

European University Association (EUA)

Activities - state Jan. 2025

This update provides a selection of EUA activities that might be of interest for you and your colleagues.

You are welcome to share this within your ministry, your organisation, with higher education institutions and other relevant organisations.

For more information, please check our website www.eua.eu or [sign up to the newsletter](#)

- [Publications](#) & [Expert voices](#)
- [Ongoing projects](#)
- [Events](#)

Recordings of past events are usually available on [EUA's YouTube channel](#)



[EUA 2023 annual report](#)

Upcoming events and initiatives

DATES	EVENT/INITIATIVE	PLACE	TARGETED AUDIENCE	LINK
16-17 January 2025	2025 EUA-CDE Thematic Workshop	University of Minho, Portugal	Academic leaders, doctoral school managers, professionals and doctoral candidates from EUA-CDE members	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/2025-eua-cde-thematic-workshop.html
21 Jan 2025	Staff development in learning and teaching: the state of play Webinar	Online	Vice-rectors for academic affairs, deans, heads of learning and teaching centres, and management involved in learning and teaching, students, policy makers and other stakeholders in higher education.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_xk3f0NCgE&p=ygUDZXVh
February – September 2025	EUA Leadership Development Programme	A combination of online and onsite sessions Onsite sessions in Riga, Latvia, and Brussels, Belgium	Dynamic programme crafted to enhance leadership skills and competencies for senior academic and professional support leaders of EUA member universities. With a distinctive European perspective, the programme provides a blend of international insights and tailored support for EUA members. EUA's Leadership	https://www.eua.eu/our-work/projects/eua-projects/eua-leadership-development-programme.html

			Development Programme aims to foster meaningful connections with European peers and equip participants to drive impactful change within their institutions.	
4 February 2025	How universities can protect and promote academic freedom: EUA principles and guidelines	Publication	<p>In Europe and across the globe, academic freedom – and its close relative, institutional autonomy – find themselves increasingly under pressure. For the European University Association, it is essential to support universities as central actors in the protection and promotion of academic freedom. In this position paper, EUA offers concrete and practical guidance on how universities can protect and strengthen academic freedom. Complementing EUA's existing work and contributions to related expert and policy discussions over recent years, this text formulates key principles that highlight the essential role of academic freedom for universities and for societies. It also proposes a number of guidelines to frame and reinforce efforts by university leadership, individual academics and university communities to ensure that academic freedom is a lived daily reality.</p> <p>Indeed, EUA calls on its members across Europe to commit to the protection and promotion of academic freedom at their universities, by developing and, crucially, implementing their own institutional guidelines and policies. The Association also reiterates certain key actions in support of academic freedom that can be taken by governments and public authorities.</p> <p>Academic freedom experts and practitioners guided the development of this text, which was endorsed by the EUA Council on 31 January 2025.</p>	https://www.eua.eu/publications/positions/how-universities-can-protect-and-promote-academic-freedom.html?highlight=WyJwcm90ZWNOliwchJvbW90ZSIslmByaW5jaXBsZXMiLCJndWlkZWxpbmVzliwiaG93liwidW5pdmVyc2l0aWVzliwiY2FuliwiYWVhZGVtaWMiLCJmcmVlZG9tliwiZXVhIi0=

27-28 February 2025	2025 European Learning & Teaching Forum	Cork, Ireland	Vice-rectors for academic affairs, deans, heads of learning and teaching centres, and management involved in learning and teaching, students, policy makers and other stakeholders in higher education.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/2025-european-learning-teaching-forum.html
10-11 Apr 2025	2025 EUA Annual Conference "Connecting the dots on sustainability and resilience"	University Of Latvia, Riga, Latvia	The 2025 EUA Annual Conference, hosted by the University of Latvia in Riga from 10-11 April, will strive to define what sustainability and resilience, as multi-faceted concepts, mean for universities. By 'Connecting the dots on sustainability and resilience', this event will explore how universities can contribute to a more sustainable future, both on and off campus, while strengthening institutional and societal resilience. So, how can university leadership and communities best pursue sustainability and resilience as key objectives of institutional missions, strategies and activities?	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/2025-eua-annual-conference.html
26 - 28 May 2025	Master Class (STAFF-DEV project): Transitions and transformations in staff development for learning and teaching	University College Cork, Ireland	Senior institutional representatives with responsibilities in developing and organising staff development and enhancing learning and teaching at the institutions (e.g. institutional leadership, directors of learning and teaching centres) from across the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/transitions-and-transformations-in-staff-development-for-learning-and-teaching.html
4-6 June 2025	2025 EUA-CDE Annual Meeting	University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland	Academic leaders, doctoral school managers, professionals in doctoral education, doctoral candidates and other stakeholders with an interest in doctoral education	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/2025-eua-cde-annual-meeting.html

Recent events & publications

EVENT/PUBLICATION	DESCRIPTION	LINK
EUA webinar “Towards a strategic vision for open repositories in Europe” 3 December 2024	<p>The online event addressed challenges, opportunities and future directions for open repositories in Europe. Results from the report ‘Current state and future directions for open repositories in Europe’, published in December 2023 by OpenAIRE, LIBER, SPARC Europe, and COAR, were presented to set the context for the discussion. Experts from European and institutional repositories were also invited to share their insights and experiences on challenges and the evolving needs of their repositories. Participants had the opportunity to discuss strategies for enhancing collaboration and integration among repositories, with the goal of building a more robust open repository infrastructure across Europe.</p>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wXAY9a-NS8
EUA High-level roundtable “R&I for a prosperous and competitive Europe” 21 November 2024	<p>The high-level roundtable was organised as part of the European University Association’s 2024 R&I Forum. The event delved into questions raised by the renewed interest in a fifth freedom to enhance research, innovation and education within the European market and EU’s ambitious goals to increase its competitiveness. With this topic set to guide political discussions for the next five years, a diverse panel of experts discussed the role of research and innovation (R&I) in achieving a prosperous and competitive Europe, where knowledge diffusion propels both economic vitality, societal advancement and cultural enlightenment.</p>	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/high-level-roundtable-r-i-for-a-prosperous-and-competitive-europe.html
EUA webinar “Universities and knowledge security: managing risks in research and innovation” 22 October 2024	<p>With research and innovation as key pillars of Europe’s competitiveness, universities are working with national and European policy makers to ensure the robustness of knowledge production and exchange while being aware of foreign interference risks and threats to ethics and integrity. Therefore, this webinar was an opportunity to learn about best practices for boosting knowledge security and working with governments to uphold academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Participants also learned about ways to effectively allocate roles and responsibilities among institutional leaders and individual academics in order to facilitate broad ownership and coordination of security policies across universities. Please note that this event was reserved for EUA members.</p>	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/universities-and-knowledge-security-managing-risks-in-research-and-innovation.html
EUA Funding Forum 2024 “Sense & Sustainability: future paths for university finances” 3-4 October 2024	<p>The EUA Funding Forum, in collaboration with the University of Helsinki, brought together over 200 participants from more than 30 countries, including university leaders, managers, policymakers, researchers, and sector representatives, to shape the future of university funding.</p> <p>In addition to showcasing the key findings of the EUA's latest survey on university finances and global trends, the forum explored various aspects of university funding, including the funding of university alliances, funding reforms, models and policy choices, the shifting dynamics of power within the funding ecosystem, funding expectations, and the costs of sustainability in an unstable environment.</p> <p>The forum rich in data and insights sparked numerous formal and informal discussions on funding within the community. Striking the right balance between realism and optimism, the Forum introduced fresh ideas and energy to strengthen universities’ capacity to move forward and enhance financial resilience.</p> <p>In 2025, building on the latest funding survey, EUA plans to publish a series of briefings addressing various aspects of university finances.</p>	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/2024-eua-funding-forum.html

<p>EUA webinar “Strengthening research management in the European Research Area: Action 17”</p> <p>26 September 2024</p>	<p>Research management encompasses a wide variety of roles, responsibilities and tasks at institutional level. However, there is a need for a shared definition and clear career development paths for the research management profession to fully capitalise on the role that research managers play in supporting and facilitating the whole research and innovation process. To address these challenges, the European Research Area (ERA)’s action 17 addresses improving the training and skills development of research managers, contributing to the recognition of the research management profession, and supporting networking and capacity building opportunities across the ERA. Together with a panel of experts, participants of this webinar had the opportunity to learn more about the implementation of activities related to action 17 and how they impact universities. They also learned about synergies with other actions and potential next steps. Please note that this event was reserved for EUA members.</p>	<p>https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/strengthening-research-management-in-the-european-research-area-action-17.html</p>
<p>EUA webinar “Developing institutional policies for Open Access books”</p> <p>24 September 2024</p>	<p>This webinar addressed the diversity of OA policies among universities and other research performing organisations in the European Research Area (ERA), focusing on the state of policy for Open Access books. As such, PALOMERA project partners shared the results of a policy mapping research that had identified different national approaches to OA books policy. Key insights from this webinar therefore included the added value of having a policy for OA books, which elements are most important within the scope of such a policy, what it would mean for a university to add books to its Open Access policy, and life-cycle thinking about policy development for Open Access and Open Science.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRX94pPfJSI</p>
<p>2024 EQAF (European Quality Assurance Forum)</p> <p>14-16 November 2024</p>	<p>The 2024 EQAF was hosted by the University of Twente, Netherlands. The Forum, entitled “Enhancing education, research and societal engagement through quality assurance,” combined sessions about policies and trends, research, and practical case examples related to the Forum theme and more generally about current developments in quality assurance.</p> <p>Connecting quality assurance efforts across teaching, research, and the third mission is crucial for universities to achieve their strategic objectives. This integrated approach fosters a well-rounded and impactful educational experience for students while advancing research and contributing meaningfully to society. However, addressing the interconnectedness of the three missions becomes more challenging both for internal and external QA systems due to the wide variety of new developments and trends in higher education. These range from the need to base learning and teaching on research, to technological advancements including artificial intelligence, and the rise of projects that envisage the cooperation of different actors including non-academic stakeholders.</p> <p>EQAF 2024 explored new policies, innovative methodologies and tools that ensure a holistic approach to quality and quality assurance. It also invited the audience to reflect on how quality assurance can meet needs and challenges arising at the interconnection of the three missions. In addition to researchers, practitioners and policy makers in quality assurance, this year’s event was of special interest to professionals responsible for the quality of research and outreach functions at universities, and to staff with project management functions.</p>	<p>https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/2024-european-quality-assurance-forum.html</p>