



Press statement – 5 February 2013

Horizon 2020: EUA calls for full cost reimbursement option to be retained in the Rules for Participation

The European University Association (EUA), an organisation representing more than 850 universities across Europe has today called for retaining the option for reimbursement of research costs based on full costing methodologies in the EU's next framework programme for research, Horizon 2020.

The content and rules for participation in Horizon 2020 are currently being discussed in the “trialogue” negotiations between the Council of the EU, the European Parliament and the European Commission, with a view to reaching an agreement so the programme can begin in 2014.

Following its [statement](#), published last year, EUA strongly supports the European Parliament's proposal that an option for reimbursement based on full costing methodologies should be retained in the rules for participation. The European Parliament is the sole institution in the negotiations advocating in addition to a flat rate model a reimbursement option based on full costing methodologies for those universities that are able to identify the full costs of a project. Both the Council of the EU and European Commission are proposing only one model of reimbursement covering 100% of eligible direct costs, with a flat rate contribution of 25% (Council) or 20% (EC) of direct costs to cover for indirect costs.

EUA is due to publish a report later this week that highlights how universities have invested in developing full costing methodologies and the necessary professional capacities. Evidence from good practice examples show, how the current FP7 reimbursement rules have acted as a driver for universities to develop full costing.

EUA firmly believes, therefore, that it would be a backward step to exclude reimbursement based on full costing methodologies in Horizon 2020, and it would be counterproductive with respect to another key EU policy of promoting tools to support the financial sustainability of universities as part of the modernisation agenda.

EUA has re-iterated also its position on Horizon 2020 ahead of Thursday's European Council meeting which convenes again to negotiate the long-term EU Budget for 2014-2020 (Multiannual Financial Framework), which will include Horizon 2020 and the proposed programme for education (Erasmus for All).

EUA has called on governments and Heads of State and Government to give high priority to Horizon 2020 and the Erasmus for All Programmes in EU Budget negotiations for 2014-2020. In its recent statement it explains that the EU's “Europe 2020 Strategy goals of achieving smart and sustainable growth have to be built on enhancing research and development, human resources and skills to deliver the new products and services that Europe must offer to remain globally competitive.”

“Europe's global regional competitors are not waiting. They are investing heavily in universities and the next generation of young people who will be the innovators of tomorrow. In Europe today we are at risk of marginalising ourselves and losing out in the competition through creating a ‘lost generation’ of young people as a result of under-investment in higher education and research,” it adds.

Click [here](#) to read the full statement issued on behalf of the EUA Board and Council.

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The European University Association, as the representative organisation of both the European universities and the national rectors' conferences, is the main voice of the higher education community in Europe. EUA's mission is to promote the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research.