

## 2021 EUA Annual Conference

### Universities 2030: From vision to reality

22-23 April 2021, online

On the backdrop of the ongoing climate crisis, fundamental technological advances, labour market changes and the pressure Europe's political systems are currently experiencing, to name only a few examples, an honest and ambitious debate is needed about the path universities must take to remain resilient and relevant. In EUA's vision for this path, outlined in the publication "[Universities without walls – A vision for 2030](#)", Europe's universities are open learning communities engaged in the creation of a sustainable global society, as well as autonomous and accountable entities striving for continuous improvement. Universities' core missions – learning and teaching, research, innovation and contribution to culture – will play an instrumental role in universities' efforts to realise this vision.

The 2021 EUA Annual Conference will provide a forum for discussions on some of the key actions needed to realise the "Universities without walls – a vision for 2030" vision and the role universities play in building a competitive and sustainable Europe, in collaboration with global partners. The 2021 EUA Annual Conference will feature sessions of various formats, including interactive audience participation, encouraging a rich exchange of experiences and good practices. Alongside the sessions on the conference theme, the event will also provide opportunities for networking and for learning more about diverse EUA projects and activities.

The event is of interest to university leadership and management, as well as academics. It also welcomes students, policy makers and other stakeholders in higher education, research and innovation.

### Draft programme (as of 8 April 2021)

All time indications are in CEST.

#### Thursday, 22 April

- 13.30-14.30 **Official Opening and Session I: The future of Europe and its universities**  
The opening session sets the scene for the conference by discussing the path ahead based on the European Union's ambitions for research and higher education and the position published by EUA: Universities without walls – A vision for 2030.
- Video message by Charles Michel, President, European Council
  - Pam Fredman, President, International Association of Universities (IAU)
  - Michael Murphy, President, EUA
  - Chaired by Amanda Crowfoot, Secretary General, EUA
- 14.30-15.00 Break
- 15.00-16.00 **Session II: Hybrid campuses: How to make it work after Covid-19**

In the wake of Covid-19, virtual campuses are expected to supplement the physical campus. But do the virtual and physical spaces really complement each other and enable students and staff, and other stakeholders, seamless transition through synchronous and asynchronous approaches? What is their impact on learning and teaching, research and, generally, the ways universities function?

- Georgi Dimitrov, Acting Head of Unit “Digital Education”, European Commission
- Jakub Grodecki, Vice President, European Students’ Union
- Rikke Toft Nørgård, Associate Professor, Aarhus University, Denmark
- Chaired by Josep M. Garrell, EUA Board member and Rector, Ramon Llull University, Spain

16.00-16.30 Break

16.30-17.30 **Session III: Recognition and rewards of academic career profiles**

This session will reflect on the diversity of academic career profiles and their interconnections. It will seek to find out how to develop dynamic, context-sensitive and holistic approaches to recognise, incentivise and reward the wide range of contributions of academic staff to the universities’ missions and societal challenges in general.

- Noémie Aubert Bonn, Post-doctoral researcher, Hasselt University, Belgium
- Anne Husebekk, Rector, UiT The Arctic University of Norway
- Marek Kwiek, Director of Institute for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences and Humanities, UNESCO Chair in Institutional Research and Higher Education Policy, University of Poznan, Poland
- Chaired by Paul Boyle, EUA Vice-President and Vice-Chancellor, Swansea University, United Kingdom

Friday, 23 April

09.00-10.00 **Session IV: The end of disciplines?**

This session will explore the value of disciplines as a necessary basis for sound methodological approaches and discuss how increasing interdisciplinarity can be nurtured and integrated into institutional culture through policies and collaboration.

- Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President, European Research Council
- Ana Bravo, Professor, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- Antonio Loprieno, President, European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA)
- Chaired by Martine Rahier, EUA Vice-President and Professor, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

10.00-10.30 Break

10.30-11.30 **Session V: Universities as places of culture: Luxury or necessity?**

Universities are not only places to study and learn about art and culture, but they reflect both and contribute to their development. This session will explore the role of universities as open fora for cultural debate and discuss ways to sustain and showcase the added value of the humanities.

- Andrea Braidt, Professor, University of Vienna, Austria and President, European League of the Institutes of the Arts (ELIA)
- Matjaž Gruden, Director of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe

- Marinos Ioannides, Director of UNESCO Chair on Digital Cultural Heritage, Cyprus University of Technology
- Chaired by Marcin Pałys, EUA Board member and Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland

11.30-12.00 Break

12.00-13.00 **Session VI: Partners in success**

Collaboration with non-academic partners is an essential means to fulfill the various university missions. However, how can such partnerships be initiated and developed into a structured, integrated network of partnerships that is beneficial and meaningful to all involved? This session will look into the various types of partnerships and the ways in which these develop from a series of isolated collaborations into impactful coalitions.

- Ed Brinksma, President, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands
- Natascha Eckert, Head of University Relations, Siemens, Germany
- Ludovic Thilly, Chair of Coimbra Group of Universities and Executive Vice-Rector, University of Poitiers, France
- Chaired by Donato Iacobucci, Director of Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy

13.00-13.30 Break

13.30-14.25 **Session VII: Nurturing global partnerships through education and research**

Universities are places of scholarship and research, but they also play a crucial role as ambassadors of cultural values and achievements. They fulfill this role on local, regional and national levels, but also internationally, such as through global partnerships and collaboration. This session will explore the impact of universities in promoting global dialogue on culture, democracy and societal development.

Video messages from:

- Sophie d'Amours, Rector, Université Laval, Canada
- Adrián Bonilla, Executive Director, European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC) Foundation
- Ana Maria Nhampule, Deputy Rector, Joaquim Chissano University, Mozambique

Panel discussion with:

- Dame Janet Beer, Vice-Chancellor, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom
- George Sharvashidze, Rector, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia
- Chaired by Patrick Lévy, EUA Board member and Professor, University Grenoble-Alpes, France

14.25-14.30 Concluding remarks by EUA President Michael Murphy