European University Association (EUA)

Activities - state Oct. 2024

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
18 September 2024	Webinar: EUA Leadership Development Programme	Online	Academic and professional support leaders of EUA member institutions; incoming or new rectors, vice-rectors with different portfolios (research and innovation, learning and teaching, student affairs, strategic planning, sustainability, digitalisation, internationalisation), deans, directors of human resources, or strategy	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/eua-leadership-development-programme-ask-questions-and-prepare-your-application.html
24 September 2024	Webinar "Developing institutional policies for Open Access books"	Online	Institutional leaders (rectors, vice-rectors and heads of administration), research department staff, research librarians, researchers, as well as representatives of other research performing organisations.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/developing-institutional-policies-for-open-access-books.html

26 September 2024	Webinar "Strengthening research management in the European Research Area: Action 17"	Online	Institutional leaders and research managers from EUA members	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/strengthening-research-management-in-the-european-research-area-action-17.html
1 October 2024	Trends 2024: European higher education institutions in times of transition (webinar)	Online	The higher education community at large Policy makers	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/trends-2024-european-higher-education-institutions-in-times-of-transition.html
03-04 October 2024	2024 EUA Funding Forum	Helsinki, Finland		https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/2024-eua-funding-forum.html
22 October	Webinar: Universities and knowledge security: managing risks in research and innovation	Online	EUA membership at large	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/universities-and-knowledge-security-managing-risks-in-research-and-innovation.html
14-16 November 2024	2024 EQAF (European Quality Assurance Forum)	Enschede, Netherlands	University leaders responsible for QA, QA officers, QA agency staff and researchers working on higher education or the QA field.	https://eua.eu/events/274-2024-european-quality-assurance-forum.html
21 November 2024	High-level roundtable: "R&I for a prosperous and competitive Europe"	Brussels, Belgium	University leaders, national rectors' conferences, European policymakers	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/high-level-roundtable-r-i-for-a-prosperous-and-competitive-europe.html
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
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
10 - 11 Apr 2025	2025 EUA Annual Conference	University Of Latvia, Riga, Latvia		https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/2025-eua-annual-conference.html

Recent events & publications

EVENT/PUBLICATION	DESCRIPTION	LINK
Event "Unleashing the full potential of the European innovation ecosystem" 10 September 2024	Joint event of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU and the European University Association The need for innovative solutions is growing faster than ever before. With vast scope for cross-border cooperation and exchange among a variety of stakeholders, Europe's innovation landscape can tackle growing societal challenges with new ideas. Nevertheless, Europe's potential as a well-functioning and cohesive innovation ecosystem must be better understood and supported. On the occasion of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, and in conjunction with ongoing discussions about the successor programme to Horizon Europe, representatives of the university sector will join policy makers for an afternoon of debate on how to tackle the fragmentation hampering Europe's innovation capacity. Showcasing existing achievements at institutional level and inspiring examples of effective multi-stakeholder mobilisation, this event will outline ideas and approaches to orchestrate impactful innovation ecosystems for a competitive Europe. It will also explore how frameworks such as the European Research Area (ERA) and policy measures aiming to enhance R&I capacity can be strengthened to tackle the divide between leading and emerging innovators that causes underperformance in knowledge valorisation. The event will therefore explore ways of building innovation capacity equitably and synergistically across Europe, reflecting the merits and uniqueness of each region as well as the complex and dynamic nature of their innovation ecosystems.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/unleashing-the-full-potential-of-the-european-innovation-ecosystem.html
Report "Trends 2024 - European higher education institutions in times of transition" 25 July 2024	For the European higher education sector, the past five years have seen many changes and transformations, some gradual, others more drastic and disruptive. In the ninth edition of the European University Association's long-running series, Trends 2024 provides an overview of how European higher education institutions experienced changes over the past five years, due to higher education reforms, and in the wider context of societal, political, economic and technological changes, marked among others by the implications of Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's war against Ukraine. The report also sheds light on how higher education institutions see their future direction. Based on survey responses from 489 higher education institutions in 46 European higher education systems, Trends 2024 analyses the institutions' perspectives and strategies with regard to their multiple missions. It focuses on the education mission, changes in the student body and the education offer, learning and teaching enhancement, the rise of non-degree education, and developments in mobility and internationalisation.	https://www.eua.eu/publications/reports/trends-2024.html
Webinar "Better knowledge valorisation in the European Research Area: Action 7" 2 July 2024	The next webinar in the European University Association's series 'A new ERA for universities' will explore the European Research Area's seventh action, on upgrading EU guidance for better knowledge valorisation. It will be held on 2 July 2024 from 10.00 to 11.30 CEST. Action 7 aims to strengthen innovation ecosystems for knowledge circulation and valorisation by providing guidance on addressing increasingly complex knowledge value-chains, new market opportunities created by emerging technologies, and new forms of industry-academia collaboration and involvement of citizens. Concretely, it has generated a series of guiding principles and codes of practice for stakeholders on issues such as the management of intellectual assets, citizen engagement, standardisation, and industry-academia co-creation. Together with a panel of experts, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the implementation of activities related to action 7 and how they	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/better-knowledge-valorisation-in-the-european-research-area-action-7.html

	impact universities. They will also learn about synergies with other actions and potential next steps.	
Event "2024 EUA-CDE Annual Meeting" 26 - 28 June 2024	The 2024 EUA-CDE Annual Meeting focused on the topic of data from various perspectives. Hosted by the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, it discussed this topic by looking into the available data on doctoral education and how this data impacts management and strategy in this field. Through a mix of traditional and interactive sessions, this conference tackled a broad spectrum of issues. These included the key role of data in the strategic development of doctoral education, duration and completion rate of doctoral programmes, artificial intelligence and FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable) data training. Over three days, the Annual Meeting provided a platform to reflect on how to develop data management skills at the doctoral level and how to facilitate access to data infrastructures for doctoral candidates, among many other topics. In addition, EUA-CDE organised a dedicated session featuring the presentation of a Thematic Peer Group report on institutional support for postdoctoral researchers and stimulate an exchange between participants on how to successfully foster this type of support within European universities.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/2024-eua-cde-annual-meeting.html
Webinar "Reforming Academic Career Assessment: current insights and future directions" 25 Jun 2024	What are higher education institutions and research organisations doing to enact reforms in academic career assessment? A workshop that took place on 25 June presented the latest findings. As part of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), a dedicated Working Group on Reforming Academic Career Assessment (ACA) has gathered data on both organisational and broader national and international initiatives aimed at reforming academic career assessment. This workshop highlighted the key outcomes from its large-scale survey and case studies, offering valuable insights into the current landscape of academic career assessment reforms. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the findings and provide further input to the Working Group on potential lessons learned, as well as share experiences from reforms in their own context. These discussions informed the co-creation of an adaptable toolbox for academic career assessment, considering all university missions and the broad scope of activities, skills and competences of academic staff at different stages of their career.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/reforming-academic-career-assessment-current-insights-and-future-directions.html
Position "The next leap forward for transnational cooperation Supporting sustainability and impact within and beyond European Universities alliances" 20 June 2024	The European University Association (EUA) calls on European and national policy makers to make a substantial leap forward in supporting transnational university cooperation including the alliances under the European Universities Initiative, through policy reform and funding based on a long-term vision. The goal for the next years, until 2030, must be to create a strategic, transparent and smooth system of transnational university cooperation that benefits the entire university sector and builds on best practices from within and beyond alliances under the European Universities Initiative. This is crucial to promote high quality in education and research, and thereby unleash the potential of European universities in contributing to Europe's sustainable future and its international competitiveness. This EUA position outlines nine key ways in which universities and policy makers can work together over the next years to achieve this.	https://www.eua.eu/publications/positions/the-next-leap-forward-for-transnational-cooperation.html
Webinar "Artificial intelligence and ethics: the place of new technologies within university missions"	The exploration of artificial intelligence within universities continues to demonstrate how new technologies can enhance, transform or complement long-standing practices in learning & teaching, research and institutional management. As this culture of experimentation takes hold within institutions, excitement and appetite for innovation continue to build. But as the impact of these technological	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/artificial-

18 June 2024	advancements become more tangible for the user, their limitations – as well as their capabilities – are increasingly exposed. Within the university sector, and across society more broadly, concerns are raised about the quality and integrity of data used in developing AI tools. The apparent threats to citizens' privacy and other civil liberties have put ethics at the centre of the debate around the deployment of AI. With the adoption of the AI Act, Europe is emerging as a frontrunner in seeking to protect citizens' freedoms and ensure that humans stay in control of life-impacting decisions. But how will the essence of this legislation translate to the institutional setting? As universities continue to innovate and build momentum in the rollout of AI, it is essential they look beyond the immediate application of new technologies. Universities' responses to AI need to consider the place of artificial intelligence within the wider institutional mission and the potential impact of these technologies in society. This webinar will address the evolution of human-machine interaction, the climate impact of AI, and (un)democratic access to new technologies as key considerations in integrating AI technologies. Speaker presentations will trigger reflection among participants on the responsible adoption of new technologies and how this aligns with universities' values and broader mission to society.	intelligence-and-ethics-the-place-of-new-technologies-within-university-missions.html
Webinar "MSCA4Ukraine re-launch webinar and info day" 14 Jun 2024	With a recent top up of €10 million from the European Commission, the MSCA4Ukraine scheme will be able to support additional researchers displaced from Ukraine. This webinar will officially relaunch MSCA4Ukraine and provide information to participants on how to apply to the 2024 call for proposals. The EU-funded MSCA4Ukraine scheme currently offers dedicated fellowships and support to 125 researchers from Ukraine, enabling them to continue their work at academic and non-academic organisations in EU member states and Horizon Europe associated countries, while maintaining their connections to research and innovation communities in Ukraine. Funded under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), the initiative is led by Scholars at Risk Europe and implemented jointly with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the European University Association. During the webinar, MSCA4Ukraine will be officially relaunched by Normunds Popens, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission, and Igor Taranov, Head of Department, Horizon Europe Office in Ukraine. The launch will be followed by a dedicated information session for potential applicant organisations and researchers from Ukraine. The consortium partners and speakers from the European Commission and European Research Executive Agency will provide practical information on eligibility, application and evaluation processes. Participants are encouraged to engage actively and ask questions throughout the event.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/msca4ukraine-re-launch-webinar-and-info-day.html
Webinar "What do the indicators say about the Bologna Process?"" 11 June 2024	The webinar introduced the monitoring framework of the Bologna Process and discussed the 'how' and 'why' of evaluating progress in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). In addition, key findings from the most recent monitoring cycle were presented. Newly released or forthcoming data on selected topics were presented by different EHEA stakeholders: the European Commission/Eurydice highlighted findings from the Bologna Implementation Report, the European Students' Union from its Bologna with Students' Eyes report, and EUA from its Trends 2024 report. Speakers then discussed their findings on themes such as the EHEA key commitments and credit mobility, drawing conclusions for the next round of the Bologna Process.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/what-do-the-indicators-say-about-the-bologna-process.html

Webinar "Navigating micro-credentials: institutional, national, and European perspectives"" 5 June 2024	Shorter forms of learning in higher education have existed many years. However, until recently, they were of little public interest and did not play a major role in most institutional and national strategies. This has changed due to the accelerated need for skills, including for the digital and green transitions, and to improve employability through re-skilling and up-skilling. Indeed, 'micro-credentials' have become a policy priority of the European Union, as well as in many national contexts, alongside a substantial increase in the numbers of higher education institutions providing such courses. New developments in higher education usually come with high hopes and big concerns. Therefore, an upcoming webinar as part of the Erasmus+ MicroNet project will bring a sense of reality to often rather polarised scenarios by sharing institutions' experiences of exploring micro-credentials and examples of national and European approaches. For example, for learners and their employers there is the promise of better, quicker, cutting-edge, more flexible learning, with less barriers and at lower costs through micro-credentials. Meanwhile, providers look to better serving society and responding to skills needs - but may also look at micro-credentials as a new or additional income source, or even a new business model. In addition, policy makers see a way to boost lifelong learning in light of demographic change and rapid and unpredictable economic and societal transformation. That said, there are also major concerns, such as loss of quality, challenges regarding the award and recognition of the micro-credentials, and that this might bring about a transition from reliable publicly owned structures and institutions providing reliable degrees to 'gig education'. During this webinar, institutions from different European countries will present their projects and share some of their successes and challenges. The discussions will also take into consideration the community of learners and external partners and analysis of the role and impact of system and European level policies and frameworks for the successful use of micro-credentials.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/navigating-micro-credentials-institutional-national-and-european-perspectives.html
Webinar "Paving the way for an impactful FP10" 28 May 2024	As Europe enters a future marked by both unprecedented challenges and opportunities that extend beyond national boundaries, the European Union's tenth Research and Innovation Framework Programme (FP10) stands to become the continent's key commitment to placing research and innovation (R&I) at the forefront of societal and scientific progress. With the design of FP10 on the horizon, this webinar discussed how to shape the programme to strengthen its critical role as a catalyst for excellent, cooperative, inclusive and impactful R&I across Europe. It also specifically looked at how the programme can better support universities in fulfilling their R&I missions for the benefit of society. Event participants had the opportunity to engage with experts, gaining insights into the evolving discussions and strategic developments that will define FP10.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/paving-the-way-for-an-impactful-fp10.html
Webinar "Building a just scholarly publishing ecosystem" 22 May 2024	This webinar (22 May 2024, 15.00-16.30 CEST) will focus on universal and perpetual Open Access to scholarly outputs, in a just scholarly publishing ecosystem*, the first priority of the EUA Open Science Agenda 2025. During the webinar, participants will be invited to discuss challenges, needs and expectations in the transition towards a just scholarly publishing ecosystem. This will include discussing a recent proposal by cOAlition S, Towards Responsible Publishing. This proposal identifies key challenges of dominant publishing models and proposes a vision for a community-based scholarly communication system fit for Open Science in the 21st century. A set of principles is proposed to develop this community-based scholarly communication system. Discussing this proposal will	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/building-a-just-scholarly-publishing-ecosystem.html

	prompt a broader discussion on the future of scholarly communication, from the perspective of universities.	
Webinar "Artificial intelligence: From experimentation to institutional strategies" 17 May 2024	In the one and a half years since ChatGPT made generative artificial intelligence widely available, universities have been experimenting with the application of this technology. For the most part, these experiments have been contained within a specific faculty, department or laboratory, driven by the curiosity of individual students, educators or researchers. Much has been – and continues to be – discovered: the application of AI for the benefit of writing, brainstorming or generating overviews of research literature are just some of the use cases being explored within the institutional setting. Universities, as important testbeds for new ideas and nascent technologies, should continue to facilitate experimentation. But as institutions begin to emerge from this pilot phase, it is time to pool individual experiences and collectively reflect on where AI can add value to university missions. This webinar will present initiatives carried out at the national and institutional level that take a more concerted approach to examining experiences from the past year and a half year. Participants will gain insight into how this 'gathering-of-experiences' can inform the beginnings of a university-wide response to AI that supports an institution's strategic goals and values.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/artificial-intelligence-from-experimentation-to-institutional-strategies.html
Webinar "Shaping Europe's future: the 2024 European elections and their importance for universities" 15 May 2024	The 2024 European Parliament elections, which will take place on 6-9 June, hold great importance for European universities and the millions of students and staff in higher education across our continent. Therefore, on 15 May (11.00-12.00 CEST), the European University Association will hold a webinar to discuss why it is important for university communities across the EU to go to the polls this year. These elections will shape the direction of EU policies for the next five years. Crucial decisions will be made in regard to the allocation of the next generation of EU funding programmes for research, innovation and education, as well as to policies in areas such as digitalisation, EU foreign policy or EU enlargement, which also impact universities. In addition to their connections with local communities and partners across Europe, universities play a major role in upholding European values within our civil society. Moreover, many of their students will exercise their right to vote for the first time this year. This is why they are actively engaging, including by organising events to discuss the impact of the 2024 elections on research, education, and innovation. As the voice of Europe's universities, EUA is championing the European Parliament's #UseYourVote campaign, supporting universities in raising awareness about the importance of this elections.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/shaping-europes-future-the-2024-european-elections-and-their-importance-for-universities.html
Webinar "The Social Dimension in higher education: its context and its future" 14 May 2024	The sixth webinar of the EUA series "Toward Tirana 2024, the Bologna Process and developments in the EHEA" will discuss the current state of the social dimension in higher education, contrasting institutional perspectives with European policies. This event takes place on 14 May 2024, from 14.00 to 15.00 CEST. The Social Dimension has been extensively explored under the recent cycles of the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG) thanks to the work of the Social Dimension Working Group. With the 2020 Rome Communiqué, EHEA ministers adopted the Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA, and expressed their commitment to implementing these in their respective systems. This webinar will take a step back from the BFUG discussions and delve into the experiences and historical context of the social dimension at two higher education institutions. Speakers will highlight the rationale and motivations of various	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/the-social-dimension-in-higher-education-its-context-and-its-future.html

	inclusive practices implemented at their institutions, and discuss how they are rooted in institutional strategies. Finally, the event will reflect on the relevance and applicability of the current initiatives on the social dimension coming from the BFUG.	
Webinar "EUA's Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP): what is it, how does it work, and why should you choose it?" 06 May 2024	This information session will offer an overview of EUA's Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP), now that registrations for the next round of evaluations are open. Since 1994, IEP has offered enhancement-oriented voluntary evaluations on a peer-review basis. Through its context-sensitive and comprehensive approach, IEP has supported more than 340 institutions across the world in developing strategic leadership and capacity to manage change. Key to IEP' success is its pool of more than 50 highly experienced international experts including rectors, vice-rectors, students, and senior higher education professionals. Furthermore, IEP is registered as a quality assurance agency on the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). During this information session, a member of the IEP Steering Committee will explain the main characteristics and added value of the programme, representatives from two recently evaluated institutions will discuss their experience, and the IEP Secretariat will provide some practical information.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/euas-institutional-evaluation-programme-iep-what-is-it-how-does-it-work-and-why-should-you-choose-it.html
Briefing "European Parliament elections: 6-9 June 2024 **Your vote matters to shape the future of Europe and its universities"** 30 April 2024	Why is the European Union important for universities, and what does the European Parliament do? Ahead of the 2024 European elections, taking place from 6 to 9 June in the EU's 27 member states, this short factsheet lays out why these elections are important to EUA members, their students, staff and wider communities across Europe. EUA is also supporting the #UseYourVote campaign, and further information, including the exact date of the elections in your country, can be found in all EU languages on the European Parliament's 2024 elections website.	https://www.eua.eu/publications/briefings/european-parliament-elections-6-9-june-2024.html
Report "University Autonomy in Europe IV: Country Profiles (III)" 25 April 2024	EUA's Autonomy Scorecard country profiles delve into in-depth system analyses, offering insights into recent developments and presenting the sector's perspective. The 2023 edition of the European University Association's Autonomy Scorecard, the most comprehensive yet, provides a full comparative analysis of the state of play of university autonomy in 35 higher education systems in Europe. For the first time, each profile better contextualises the higher education landscape via a dedicated section, along with radar charts that visualise the system in question's autonomy score. For this edition, the country profiles are released in three batches. This final batch comprises the following systems: Wallonia-Brussels (Belgium), Croatia, Cyprus, England (UK), France, Lithuania, Portugal, Scotland (UK), Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Türkiye.	https://www.eua.eu/publications/reports/university-autonomy-in-europe-iv-country-profiles-iii.html
Position "Paving the way for impactful European R&I. EUA's vision for FP10" 8 April 2024	In this document, EUA outlines its strategic vision for FP10, offering its contribution to shaping the programme. After describing current and emerging trends, this vision examines the current state of play and challenges of the ongoing Framework Programme (Horizon Europe) and the European R&I landscape within a broader context. It subsequently formulates recommendations, pinpointing what should be added, modified, or removed for the programme to reach its ambitious goals. This includes a particular focus on the programme's budget, structure, core principles and horizontal topics.	https://www.eua.eu/publications/positions/paving-the-way-for-impactful-european-r-i.html