

Media Invitation

Brussels, 21 September 2016

3rd EUA Funding Forum - “Efficient universities: Value for society”

The European University Association (EUA) is just days away from opening the doors to a high-level event addressing key university funding issues. The 3rd EUA Funding Forum, “Efficient universities: Value for society,” will take place from 6 to 7 October 2016 at the University of Porto in Portugal.

A biennial event, this year’s Funding Forum will focus on delivering value to society and efficient university management. As public finances are under increased pressure across Europe, university funding models are being revised with a view to rationalise expenditures, generate greater added value and increase efficiency in the sector. At the same time, it is becoming highly relevant for the university sector to show and quantify its contribution to society, in both social and economic terms.

A high-level panel of three visionary university leaders from different parts of Europe – Jean Chambaz, President of University of Pierre and Marie Curie, Jukka Kola, Rector of the University of Helsinki and Antonio Manuel Bensabat Rendas, Rector of Universidad Nova de Lisboa – will share their views on the value of universities to society.

High-level European and national policy makers, including Manuel Heitor, Portuguese Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, and Patrick Child, European Commission Deputy Director-General for Research and Innovation, will also participate in discussions. This year marks an important milestone in university funding as major EU programmes – Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+ – are up for revision. Likewise, the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the EU’s Financial Regulation are being assessed, along with the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI).

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss these revisions and they will receive a sneak peek at the results of the recent [EUA member consultation on Horizon 2020](#) in the context of the programme’s mid-term review. Discussions will cover data on topics such as how national funding is linked to success rates in Horizon 2020 and how much low success rates have cost so far.

Participants will also be able to tap into the latest country benchmarking compiled by EUA as part of the 2016 [Public Funding Observatory](#), which covers 28 countries and has been capturing public funding trends in Europe since 2008. They will have the opportunity to see data on the number of systems that have cut funding in recent years, while (in many) the number of students has gone up, sometimes as much as 40%.

Please note that **EUA will waive conference fees for journalists**. Prior registration is necessary as the number of places is limited. Unfortunately EUA cannot pay accommodation or travel costs for this event.

To register and for more information please contact:

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For more information or to view the preliminary conference programme, [please click here](#).

The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities in 47 European countries and 36 national rectors’ conferences (NRCs). The Council of EUA is comprised of the President, the members of the Board, and of the presidents of all of Europe’s NRCs. EUA works closely with its members to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard.