

Press release: 25 January 2012

**European Platform of Universities Engaged in Energy Research, Education and Training (EPUE)
Inaugural Event (23-24 February 2012)**

Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands will next month (23-24 February) host the inaugural event of the European Platform of Universities Engaged in Energy Research, Education and Training (EPUE).

The European University Association (EUA), an association representing universities across Europe, has decided to create this Platform in order to bring together university-based energy research and education programmes. The aim is to enable universities to play their full role in the European Union's Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-PLAN) and in the European Commission's proposed HORIZON 2020 research programme (2014-2020). This inaugural event will therefore bring together leading academic experts, policy makers and other key stakeholders in the field of energy research, education and training from across Europe.

At present, over 160 European universities with research and training capacity in different energy-related fields, ranging from science, engineering and technology to bio-sciences, medical/life sciences and economics, social sciences and the humanities, have indicated their interest in joining the Platform. The EPUE has already been recognised as a partner within the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) of the EU SET-PLAN.

In order to highlight the distinctive role of universities in responding to this societal challenge, EUA is carrying out a survey on the research and education capacities of Europe's universities in the field of energy that examines the types of research and training programmes, sources of funding, and how universities collaborate with external partners. Findings from this survey, which will be presented at the meeting in Delft, will provide a unique profile of the role of European universities in the field of energy research and training/education.

Discussions at the event in Delft will focus on a number of key issues including the future role of universities in forthcoming energy research and training activities in HORIZON 2020 and in the EU energy policy framework of the Energy Roadmap 2050 and current examples of best practice in energy research and training and research collaborations with industry partners.

It will include high-level contributions from Professor Torbjorn Digernes (Rector, Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU, Trondheim, and Chairman of EPUE), Dr. Henrik Bindselev (Chairman of EERA Executive Committee), Professor Hester Bijl (Delft Energy Initiative, TU Delft), Raffaele Liberali from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, and from university researchers who have been involved in the initial development of the Platform.

For more information on the event, please visit this [website](#).

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Please note that journalists are welcome to attend the event but prior registration is necessary, as the number of places is limited. To register, please send an email to andrew.miller@eua.be

Please note that unfortunately EUA cannot pay accommodation or travel costs for this event.

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