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EUA Research and Innovation

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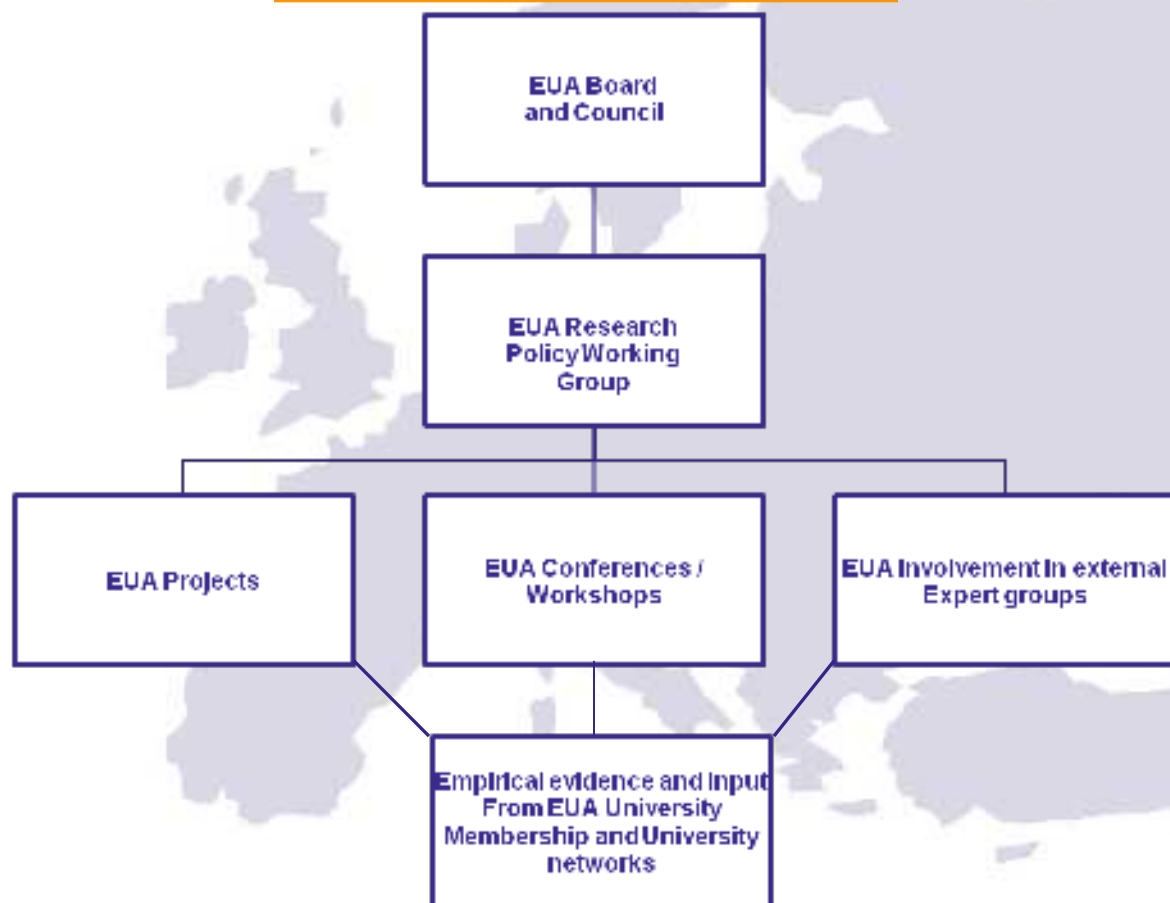
Introductory Remarks

- EUA acts as an independent stakeholder for Europe's Universities.
- Based in Brussels as a non-governmental membership organisation.
- EUA membership represents 34 European Rectors' Conferences and over 850 individual research based higher education institutions across 46 countries.
- Dual-fold role:
 - I. providing a forum for debate and mutual-learning through conferences and workshops, projects and specific services for the membership, and
 - II. bringing empirical evidence from universities' experiences and activities across their missions to inform the policy-making process in developing new instruments that help their strategic development and enhance their performance in addressing social, economic and civil society needs and goals.

Reaffirming the essential link between higher education and research as a hallmark of European higher education and a determining factor of the competitiveness of Europe and Europe's universities in the future.

- Encouraging universities to develop further their own specific and varied research profiles in line with their increasingly differentiated missions
- Maintaining the momentum in the reform of doctoral education
- Developing better career opportunities for young researchers
- Removing obstacles to mobility and overcoming national fragmentation to promote European wide opportunities for teachers and researchers at all stages of their careers

EUA Research Policy - How it Evolves



EUA Core Messages in European Policy Development

1. Universities: Key stakeholders in building ERA

- Major role in supplying trained researchers
- Diverse missions in basic and collaborative research
- Capacity to foster interdisciplinary research skills and expertise
- Embeddedness in cities and regions as components of social and economic development
- Focal points for dialogue and knowledge exchange with society



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2. Drivers of change in University-based Research

- External funding sources accounting for ever higher proportions of university research budgets
- Coupled with the need to both compete and co-operate in building European (and International) research
- Emergence of complex research issues (reflecting global challenges) requiring new interdisciplinary approaches and skills
- Growing societal demand for highly trained researchers for non-academic labour markets
- Impact of the digital revolution on the research process and knowledge exchange

3. Strong Universities in the European Research System

Universities as Research Institutions Require:

- Greater autonomy in their leadership and financial / administrative structures e.g.
 - ✓ To offer competitive salaries
 - ✓ To recruit on European (and international) level
- To move towards full cost accounting of their research activities – away from a 'low cost culture'
 - ✓ Sustainable funding conditions for university-based research, particularly from external funding sources in covering indirect research costs
 - ✓ Specific incentive funding mechanisms to foster partnerships between universities and other research institutions both public and private



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Key Challenges for Universities' Successful Integration in the ERA

- Research and Innovation – mission diversity.
- International competition and cooperation.
- Building partnerships.

I. Research and Innovation - Mission Diversity

- Continued development of distinctive research profiles including regional clustering and networking at European level.
- Fostering interdisciplinary collaboration mechanisms to address 21st century global research challenges in energy, health, societal change etc.
- Ensuring high quality research environments and critical mass in terms of human resources and research infrastructure, particularly for doctoral studies.
- Developing improved career opportunities for young researchers.

II. International Competition and Cooperation

- Becoming a more strategic element of university mission.
- Building upon experiences of European cooperation in student exchange, research networking and project development.
- Fostering an international outlook and wider opportunities for teachers and researchers at all stages of their career.
- Requires removing continuing obstacles to mobility within national frameworks (pensions, social security etc)

III. Building Partnerships

- Increasingly important in all areas of university missions, curricula development, research collaboration and innovation activities.
- 'Open Innovation' model of university / business cooperation.
- Enhanced employability and entrepreneurial attitudes of university graduates, inter-sectoral exchange of staff and 'knowledge exchange'
- In research and innovation activities building partnerships requires sound project management and improved intellectual property management reflecting respective interests.

EUA dialogue with European Commission

I. European Research Council

- EUA contributed as an strong advocate of the need for a European Research Council from its 2003 position paper onwards
- EUA invited by the ERC Identification Committee to nominate prospective candidates for the membership of the ERC Scientific Council
- Dialogue established by the EUA Research Policy Working Group with ERC Scientific Council providing viewpoints / feedback on ERC strategy papers, structure of review panels and their membership, ERC grants cost model
- ERC President, Professor Fotis Kafatos, invited to EUA Lisbon Convention (March 2007) and Council for Doctoral Education Launch Conference (June 2008) to discuss ERC future policy development and its impact on university-based research careers
- EUA written input to ERC mid-term Review Panel, May 2009. Contribution to Swedish Mini-Seminar on ERC, September 2009

II. European Institute of Technology (EIT)

- EUA works as an active European Stakeholder in the development of the EIT to ensure that universities' central interests in this new research and innovation instrument are recognised.
- EUA's input has sought to ensure that:
 - ✓ Universities are recognised as essential partners in the knowledge and innovation communities (KICs)
 - ✓ Universities in KICs will be the degree-awarding partners
 - ✓ EIT Governing Board should be an independent body
 - ✓ Open procedures and calls for selection of KICs
- EUA invited by EIT Governing Board Identification Committee to provide input on membership selection criteria, and to nominate candidates for EIT Governing Board.
- EIT Governing Board Chairman and EUA President met in July 2009 to discuss further the role of universities in the EIT
- EUA contribution to Swedish Presidency Conference on 'Knowledge Triangle' September 2009



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III. European Research Area Board (ERAB) and DG Research Expert Groups

- EUA maintains an active dialogue with ERAB. EUA has identified key 'milestones' within the recent 'ERAB Strategic View Report' on which Europe's universities can contribute
- EUA is represented also on the following DG Research Experts Groups:
 - ✓ Sounding Board on FP7 rules of participation
 - ✓ Assessment and Evaluation of Research – Methods/Good Practices
 - ✓ Conditions of Funding Schemes for University-based Research
 - ✓ Advisory Committee for the October 2009 ERA Conference
- Through such participation EUA seeks to bring its members' experiences and needs into improving European programmes for benefit of University-based researchers

How EUA is working with Members and Partners

1. Revised Responsible Partnering Guidelines

In October 2009 EUA together with important partner European associations representing industry and public research institutions (EIRMA, EARTO, and ProTon Europe) published revised guidelines.

- Voluntary code of conduct reflecting proven good practices in collaborative research
- Revised edition includes analyses of issues such as State Aid, European Community recommendations on IPR management and the results of the EUA DOC-CAREERS project on University-Industry partnerships in doctoral research
- European Commission invited to endorse these revised guidelines
- First step to the 'Open Innovation Charter' proposed by ERAB



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2. European Platform of Universities Engaged in Energy Research

Universities addressing 'Grand Challenges'

- EUA has joined the new European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) which has been launched in the framework of the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan)
- EUA has decided to create a "European Platform of Universities Engaged in Energy Research" as a parallel mechanism for consultation and engagement by universities to that already established by the national research institutes.
- EUA sees EERA as an important pilot action in the development of the process of "joint programming" in which university-based research and training needs to contribute and be strengthened

European Platform of Universities Engaged in Energy Research (EPUE)

Questionnaire designed for mapping of Energy-related Research and Training (sent to EUA Members in November 2009) in relation to:

- Fields of Knowledge (SET, BML, ESSH)
- Research Activities (Topics, Personnel, Partners)
- Doctoral Programmes (Topics, Personnel, Partners)
- Masters Programmes (Topics, Personnel, Partners)

3. Council for Doctoral Education

Universities opening the horizons of research careers and increasing the quality of mobility

- Launched in 2008 the CDE has been highly successful attracting a membership of over 150 universities
- Creates a forum for the development of doctoral programmes and schools which performs a similar function to the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) in the United States
- Fosters exchange and best practice on the full range of key issues such as enhancing quality of supervision, new interdisciplinary research training, building European clusters of collaboration across doctoral schools, creating mobility opportunities for doctoral candidates and university staff
- Aims to become the key place for dialogue with partners from public funding bodies, European, national and regional, and private industry to improve the conditions of doctoral candidates, their training and wider career prospects

The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of universities and national rectors' conferences in 46 European countries. EUA plays a crucial role in the Bologna process and in influencing EU policies on higher education, research and innovation. Thanks to its interaction with its members and a range of other European and international organisations, EUA ensures that the independent voice of European universities is heard whenever decisions are being taken that will impact on their activities.

The Association provides a unique expertise in higher education and research as well as a forum for exchange of ideas and good practices among universities. The results of EUA's work are made available to members and stakeholders through conferences, seminars, website and publications.

COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL EDUCATION

COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS FOR
ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

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DOC-CAREERS Project General Conclusions

- Mobility between sectors is considered a “must” by business employing highly skilled professionals, although there are serious barriers.
- Doctoral programmes and knowledge transfer are intrinsically linked. Schemes with business participation are a strong vehicle to enhance university-business mobility and the necessary evolution in “mindset change” in all stakeholders.
- Behind the formal procedures such as joint supervision or placements in business, successful long-term university-business cooperation processes are holistic, – i.e. the soft part of the relationship is very important and continuous face-to-face experience is mandatory to build trust and durable partnerships.
- Institutions should track their doctoral graduates to become significant drivers at institutional, national and international level and to inform doctoral candidates of their potential employment options.
- Support of governments as facilitators for university-business cooperation processes and growing awareness of IPR are important structural factors.

Twelve messages for developing collaborative doctoral programmes - General points for all partners:

- Identify knowledge/technological needs and challenges which need R&D input
- Exchange views on knowledge/technological challenges with university/industry
- Plan **medium-long term R&D strategy** (e.g. within five years)
- Develop **high quality research proposals**
- Know the **costs** of your research and identify funding sources
- Raise your **awareness** of the respective research environments in which to collaborate in your field (university, industry)
- Develop/Participate in fora for **soft ways of interaction** between students, researchers and industry experts with good research content (conferences, fairs, etc.)
- Organise small-size highly-specialised workshops/meetings pooling experts from **different research fields** and sectors
- Seek the right expertise to assist you (IPR issues, contractual issues, etc.)
- Formalise doctoral collaborations in solid and fair agreements combining **structure and flexibility**
- Consider physical proximity as an asset to develop mutual trust - promote **face-to-face** dialogue
- Commit to **excellence** in doctoral education, research and management



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Follow-up project: DOC-CAREERS II

DOC-CAREERS II (*) (2009-2012): Activities include dissemination of good practices on collaborative doctoral projects and collection of case studies from universities working with partners within their region and their strategies for the recruitment and retention of doctorate candidates and holders.

(*) Project funded under FP7 - Support Action

‘TAKE-UP’ by Universities of the Modernisation Agenda for Europe’s Universities

New major EUA project will focus in 2 main areas

- The sustainability of university funding, financial management and development of full-costing
- The transparency and appropriateness of measurement tools for the assessment of university-based research reflecting the diversity of university missions (with a particular focus on collaborative research)



Thank you for your attention

For further information visit:

www.eua.be