

**Attention: news desks/science and education correspondents**

**For immediate release**

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### **EUA's vision for next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation**

The European University Association (EUA) has presented its initial vision on the design of the Ninth EU Framework Programme (FP9). The [vision paper](#) provides an early perspective on the main challenges ahead and outlines key areas to be considered by the European Commission when planning the FP9.

The capacity of universities to stimulate and foster a culture of innovation through the creation of new knowledge sustains the entire gamut of innovation and its benefits for society. In this respect, the previous and current EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation have made a major contribution to building critical mass, addressing discrepancies in Europe, and boosting cutting-edge research and innovation. However, the divide amongst European countries in this area is widening and thus more concerted efforts and investment at the EU level are needed to increase Europe's overall competitiveness.

Considering this context, EUA encourages all European institutions and member states to assert a positive, strategic vision for the FP9 as a crucial instrument for building more integrated European Higher Education and Research Areas in the coming decades by increasing funding for the FP9, investing in university-based education and fundamental research through grants (not loans), encouraging collaborative research projects across countries and sectors and, last but not least, improving science communication.

EUA's vision highlights three main priorities in designing the FP9:

1. Provide long-term policies and funding instruments for research
2. Reinforce collaboration and minimise discrepancies across the EU
3. Seek a stronger alignment of policies for education, research and innovation

These priorities are important for Europe's universities in responding to the numerous, complex challenges regarding societal demands, technological developments, greater global competition and demographics.

"It is paramount that future policies, programmes and funding instruments for education, research and innovation are designed and implemented in a coherent and articulated way for the well-being of Europe's society and economy," said EUA President Prof Rolf Tarrach. "This is particularly crucial as the university sector is presently in a process of rapid change."

The future success of European universities depends on preserving academic freedom, institutional autonomy and integrity in research and education. It also depends on local, regional and international partnerships, digital advancement, as well as on "open" policies.

#### *Notes:*

Please see the "[EUA vision for the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation \(FP9\)](#)."

In 2016, EUA also conducted a member consultation on the mid-term review of the Horizon 2020 and ERASMUS+. The results will be published in the coming weeks.

*For more information please contact:*

Jessica Carter, tel: +32 2 743 11 59; mobile: +32 473 74 87 85; email: [jessica.carter@eua.be](mailto:jessica.carter@eua.be)

*The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities in 47 European countries and 33 national rectors' conferences (NRCs). The EUA Council is made up of the president, the members of the Board, and the presidents of all of Europe's NRCs. EUA works closely with its members to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard.*