



Attention: News/Education Correspondents

Media invitation:

ATHENA Final Event “Fostering university autonomy in the Eastern Neighbourhood”
Hosted at the Fondation universitaire, Rue d’Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels, Tuesday 15
September (17.00-19.00)

For the past three years, EUA has been coordinating the EU-supported [ATHENA project](#), a large-scale structural measure to support Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine in their efforts to reform their higher education systems and institutions.

Universities contribute to strengthening democratic values, stability and prosperity, which the European Union and its Neighbours need more than ever to address common challenges. Universities are important pools of expertise and key players in developing a country’s human resources. As strategic actors involved in human capital development and R&D investment, universities in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood contribute to meeting the objectives set out in the Eastern Partnership Action Plans and are key partners in bringing their countries closer to the European Union.

The ATHENA final event is an opportunity to discuss with university leaders and high level officials from Ukraine, Moldova and Armenia as well as the EU institutions about the role of universities in the Eastern partnership. The focus of the debate will be on the following questions:

- Which role can universities play in fostering closer cooperation between the EU and its partner countries in the Eastern neighbourhood?
- How can universities in the EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood contribute to reforming and modernising their societies?
- What can the EU do to support universities in the Eastern partner countries in this regard and also in reforming the university system itself? How can European cooperation help to address these challenges?

For more information or to view the [programme](#), please visit the [event website](#).

Please note that prior registration is necessary for journalists. To register, please send an email to Ulrike.reimann@eua.be