

# **The voice from universities and “Horizon 2020” (Brussels policy making)**

**Information and Strategy Day of the German Rectors’  
Conference for the Heads of German Universities**

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# Overview

- About **EUA**: The voice of the Universities in Europe
- Messages in the European research policy debate
- Main positions on Horizon 2020
- **MoU** (EUA/EC) on the European Research Area (July 2012).
- Priorities for EU 2014-20 Budget Negotiations (Nov 2012).
- Next Steps for **EUA** in 2013

## **EUA Core Messages**

### **I. Universities: Key stakeholders in building the European Research Area (ERA)**

- Educating knowledge workers and researchers
- Diverse missions in basic and collaborative research
- 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
- International cooperation building upon institutional historical and cultural links – strengths and capacities

## **II. Drivers of change in University-based Research**

- External funding sources accounting for ever higher proportions of university research budgets
- 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
- Non-academic labor markets demand for highly trained graduates and researchers.
- Impact of the digital revolution on the research process and knowledge exchange

### **III. Strong Universities in the European Research System**

- Greater autonomy in their leadership and financial / administrative structures e.g.
  - ✓ To offer competitive salaries
  - ✓ To recruit on European (and international) level
- 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

## **EUA & Horizon 2020 (1)**

- Excellence criteria for funding decisions based on assessments/indicators of best practices for **both** fundamental and collaborative research with external partners
- Simplification and reduction of heavy administrative and accounting procedures.
- Competitive funding instruments open to all research institutions with no programmes targeted specifically for certain types of research institutions as exclusive partners
- “European Added Value” clearly demonstrated to avoid the risk that EU research and innovation funding is used to substitute for reductions in national and regional funding
- A **wider understanding** of innovation. Not simply being seen as the last step to commercial application. Innovation comes from contributions across the full spectrum of sciences - **including social sciences, arts and humanities.**

## **EUA & Horizon 2020 (2)**

### **Balancing Continuity and Change from FP7 to Horizon 2020**

- “Bottom-up” funding instruments must be strengthened (ERC, Marie Curie Actions) and Future Enabling Technologies programme be widened to basic science approaches
- Europe’s universities have an essential role to play in the “Societal Challenge” pillar which must offer “FP7 Cooperation Programme-type funding instruments” for the support of European research project teams.
- Europe’s universities need to be mobilised to be well-placed to respond to this new pillar (EPUE in SET-Plan as model)

## **EUA & Horizon 2020 (3)**

- International Dimension on EU Research - European universities' experience should be tapped in the development of future EU instruments fostering cooperation agreements between EU countries and other global regions.
- Greater synergy between Competition policy (Horizon 2020) and Cohesion Policy (ERDF & ESF) could be achieved by changing the regulations to allow universities to be initiators of ERDF funding applications in research, training and innovation activities.
- Essential contribution of the social sciences, arts and humanities should be retained and strengthened



## **EUA & Horizon 2020 (4)**

### Rules of Participation cost model

- Retain the option for re-imburement of **full costs**;
- Accord an appropriate **40% flat rate** to universities that are not able to identify their real indirect costs;
- Develop a '**light touch certification**' of full costing methodologies together with relevant stakeholders following the good practices at national level (UK; IE; SE);
- **Accept nationally recognised costing methodologies** and usual institutional accounting and management practices, including time allocation **procedures**;
- Make sure that the **implementation** and the **interpretation of rules** is consistent with the general simplification approach.

**EUA** has signed a **MoU** with **EC** (*similarly LERU, EARTO and NORDFORSK*).

Action areas to build the **ERA** are:

- 1) Doctoral training, research careers and mobility
- 2) University-Industry Collaboration and Knowledge transfer
- 3) Cross Border Cooperation
- 4) Open Access to Publications and Data

### **EUA MoU Priorities for 2013 :**

Area 1) with focus on open, transparent and merit-based recruitment procedures    Area 3) with focus on university engagement in the “Smart Specialisation Strategy”

## **EUA Statement on Priorities for EU 2014-20 Budget Negotiations (November 2012)**

EUA Statement endorsed by all its collective members,  
National Rectors Conferences

Supports strongly European Commission and European  
Parliament proposals for enlarged budgets for HORIZON 2020  
and new ERASMUS FOR ALL programmes

Sent to all Heads of State and Governments and EU  
Leaders attending November 2012 Budget Summit

## **Next Steps for EUA in 2013**

Continued lobbying for enlarged budget during current co-decision procedure between European Institutions

In the event of a reduced budget for Horizon 2020, new EUA position to be agreed and lobbied for in Brussels

Balance of Instruments and Funding between the “3 Pillars” of HORIZON 2020 – Excellent Science; Industrial leadership; Societal Challenges

Key Issue: What are the main priorities for Europe’s Universities in a situation of a reduced budget scenario?

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION !**