



Attention: News/Education Correspondents

Media invitation:

DEFINE Final Event "Strategies for efficient funding of universities in Europe"

**Hosted at the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the EU, (Rue Wiertz 77, 1000 Brussels)
23 September 2015 (17.00-21.00)**

Universities across Europe face today a challenging and complex financial situation, with traditional modes of funding being questioned and transformed. Public sources in many countries are not as generous as they were in the past, not least due to the economic crisis, and often have become more demanding and competitive. These developments pose a number of questions with regard to university funding and governance, one of the priority areas of the EU's higher education modernisation agenda.

The efficiency of funding in terms of the capability to meet certain policy goals in a cost-effective way is becoming increasingly important. Across Europe, initiatives aiming at restructuring and rationalising the institutional landscape through performance-based funding, mergers and so-called excellence schemes are more frequent. They are perceived as policy tools that can enhance funding efficiency in the university sector.

With the EU-supported [DEFINE project](#), EUA and its partners have mapped the use of these tools in Europe and also explored the impact on universities, their activities and the higher education system as a whole. The objective is to provide evidence and recommendations to policy makers, funders and university practitioners. The final publication "Designing strategies for efficient funding of universities in Europe", which will be released at this event, comes in timely to inform the ongoing debate at European and national levels about the need to reform the organisation and funding of universities. The event will be an opportunity for discussion with representatives of the EU institutions, the university community and other Brussels-based stakeholders. On this occasion, EUA will launch its pilot University Mergers Tool, an interactive online tool mapping university mergers across Europe.

For further information on 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

ENDS

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

For more information, contact Ulrike Reimann Tel: +32 2 743 11 58 or Ulrike.reimann@eua.be

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.