

## 2019 EUA Annual Conference

Driving innovation in Europe's universities

10-12 April 2019, hosted by Sorbonne University

Innovation is beneficial to society as a whole and embraces all fields of knowledge. 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 and jointly developing solutions to societal and economic 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 how universities can develop strategies to shape today's innovation and that of the future. Through plenary and breakout sessions of various formats, including audience participation, the conference will provide insights into the policies and practices that enable innovation and entrepreneurship to thrive at universities.

### Draft programme (as of 7 March 2019)

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**
- 16.30-18.30 **Leadership Roundtable: Shaping university values**
- 18.30-19.30 **Leadership Meet & Greet Reception**

Thursday, 11 April

- 08.00-09.30 Registration for EUA General Assembly
- 09.00-10.00 Welcome coffee
- 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 and national policies are increasingly focussing on innovation strategies. Universities play a pivotal role in these strategies by generating knowledge and possible solutions to current and future challenges. Universities can also be effective network builders and strategic partners that play a crucial

role in innovation processes. 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.

*Opening by Rolf Tarrach, EUA President and Jean Chambaz, President, Sorbonne University, France*

*Themis Christophidou, Director-General Education, Youth, Sport and Culture  
Jean-Eric Paquet, Director-General Research and Innovation*

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-16.45 **Breakout Sessions, Round I**

Participants will have a choice of attending one of three parallel sessions:

- The role of universities in regional innovation ecosystems
- Fostering entrepreneurship among students at the University of Cagliari
- A university-wide approach to innovation by Coventry University

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.

*Anna Valtonen, Vice-President, Art and Creative Practices, Aalto University, Finland*

*Nuno Reis, President, University of Minho Students' Union, Portugal*

19.30-22.30 Networking Reception and Gala Dinner

Friday, 12 April

09.30-11.00 **Breakout Sessions, Round II**

Participants will have a choice of attending one of four parallel sessions. Three of the sessions are paper presentations while the fourth is an interactive working session:

- Institutional approaches to enhancing sustainability
- Collaboration in interdisciplinary programmes
- Promoting entrepreneurship
- Interactive workshop: Developing universities' role in regional innovation ecosystems

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.

*Alexandros Papaderos, Deputy Head, Office for Research & Innovation – Head of Patents and Licences, Technical University of Munich, Germany*

*Milena Žic Fuchs, Professor, University of Zagreb, Croatia*

*Léopold Demiddeleer, Managing Director, TechBridgeOne*

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

Artificial intelligence could potentially revolutionise society; it will influence business, labour markets, cities, and education. At this time, countries all over the world, as well as the European Union, are making strategies to use the positive aspects and avoid the risks of new technologies. What can and should universities do as centres of research and as institutions educating the generations that will live in a world with artificial intelligence everywhere?

*Magnus Rattray, Director, Data Science Institute, University of Manchester, United Kingdom*

*Thomas Metzinger, Professor, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany*

*Laurence Devillers, Professor, Sorbonne University, France*