

## **EUA Annual Conference 2019**

Driving innovation in Europe's universities

10-12 April 2019, hosted by Sorbonne University

Technological, medical, social, cultural and educational innovation is changing the world, and those driving it decide on the direction. As creators and providers of knowledge and places of societal reflection, universities have a central role in shaping the future and in nurturing the next generation of leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs and researchers.

Europe's universities are integral parts of local, national and international innovation ecosystems, working with partners in the private and public sectors to educate future innovators and jointly develop solutions to societal, economic and environmental challenges. In this context, universities provide a unique environment, ensuring critical mass and the diversity needed to address these challenges. They also create institutional cultures geared towards innovation, whether it is in high-quality learning and teaching or ground-breaking research.

EUA's 2019 Annual Conference will focus on investigate university strategies in shaping today's innovation and that of the future. Through plenary and breakout sessions of various formats, including audience participation, the conference will provide insight into the policies and practices that enable innovation and entrepreneurship to thrive at universities.

### **Draft programme (as of 15 October 2018)**

Wednesday, 10 April (pre-conference meetings)

The pre-conference meetings are by invitation only to EUA Board and Council members and the secretaries general of national rectors' conferences. The Leadership Roundtable is for rectors only.

- 09.00-13.00 **EUA Board Meeting**
- 09.00-13.00 **EUA Secretaries General Meeting**
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch for EUA Board and Secretaries General
- 14.00-16.00 **EUA Council Meeting**
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee break
- 16.30-18.30 **Leadership Roundtable: Facilitating innovation – the role of leadership**
- 18.30-19.30 **Leadership Meet & Greet Reception**

Thursday, 11 April

- 08.00-10.00 Welcome coffee
- 08.00-09.30 Registration for EUA General Assembly
- 08.00-18.00 Registration for Annual Conference
- 10.00-13.00 **EUA General Assembly**
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-15.30 **Official Opening and Plenary Session I: Universities as key players in innovation**

European policies are increasingly focussing on innovation strategies. Universities play a pivotal role in these strategies by generating solutions to current and future challenges. This session explores how universities drive innovation in partnership with public and private stakeholders by fostering multi-, inter- and transdisciplinarity, as well as by attracting an ever more socially and culturally diverse crowd of students and staff. It also examines the synergies between teaching, research and innovation.

- 15:30-16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00-16:45 **Breakout Sessions, Round I**
- 16:45-17:00 Break to move back to the plenary session
- 17:00-18:00 **Plenary Session II: Fostering new generations of innovators**  
This session will focus on the role of universities in facilitating and enabling an entrepreneurial and proactive approach to innovation among students and staff through new ways of learning and teaching.
- 19:30-22:30 Networking Reception and Gala Dinner

#### Friday, 12 April

- 09.30-11.00 **Breakout Sessions, Round II**
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30-12.45 **Plenary Session III: Building partnerships**  
This session will discuss how different forms of partnerships can support universities' efforts in fostering innovation and ensuring the societal relevance of their work.
- 12.45-13.00 **Conference closing and invitation to the EUA Annual Conference 2020**
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14:00-15:30 **EUA Hot Topic Session: Artificial intelligence – the new Open Science challenge**  
Universities play a crucial role in the rise of artificial intelligence. The leap in innovation that transversal technologies like artificial intelligence can provide requires multidisciplinary, training, talent and partnerships across sectors. This role also presents new responsibilities in terms of safeguarding ethical aspects, openness and transparency.