

Statement of Membership Benefits

European University Association – *Strong Universities for Europe*

EUA, with its 850 members across 47 countries, is the largest and most comprehensive organisation representing universities in Europe. As the voice of Europe's universities EUA supports and takes forward the interests of individual institutions and the higher education sector as a whole.

Based in Brussels, EUA employs 40 committed and experienced staff who provide access for members to substantial intellectual resources and advice on, *inter alia*, European funding instruments, higher education and research policies and practice across Europe, on topics such as quality assurance, internationalisation governance and funding, as well as on managing transnational projects, and institutional development more generally. The secretariat is also a resource for members with office space that is available for small meetings and as an occasional working base for members visiting.

EUA provides unrivalled opportunities for members to share best practice by participating in European projects, structured events and mutual learning activities involving a wide and diverse range of institutions. EUA's website, member's community (extranet), briefings and newsletters are designed to keep members continuously well-informed about these opportunities and updated on European developments which impact their activities.

Above all, EUA provides members with unique opportunities to influence and shape future EU policy and initiatives. Through its high-level contacts and work with the European Commission, the European Parliament and a range of other European and international stakeholders, EUA ensures that universities' interests and concerns are taken up with all key stakeholders.

Membership Benefits

1. Influencing decision-making on behalf of universities at European, national and regional levels. The following EUA activities have a direct and immediate benefit for all members:

- representing European universities' interests and lobbying for consideration of universities' needs in the development and revision of European policies, programmes and funding instruments in a range of areas, e.g. full costing, simplification of funding rules and procedures, doctoral education, quality assurance, and recognition of professional qualifications. Therefore, EUA seeks more generally to improve the overall framework conditions and opportunities for universities to participate in European funding schemes such as the Research Framework Programmes, European Research Council, and EC Mobility Programmes;
- enabling comparisons and benchmarking through the publication of Europe-wide, regularly updated data, reports and studies. This work focuses on crucial issues such as university autonomy, financial sustainability, and includes the TRENDS report series, EUA's flagship studies on the European higher education landscape;
- formulating evidence-based policies for Europe's universities as input to European policy debates. Covering a wide range of topics, these are based on data and best practice gathered from members and are formulated and approved by EUA Council, with the endorsement of 34 national rectors' conferences.

- 2. Forging links with important international stakeholders.** Members are able to take advantage of work done by EUA to establish structured cooperation and linkages with other European and international stakeholders across the broad range of topics addressed by the association. Some examples of cooperation include the Responsible Partnering initiative, European Forum on Philanthropic Research Funding, Bologna Follow-Up Group, E4 Group of higher education stakeholders, and the European Quality Assurance Register for HE.
- 3. The voice of European universities internationally.** Members benefit from EUA's ability to:
- promote sustainable global partnerships – through dialogue with sector level partner organisations and international organisations worldwide and through involving members in projects with a global outreach, e.g. through regular Transatlantic Dialogues, partnerships with sister organisations in other world regions (such as the American Council on Education and Association of African Universities), and projects with global outreach;
 - assure the visibility of Europe's universities worldwide through representation in global events, networks and the work of international organisations;
 - represent universities' interests in the Global Policy Forum established by the Bologna Process and in global fora on quality assurance.
- 4. Institutional Development:** In addition to the representation and influencing roles detailed above, EUA also responds to **individual members' specific interests and needs**. In particular, by offering opportunities to participate in transnational joint projects and other collaborative activities and events that contribute to university development.

Members can benefit from:

- Mutual learning activities, such as joint projects involving diverse institutions, covering a wide range of topics such as:
 - Implementation of full costing and improved financial management
 - Development of doctoral education through best practice sharing and structured dialogue with global partners
 - Implementation of institutional lifelong learning strategies
 - Tracking student progression and graduate employment patterns.
- Participation in additional à la carte services :
 - Institutional Evaluation Programme (EUA-IEP): the overall aim of the programme is to strengthen institutional autonomy and create support mechanisms for institutional change. The IEP evaluates individual higher education institutions in the context of their own goals and objectives and actively supports them in fulfilling their mission
 - Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE): promotes sharing of experience and models for management of doctoral schools across Europe and provides information about European trends and direct participation in stakeholder dialogue (Annual Meeting).
- Access to timely and effective information on:
 - European developments and trends in higher education and research
 - EU policy developments which affect universities
 - Latest developments in areas of major interest to universities, e.g. the impact of the financial crisis on European higher education systems
 - Opportunities for participation in projects and access to their final outcomes and findings.