

Call for participation in the 2019 Learning and Teaching Thematic Peer Groups

Deadline for application: 30 January 2019

1. Introduction

EUA's Learning & Teaching activities aim to draw attention to the importance of learning and teaching in European higher education discussions and invite EUA members to exchange practices and discuss key considerations. To do this, EUA coordinates Thematic Peer Groups that provide the participating universities with an opportunity for peer-learning and exchange of experience, while at the same time contributing to EUA's policy work on learning and teaching, e.g. in the context of the Bologna Process. The work of the groups also feeds into the European Learning & Teaching Forum organised by EUA on a yearly basis. Further information about the groups is available [here](#).

Through this call EUA seeks participants for the 2019 round of Thematic Peer Groups.

2. Objectives

The main objectives of the groups are:

- To discuss and explore practices and lessons learnt in organising and implementing learning and teaching in European universities
- To contribute to the enhancement of learning and teaching by identifying key considerations on the selected theme.

3. Themes and the expected outcomes

In 2019 the Thematic Peer Groups will centre their work on the following themes:

- *Student assessment*: This group will examine how student learning can be assessed in a way that takes into account both qualitative indicators and pedagogical progress, including peer- and self-assessment, and which is respectful of students' individual needs. It will explore how learning gains can be measured and discuss how recent developments in assessment practices can be implemented to make assessment processes and their objectives more transparent.
- *Curriculum design*: This group will explore diverse approaches to curriculum design which involve diverse stakeholders, provide a platform for exchange of good practice and discuss how these efforts eventually result in curricula that are "fit for purpose". It will discuss what objectives and framework curriculum design can or should follow and how trends such as digitalisation and internationalisation

can be integrated in curricula in a way that meets the requirements of an increasingly diverse student population.

- *Evidence-based approaches to teaching*: This group will explore what kind of evidence institutions use in order to develop their education provision and how to create an environment that welcomes experimentation in teaching as a means to achieve innovation and high quality, despite the often-present stance of risk-averseness. This includes questions such as how teachers are encouraged to experiment to improve their teaching and apply scholarship of learning and teaching to their practice. The group will also discuss how students' learning can profit from evidence-based approaches to teaching.

- *Internationalisation in learning and teaching*: This group will explore how institutions can utilise internationalisation as a way to enhance their education provision. This may encompass institutional strategies for incorporating internationalisation in programme and curriculum design including pedagogic/educational aspects, as well as the value added for student experience and professional development of staff members. Furthermore, the group will look into how to overcome challenges internationalisation may pose for learning and teaching, such as the need to adapt teaching to the cultural and linguistic contexts of students.

All themes will reflect on the following three aspects:

- What are the key challenges related to the theme and how to address them?
- What kind of institutional policies and processes can help to address key challenges?
- What role does the emergence of new technologies play in supporting/challenging the theme?

Based on the exchange of knowledge, experiences and practices, each group is expected to summarise the conclusions, which will then feed into a short report outlining good practices and key considerations in its respective theme. The work of the groups will feed into the parallel sessions at the 2020 European Learning & Teaching Forum, which will be held in February 2020.

4. Activities and timeline

The thematic peer groups are envisaged to be active throughout 2019. It is foreseen that eight to ten EUA member universities will take part in each group. Members of the groups will be asked to attend three meetings, each lasting one or two days. They are furthermore strongly encouraged to attend the 2020 European Learning & Teaching Forum, either as participants or as workshop facilitators presenting the outcomes of their group's work.

Each group will be chaired by one institution and the EUA secretariat will support the groups' work by assigning a coordinator to each group, who will be present at all meetings and who will draft the group's final report.

5. Eligibility

The Call is open to all [EUA member universities](#).

Each university should be represented by a vice-rector/deputy vice-chancellor or other person in a senior position with responsibilities in learning and teaching at the university. Universities are strongly encouraged to engage the student representative(s) or to consult them internally between meetings.

6. Selection criteria

The selection of group members will be done primarily on the basis of the motivation of the university and the experience in the theme in which the university wishes to take part, as demonstrated in the application. In addition, the following aspects will be considered:

- Geographical distribution of universities
- Balance of institutional profiles (e.g. multi-faculty, art, other specialised)
- Engagement of student representative(s) in the work of thematic peer groups.

In case of strong competition for participation in a group, preference will be given to institutions that have not been part of a thematic peer group before. This is to ensure inclusiveness of EUA's Learning & Teaching activities.

Applicants are invited to choose up to two themes in order of priority. EUA will compose the groups following the preference, while taking into account the selection criteria. In order to maximise the opportunities for EUA members to participate, a university will only be able to take part in one group.

7. Terms and conditions for participation

Universities will participate on a self-funding basis and are responsible for organising and covering their own travel and accommodation for the group's three meetings and the final workshop. Catering (lunches, coffee breaks, and dinner) during the meeting will be covered by EUA.

Universities interested in participating in the Thematic Peer Groups are invited to fill in the online application, [available here](#), by **30 January 2019 at the latest**. For further questions please contact Elena Cirlan (elena.cirlan@eua.eu).

About EUA

The European University Association (EUA) represents more than 800 universities and national rectors' conferences in 48 European countries. EUA plays a crucial role in the Bologna Process and in influencing EU policies on higher education, research and innovation. Through continuous interaction with a range of other European and international organisations, EUA ensures that the independent voice of European universities is heard.

For more information about EUA, please visit our [website](#).

To learn more about the EUA's Learning & Teaching activities, click [here](#).

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