

Universities in the European Research Area

Foro de Universidades
Universidad Alcalá Madrid, Spain
5th March 2015

Professor Maria Helena Nazaré
President, European University
Association
Former Rector, University of Aveiro
Portugal

EUA - who are we?

- Independent stakeholder for Europe's Universities
- Non-governmental membership organisation
 - ✓ 34 European Rectors' Conferences
 - ✓ 850 universities across 47 countries
 - ✓ 17M students



EUA - who are we?

Dual role:

- I. forum for debate and mutual-learning (conferences and workshops, projects and specific services)
- II. bring empirical evidence from universities to inform policy-making processes



Universities: Key stakeholders in building European Research Area (ERA)

- Supply trained researchers
- Diverse missions (basic / collaborative research)
- Foster interdisciplinary research skills/expertise
- Embedded in cities/regions
- Focal points for dialogue with society
- International cooperation



EUA in the ERA

- EUA pan-European Stakeholder*
- Committed to promoting ERA goals and encouraging membership to address them
- 2012/13 MoU with Commission + joint statements and progress reports



* Also EARTO, LERU, Nordfisk, Science Europe & CESAER

Commission's Reporting Topics

- Priority 1: More effective national research systems
- Priority 2: Optimal trans-national cooperation and competition
- Priority 3: An open labour market for researchers
- Priority 4: Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research
- Priority 5: Optimal circulation, access and transfer of scientific knowledge including via digital ERA

EUA in the ERA

**Stakeholder progress report
September 2014**



EUA Contribution to ERA Progress

EUA action areas

1. Doctoral training, research careers and mobility
2. University-industry collaboration and knowledge transfer
3. Research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation and cross-border cooperation
4. Open access for publications and data



EUA Contribution to ERA Progress

1. Importance of adequate public funding mix

- Public/regional authorities responsible for sustainable financing of universities
- Provide for certain level of funding to guarantee research capacity
- Competitive funding must also support maintaining competitive research base
- Simplification of mechanisms

EUA projects: EUDIS, EUIMA, DEFINE, Funding Forum



EUA Contribution to ERA Progress

2. University role in design & implementation of Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)

- Strengthening partnerships with regional authorities
- Assist drafting and implementing R&I strategies
- Combine funds – greater synergies with Structural Funds
- Dialogue with DG Regio

EUA projects: EUA/JRC/IPTS Conferences for RIS3



EUA in the ERA

Smart Specialisation



EUA Contribution to ERA Progress

3. Research infrastructure development & fair access

- Input to “Charter for Access to Research Infrastructures”
- guidelines
- Many universities host/run facilities require strong investments
- Fair access early stage researchers

EUA dialogue with ESFRI



EUA Contribution to ERA Progress

4. Enhancing researchers' mobility, training and attractive careers

- Doctoral programmes

EUA projects: DOC-CAREERSI & II, ARDE, FRINDOC



Doctoral Education

- Council for Doctoral Education (CDE)
Launched in 2008, has >150 universities
- Creates a forum for development of doctoral programmes and schools (cf. Council of Graduate Schools, USA)
- Fosters exchange and best practice
- Builds European clusters of collaboration across doctoral schools
- Creates mobility



EUA Contribution to ERA Progress

5. Open labour market for researchers' careers

- Nurture university–business collaboration and mobility
- No “one-size-fits-all”: variety of successful models
- Key is building trust, active relations and top management support

EUA projects: EUIMA, dialogue for design Marie Curie Industrial Doctorate programme



EUA Contribution to ERA Progress

6. Enhanced development & efficiency of knowledge and technology transfer activity

- Early agreements - partnership
- Financial provisions
- IP agreements
- Role of intermediary bodies (TTOs, KTOs, KEOs....)
- Measurements tools

EUA projects: Responsible Partnering with EARTO and EIRMA



EUA Contribution to ERA Progress

7. Open access to research publications

- OA transition must not increase costs – integration into grants
- University self-archiving
- The issue of data

EUA monitoring national developments and in dialogue publisher groups



EUA Contribution to ERA Progress

8. Balance protection of individual data & availability for research

- Emergence of complex research issues requiring use of large “personal” datasets
- Data Regulation must preserve access for scientific research

EUA published statement on threats posed by EU LIBE Committee amendments



Thank you for your attention

For further information visit:

www.eua.be



