years by members, leads and represents the association.
- The Board appoints two Vice-Presidents to deputise in his/her absence.

## Board

- Nine current or former rectors (including the President). Four members are elected every two years by members.
- Supervises the implementation of EUA policy and work programmes.

## Council

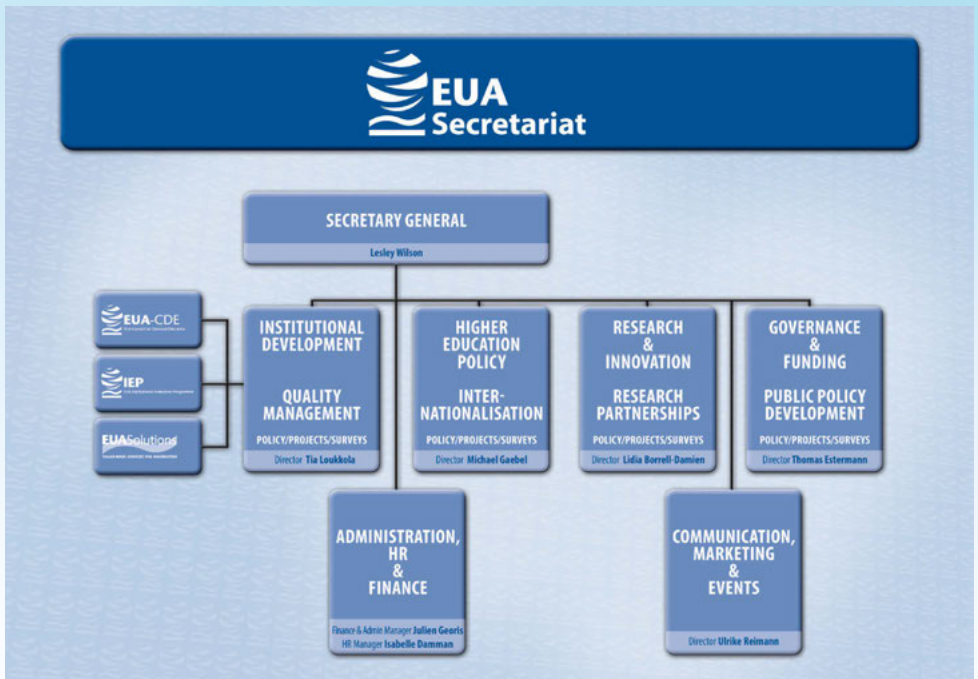
- Presidents of the national rectors' conferences.
- Adopts EUA policies and positions and defines overall priorities.

## General Assembly

- All EUA members.
- Elects the President and Board and determines the strategic direction of EUA.

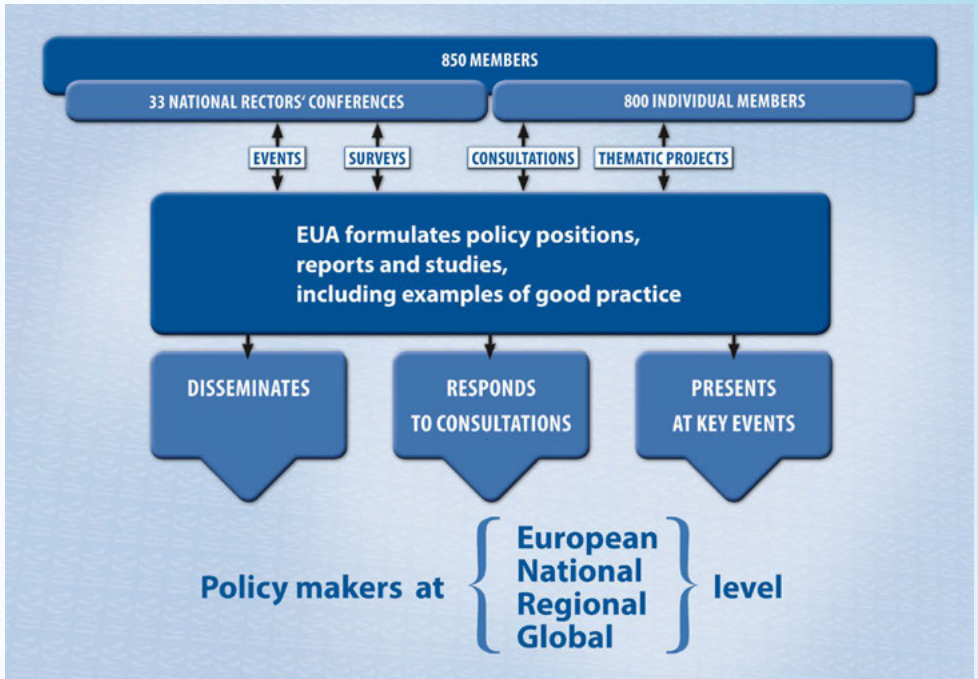
## Secretariat

- Based in Brussels, EUA's secretariat (around 40 staff), managed by the Secretary General, ensures the daily management and implementation of all EUA's activities.



# EUA's policy work

EUA provides input, analysis and evidence-based recommendations to European policy development. The following figure illustrates EUA's main operational model in formulating and promoting its policies:



The main European processes and policies that EUA's policy work focuses on are:

- European Research Area (ERA), including European research funding programmes
- European Higher Education Area (EHEA), i.e. Bologna Process
- Europe2020 strategy and European Commission's Modernisation agenda for higher education

# EUA Membership

EUA is an association of European universities. The geographical definition of Europe used is that of the signatory countries of the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe. EUA therefore considers applications from all universities situated within this geographical area.

There are 4 different types of EUA membership and the possibility of 'affiliate' status:

## Individual Full Members

Universities shall be eligible for individual full membership. In these statutes a university is understood to be a sustainable higher education institution that conducts research and provides degree programmes at two of the three Bologna cycles (BA, MA, doctorate). An institution is deemed to:

- be sustainable if it is in receipt of direct public funding or if it has been in operation uninterrupted for five years;
- conduct research:
  - if it possesses and exercises power to award doctoral degrees in its own right or participates actively in doctoral programmes on the basis of an inter-institutional formal agreement with a doctoral degree-granting EUA member which has power to award doctoral degrees in its own right
  - or if it participates actively in European research programmes or peer-reviewed national research programmes;
- provide degree programmes if its operations meet the requirements of national quality assurance policy within the framework of the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance.

## Individual Associate Members

Individual Associate Members are higher education institutions that award degrees at the first and second cycle level, but do not meet the research criteria set out above for full individual members. Associate individual members have the same access as individual full members to all membership services and conferences; however, associate members do not have the right to vote in EUA's General Assembly or to hold elective office.

## Collective Full Members

A National Rectors' Conference representing the universities of a country is eligible to apply for Collective Full Membership.

## Collective Associate Members

European networks of universities or other higher education institutions that demonstrate a sufficiently broad European representation, as defined by the Council in its Rules of Procedure, and are relevant for EUA in meeting shall be eligible to apply for collective associate membership. National associations of other higher education institutions if recommended by the full collective member of that country, shall also be eligible to apply for collective associate membership.

## Affiliates

Affiliates are European or other organisations with an interest in European co-operation in higher education. Decision on affiliate status is taken on a case by case basis. The status offers the organisations committed to the same goals as EUA an opportunity to become involved in EUA's work and to benefit from EUA's membership services, information, conferences and projects.

# Membership Benefits

## 1. Influencing decision-making on behalf of universities

at European, national and regional levels by:

- formulating evidence-based policies for Europe's universities as input to European policy debates; and enabling comparisons and benchmarking on a wide range of topics through the publication of Europe-wide, regularly updated data, reports and studies;
- representing members' interests in the development and revision of European policies and funding programmes/ instruments in a range of areas, e.g. full costing, simplification of funding rules and procedures, doctoral education, quality assurance, and recognition of professional qualifications; EUA has an official role representing universities in both the Bologna Process/EHEA and in the stakeholder platform for the European Research Area;
- engaging in structured cooperation and establishing links with other important European stakeholders (such as the E4 Group and the ERA stakeholder platform across a broad range of topics).

## 2. Acting as the voice of European universities internationally.

Members benefit from EUA's ability to:

- promote sustainable global partnerships – through dialogue with national and international university/HE organisations worldwide and by involving members in projects and events with a global outreach assure the visibility of Europe's universities worldwide through representation in global events, networks and the work of international organisations;
- represent universities' interests in global policy fora such as OECD or UNESCO.

## 3. Promoting Institutional Development:

EUA organises many activities to support the development of individual universities.

Members can benefit from

- mutual learning activities through EUA projects and
- access to timely and effective information on European developments and trends in higher education and research; and on EU policy developments which affect universities.

These cover a broad range of topics identified by our members including:

- Funding and governance – including financial sustainability and the implementation of full costing and improved financial management
- Teaching and learning – covering topics such as e-learning and MOOCs, lifelong learning, access and retention, student/graduate tracking/employability, mobility and professional qualifications
- Internationalisation - European Universities in a Global Context
- Doctoral Education
- Research and innovation – including collaborative research, open access, Smart Specialisation strategies, and research careers
- Quality assurance, rankings and transparency tools
- Participation in additional special services:
  - Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP): supports higher education institutions and systems in developing their capacity for change consistent with institutional autonomy.
  - Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE): promotes sharing of experience and models for management of doctoral schools across Europe.
  - EUA Solutions: tailor-made services for universities ranging from thematic analyses and strategic studies to consultancy and specialised expert advice.

# Membership Commitment

As European universities' voice in Brussels and internationally, EUA commits to providing its members with the best services relevant to the most pressing issues in higher education.

In return, EUA kindly asks its members to commit fully to their membership.

1. Membership of EUA shows that you respect EUA's mission:
  - supporting European universities' aim for the continued development of the culture, society, technology and economy of Europe
  - developing a system of academic institutions with highly diversified profiles, providing a wide spectrum of graduate qualifications and facilitating the mobility of staff and students
  - promoting autonomous institutions, able to define their own strategy
  - building a Europe of knowledge and ensuring access to all who can benefit from higher education
  - securing adequate funding for European universities to carry out their work to the best international standards
  - upholding the values and principles enshrined in the Magna Charta Universitatum, signed in Bologna in 1988 by 388 rectors of universities worldwide
2. Members should keep EUA informed of any changes to their leadership, for example the election of a Rector/Vice-Rector, retirement of senior staff, as well as any changes in contact details.
3. Members are encouraged to contribute actively to EUA's activities such as projects ,events and surveys thus supporting EUA in providing service to all members and developing policies that take account of members' needs at European level.
4. Members commit to paying their annual membership fee and a member whose fee has not been fully paid shall cease to be a member.

# European University Association

The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of universities and national rectors' conferences in 47 European countries. EUA plays a crucial role in the Bologna Process and in influencing EU policies on higher education, research and innovation. Thanks to its interaction with a range of other European and international organisations EUA ensures that the independent voice of European universities is heard wherever decisions are being taken that will impact on their activities.

The Association provides a unique expertise in higher education and research as well as a forum for exchange of ideas and good practice among universities. The results of EUA's work are made available to members and stakeholders through conferences, seminars, website and publications.



## EUA

European University Association

**European University Association asbl** · Avenue de l'Yser 24 · 1040 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel : +32 2 230 55 44 · Fax : +32 2 230 57 51 · Email : [info@eua.be](mailto:info@eua.be) · Twitter : [@euatweets](https://twitter.com/euatweets)