EUA Anniversary

Day conference

25 years of shaping European higher education and research

Thursday 29 October, 9.45-16.30

Royal Library of Belgium | Boulevard de l'Empereur 2, 1000 Brussels

The European University Association (EUA) has advocated for universities' interests and underlined their crucial role for Europe's society and economy since its creation. This year, EUA turns 25. To celebrate this occasion with its members and partners, EUA will organise a conference and evening reception in Brussels on Thursday 29 October.

The anniversary conference will take place from 9.45-16.30 CET at the Royal Library of Belgium and will explore '25 years of shaping European higher education and research'. The event will shine a spotlight on key moments in European higher education and research since 2001, EUA's constructive role in supporting university communities and what the future holds for the Association and its members.

Registration for both the conference and evening reception is upon invitation only. Select sessions from the daytime programme will be live streamed for EUA's membership.

9.45 – 10.00	**Welcome & opening** ❖ JOSEP M. GARRELL, President, European University Association ❖ ROXANA MÎNZATU, Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness, European Commission [video message]
10.00 – 11.00	**25 years of impact and influence** For a quarter century EUA has supported universities and shaped their environments. From institutional transformation to national policy discussions and the European agenda, panellists will explore where EUA's impact on European higher education and research has been most strongly felt. The session will also address how the Association has bridged the realities of university life and the evolving ambitions of EU policy makers over the years. ❖ CASPAR VAN DEN BERG, President, Universities of the Netherlands & former member of the Education, Culture and Science Committee of the Senate of the Netherlands

	❖ VANESSA DEBIAIS-SAINTON, Head of Department-Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions & Support to Experts, European Research Executive Agency & former member of cabinet of Executive Vice-President Roxana Mînzatu ❖ PEDRO TEXEIRA, Rector, University of Porto & former Secretary of State for Higher Education, Portugal Moderated by AMANDA CROWFOOT, Secretary General, European University Association
11.00 – 11.30	*Coffee break*
11.30 – 12.30	**Trends 2027: mapping the latest developments in higher education and shaping EUA's future advocacy** EUA is preparing to celebrate the tenth edition of its flagship Trends report. First launched in 1999, Trends is a key resource for mapping institutional developments and reforms in European higher education, enabling EUA to represent universities' views and perspectives in European and national policy debates. This session will present highlights and preliminary findings from the Trends 2027 survey and discuss them with a longitudinal approach. ❖ MICHAEL GAEBEL, Director, Higher Education Policy, European University Association ❖ THÉRÈSE ZHANG, Deputy Director, Higher Education Policy, European University Association Moderated by IVANKA POPOVIĆ, Vice-President, European University Association
12.30 – 13.20	*Lunch*
13.20 – 14.30	**EUA's influence in higher education, research & innovation** Fireside chats **1. Universities, the Bologna Process & EUA** Since its launch in 1999, the Bologna Process has had a significant impact on European higher education. During this period and to this day, EUA has played a constructive role as the voice of universities across the European Higher Education Area. What has this intergovernmental reform process achieved for universities and what are the prospects for the future? How has the role of universities and EUA changed over time and what will it look like going forward? ❖ DAVID CROSIER, former Higher Education System and Policy Analyst, European Education and Culture Executive Agency, European Commission

	❖ MARITA HILLIGES, Secretary General, Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF), Sweden Moderated by MARIA KELO, Director, Institutional Development, European University Association **2. Cultivating robust, diverse & collaborative academic cultures** What are the values, incentives and institutional practices that shape academic environments and support integrity, collaboration and inclusion? This session will explore efforts to strengthen academic cultures in Europe from the perspective of universities and the work of EUA on their behalf. Building on initiatives such as the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), panellists will also consider how reforms to research and academic career assessment can contribute to broader cultural change. ❖ MARI SUNDLI TVEIT, President, Science Europe & Chief Executive, Research Council of Norway ❖ TOMA SUSI, Professor, Faculty of Physics, University of Vienna, Austria Moderated by MARCIN PAŁYS, Vice-President, European University Association
14.30 – 15.30	**EUA's impact and added value for universities** Parallel thematic sessions **1. Open knowledge & cooperation** What does openness in higher education and research mean in practice, why does it matter, and how it is expressed through universities' strategies and everyday activities? Openness underpins the free exchange of ideas, academic freedom, international cooperation and the creation and sharing of knowledge as a public good. Yet translating openness into practice requires continuous engagement. Supporting its member universities as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of open knowledge and collaboration is central to EUA's work across a wide range of topics. This includes long-standing priorities such as Open Science, as well as areas that have emerged or gained prominence such as the European Universities alliances or knowledge security. ❖ INGE VAN NIEUWERBURGH, Open Science Expert, Ghent University ❖ MICHAEL HÖRIG, Director, Brussels Office, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

	Moderated by IRINA FERENCZ, Director, Academic Cooperation Association & MONIKA STEINEL, Deputy Secretary General, European University Association **2. Strategic governance & sustainable funding** This session will reflect on how EUA has helped shape national-level advocacy over time. Drawing on its extensive work on university autonomy and funding, it will explore how the Association's comparative evidence base has brought greater structure to national reform debates and supported more coherent policy dialogue across Europe. Looking ahead, the panellists will consider how these collaborative approaches can continue to strengthen the university sector's voice in a rapidly evolving policy landscape. By combining national experience, comparative data and examples of effective practice, from long-term reforms to recent initiatives, the session will highlight how collective action can reinforce institutional resilience and shape the future of European higher education. ❖ DAIRE KEOGH, President, Dublin City University, Ireland ❖ JOSÉ MANUEL TUÑÓN DE LARA, former President, University of Bordeaux & Board member, European University Association Moderated by EMMANUELLE GARDAN, Director, Coimbra Group
15.40 – 16.00	**The road travelled: a conversation across 25 years of EUA** Concluding session The conference will conclude with a conversation between association leadership on the role played by EUA over the past 25 years and what lies ahead for universities in Europe into the next decade. ❖ ERIC FROMENT, former President, Lumière University Lyon 2, France ❖ MICHAEL MURPHY, former President, University College Cork, Ireland ❖ JEAN-MARC RAPP, former President, University of Lausanne, Switzerland ❖ ROLF TARRACH, former President, University of Luxembourg ❖ GEORG WINCKLER, former President, University of Vienna, Austria Moderated by IVANKA POPOVIĆ, Vice-President, European University Association Closing words by JOSEP M. GARRELL, President, European University Association
16.00 – 16.30	*Coffee and networking*

Evening celebration

18.30-21.30

Comic Art Museum, Rue des Sables 20, 1000 Brussels (please note the different venue)

This event will be an opportunity for reflecting on and celebrating key moments that have shaped higher education and research in Europe over the last two and a half decades.

18.30 – 19.00	*Welcome drink*
19.00 – 20.00	**Speeches & panel discussion** Welcome & introduction by JOSEP M. GARRELL, President, European University Association Keynote speech: ❖ JANEZ POTOČNIK, Former European Commissioner for Science and Research & former Minister of European Affairs, Slovenia Respondents & panellists: ❖ PIA AHRENKILDE-HANSEN, Director General, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission ❖ DACIANA POP, President, European Students' Union Closing words by JOSEP M. GARRELL, President, European University Association
20.00 – 21.30	*Walking dinner*