

EUA GREEN DEAL TASK-AND-FINISH GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Scope

The task-and-finish group (T&FG) will be tasked with proposing ways for EUA to achieve the recognition and mobilisation of universities as critical stakeholders for enhancing the Green Deal. The focus will be both external, on how universities could better align with, and deliver on, Green Deal objectives, and internal, on how they could better benefit from the Green Deal. Based on the [vision paper](#) and the four pillars of the [EUA Strategic Plan](#), this will translate into a **roadmap** structured around the following objectives:

- **Advocacy** will be enabled by the vision paper, which outlines what EUA advocates for on behalf of the university sector. It will require the development of a network of contacts among policy makers and stakeholder groups whose support is needed to turn the vision into reality.
Deliverable 1: Network and influence
- **Horizon scanning** will be carried out in connection with specific issues that require monitoring, based on available resources in the EUA Secretariat and the ability of task-and-finish group members to take on responsibilities for selected topics.
Deliverable 2: Monitoring
- **Building European solidarity** will be operationalised based on the scope for intra-sectoral collaboration and capacity building in a context of fragmentation and gaps among European universities. For instance, the roadmap could help to define and steer common ambitions, such as where and how universities wish to invest their funds, and could also be modelled on EUA's previous work on the [Roadmap for European Universities in Energy](#).
Deliverable 3: Action agenda on intra-sectoral collaboration and capacity building
- **Delivering enhanced performance** will be operationalised based on evidence-based inquiry as to how universities are currently performing in relation to the Green Deal. Their level of preparation to act together as a sector around key objectives may at times not be optimal, and the full extent of this situation needs to be assessed. This could draw upon results from EUA surveys [on innovation](#) and [on greening](#), and lead to recommendations for universities themselves on how, for instance, to adapt their institutional strategies or innovation agendas.
Deliverable 4: Action agenda on boosting universities' performance in the Green Deal

In addition to working on the roadmap and its dissemination, the group will advise on the setting of priorities from among the listed objectives, thus allowing the EUA Secretariat to plan for their implementation and to run specific actions across relevant EUA workstreams. As such, the main focus of the group will be to formulate strategic thinking and assess the importance and feasibility of different deliverables as they relate to improving the visibility of universities in the Green Deal and to fostering the prerequisites for engagement with policy makers and stakeholders. Group members will also be called upon during the term of the T&FG to support policy monitoring and the establishment of a network of contacts for EUA, while further input may be needed for new products or initiatives like EUA surveys or publications.

Duration and processes

The group will be established as a task-and-finish group for a fixed period of 12 months. During this time, it will provide expertise and perspectives by way of group discussions, presentations, and written input, for example in response to European Commission consultations on green policies, as relevant. The Chair will report to the Research Policy Working Group regarding the EUA Green Deal roadmap and key deliverables listed above.

The group will hold its meetings mainly online, with one in-person meeting (if feasible). The EUA Secretariat will prepare agendas, briefings and other documents for the group, will take care of the logistics for meetings, and will liaise with the group Chair and members. The agendas can feature discussion of specific questions from the members and/or the Secretariat, reports on developments in various systems and institutions, as well as debates with policy makers or representatives from other stakeholders involved in the Green Deal.

The meeting agendas will be approved by the Chair before being sent to Group members together with preparatory documents at least a week in advance of the meeting. Minutes of all meetings will be circulated usually within a maximum of three weeks. To build effective dialogue within the group, attendance at meetings is essential and replacements are not accepted.

Composition

The Chair of the Research Policy Working Group will select members of the task-and-finish group for approval by the EUA Board, and will also appoint the Chair of the group.

The T&FG will comprise up to 12 members, identified through:

- Nominations by National Rectors' Conferences;
- Identification of relevant individuals by the EUA Secretariat and the Research Policy Working Group; and
- Expressions of interest from members of the Steering Committee of the EUA Energy & Environment Platform.

Four of five members will first be selected from the Energy & Environment Platform, to ensure continuity of expertise. The T&FG will then be completed based on an assessment of nominations, taking into account not only expertise and experience, but also gender balance, geographical/regional coverage, disciplinary distribution, and diversity in the types of universities.

Group members must demonstrate knowledge of the Green Deal related to one or more of the issues listed above, experience in research, education and innovation on such issues, and knowledge of national and preferably European debates, policy processes and agendas regarding the Green Deal.

To ensure the connection with EUA governance and establish effective reporting channels, a representative of the EUA Board or Research Policy Working Group should be included in the T&FG.