

## 2024 EUA Funding Forum

Hosted by the University of Helsinki  
3-4 October 2024

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OPEN UNTIL MONDAY 29 APRIL 2024**

### Context and objectives

The EUA Funding Forum is a unique, inclusive platform open to all higher education and research funding stakeholders. It seeks to expose these stakeholders to the latest academic and policy research, and thereby foster exchanges and discussion about the latest trends in higher education and research funding.

In 2024, the EUA Funding Forum returns as an on-site event. In Helsinki, university leadership and management teams, public authorities, funding agencies and partners will come together to consider the future of university funding. What will be financed tomorrow depends largely on what expectations society and policy makers have towards universities. What are the competing visions of the future for the sector, in light of enhanced competition from other types of providers or academic and professional paths? How can funding adapt to the evolving needs, priorities and perceptions of higher education? Where does innovation lie? What is the capacity of universities themselves to think ahead financially? Which investment priorities are needed to future-proof their activities?




For the 2024 Forum, EUA invites proposals focusing on university funding at institutional, national or international level for its breakout sessions. Breakout sessions will last 60 to 90 minutes and will be designed by EUA, taking into account the submitted proposals, which may be paired/grouped as necessary.

### Topics of contributions

Your submission should relate to the overall Forum theme and may address one of the topics listed below. Submissions on other topics related to university funding and with explicit relevance at European level that are included in this list will also be considered.

Funding of university consortia / alliances
Investing in the green and digital transitions
NextGenerationEU funds in higher education & research
Integrity & risk management in university funding
Showcase of funding model reforms (system perspective but can be combined with an analysis of the impact at university level)
Excellence initiatives, competitive and targeted funding: is there room for strategic steering by funders?
Strategic financial planning among policy priorities and steering instruments
Evolving funding models in light of demographic changes
Evolution of the private higher education sector
Financial instruments for equity
The finances of internationalisation
Rethinking university real estate
New funding models for new activities

## Types of sessions

		Session	Expected contributions
	1	Peer learning for universities: case studies sharing the experience of HEIs in adapting to changing funding models, transforming internal funding allocation processes, designing financial strategies, etc.	Oral presentation under 15 minutes, with visual support (such as PPT) not exceeding 10 slides.
	2	Policies & frameworks: comparative studies, system-level analysis, including the effect of reforms on institutions, or plans for reform with rationale and expected effects.	Oral presentation under 15 minutes, with visual support (such as PPT) not exceeding 10 slides.
	3	Facilitated sessions: these sessions do not feature content delivered through presentations/speech, rather they focus on structured interaction among participants.	Facilitation to foster interaction among participants around a specific topic.

## Your proposal

Your submission should relate to the Forum theme and this connection should be made evident in the proposal. It may be based on research (i.e. trend analyses, data-informed and evidence-based insights, benchmarking, or forecasting related to university funding with a discussion on the implications for policy or practice) or present an institutional case study or policy approaches at the national or European level, analysing the success factors, challenges encountered, possible shortcomings and transferability to other contexts.

Please pay special attention to your abstract: it should be concise, correspond to the content of the contribution, appeal to the participants and have a succinct title.

If selected, EUA reserves the right to amend the abstract to ensure that it accurately reflects the content of the proposed session and is linguistically correct.

All proposals must be accompanied by a short video message (e.g. a recording of yourself, a voiced-over PPT) of 1-3 minutes summarising the proposal. This message will not be used for any purpose other than the selection process and will not be publicly released.

## **1) Peer-learning sessions**

Peer-learning presentations are expected to share and discuss experiences at the institutional level in a self-reflective and critical way, or to test ideas for new initiatives and receive feedback from participants. Presentations should invite participants to reflect on whether lessons learnt from this practice or approach could be transferable to their contexts, allowing the audience to exchange on similar experiences and on how they compare to the presented practice. To ensure audience engagement, presentations will be limited to 15 minutes and be followed by a discussion with the audience.

The proposal for contribution should:

- identify the presenter;
- include the presenter's short biography;
- be clearly and concisely written, and a maximum of 800 words;
- explain why the presented topic is considered relevant for the Forum audience, a critical analysis of challenges, benefits and problem-solving strategies, as well as lessons learnt;
- include discussion questions for the audience;
- be written in English.

## **2) Policies & frameworks sessions**

For these sessions, presentations should focus on system-wide policies or initiatives, including narrative, objectives, implementation and effects. Presentations may also share findings of comparative analyses carried out in several systems. All presentations must be relevant to a European audience (European higher education systems must be considered in the policies or analysis presented). To ensure audience engagement, presentations will be limited to 15 minutes and be followed by a discussion with the audience.

The proposal for contribution should:

- identify the presenter;
- include the presenter's short biography;
- be clearly and concisely written, and a maximum of 800 words;
- explain why the presented topic is considered relevant for the Forum audience, a critical analysis of challenges, benefits and problem-solving strategies, as well as lessons learnt;
- include discussion questions for the audience;
- be written in English.

## **3) Facilitated sessions**

Facilitated sessions will take place during a time slot of 60 to 90 minutes each. Proposals should focus on providing participants (up to 30) with a structured exercise to enhance their understanding of a specific topic or provide hands-on practical advice on how to implement or use specific tools, as well as tangible solutions to current challenges. The session should focus on participant activity rather than a presentation by the facilitator(s). Collaborative proposals, submitted by a team of contributors representing different institutions, institutional levels or types of actors and stakeholders, are encouraged.

The proposal for contribution should:

- identify the facilitator(s);
- include the facilitator's short biography;
- identify the target audience for the session;
- in no more than 800 words, explain the main objectives/intended learning outcomes, and explain the activity to be carried out during the session;
- specify any practical requirements (materials, audio-visual, room layout, etc.);
- be written in English.

EUA strongly encourages selected facilitators to prepare their activities carefully and manage the timing of these effectively. They should also be prepared to adapt their activity to the final number of participants.

## Submission

**All proposals for contributions should be submitted using [this form](#).**

**In addition to submitting the form, you are requested to send a short video message (1-3 min) summarising the proposal, via the form or by email to [funding@eua.eu](mailto:funding@eua.eu).**

Submitted proposals will be reviewed by the EUA Secretariat with the support of the Funding Forum Advisory Group.

Proposals for contributions will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- The proposed contribution has a clear focus that will be of interest to participants;
- The proposed contribution relates to the Forum theme;
- The argument and structure of the proposed contribution are logical, coherent and understandable;
- The proposed contribution has the potential to start a lively debate;
- Proposed contributions presenting examples of institutional practices are critical and self-reflective.

Please note that no proposal for commercial purposes will be accepted.

The selection process also considers the diversity of institutional profiles, overall geographical distribution and gender balance across the event programme.

You will be informed at the end of May 2024 if your proposal has been accepted. Selected proposals may receive comments on how they should be amended before the Forum. Please note that due to limited resources, no comments can be provided on unsuccessful proposals.

**Authors of selected contributions will benefit from a fee reduction (one per contribution), which will be applied through a special registration process. Please do not register to the Forum before EUA notifies you of the results of the selection.**

Retained presentations will be posted on the EUA website after the event.  
All correspondence will be by e-mail.

## Deadline

The deadline to submit proposals is **Monday 29 April 2024, end of day**. Submissions received after this date cannot be considered.

## Calendar

February 2024	Launch of the call.
29 April 2024	Full proposals must be submitted in Word format using the form linked to this call to <a href="mailto:funding@eua.eu">funding@eua.eu</a> .
End of May 2024	Notification of acceptance or rejection is sent by e-mail.
June 2024	Information regarding the date and time of sessions at the Forum is provided.
September 2024	Preparatory online session for Forum contributors.
3-4 October 2024	Funding Forum 2024 hosted at the University of Helsinki.

To stay up to date with the event, follow [#EUAFundingForum](https://twitter.com/EUAFundingForum) on Twitter.