

2024 EUA STATUTORY MEETINGS & ANNUAL CONFERENCE **Universities in Europe: integrity in a time of change**

10-12 April 2024, Swansea University, United Kingdom

What does integrity mean to a university? Our sector is strong, dynamic, and used to evolving in order to do things better. Universities have been doing this for centuries. Indeed, staying true to themselves, while adapting to changing circumstances, is the very foundation of their success. Solidly rooted in our sector's common values and ethical principles, this integrity has long enabled universities to seek original and non-conventional solutions to problems old and new. As societies, and universities, now respond to transformations driven by multiple forces, be they (geo)political, environmental, social, or economic, this integrity is more valuable than ever.

The 2024 EUA Annual Conference will be hosted by Swansea University, UK, from 10-12 April. Entitled 'Universities in Europe: integrity in a time of change', it will investigate and showcase universities' capacity to deal with change and to shape societal transformation while staying true to their core character, values, and missions. This theme will be addressed from a variety of perspectives, by looking at integrity in university leadership, the integrity of learning and teaching, research ethics and integrity, and fair and transparent academic assessment. Conference sessions will encourage an in-depth reflection on how universities can balance integrity and change to their own benefit and that of society.

Draft programme

All times are BST (British Summer Time)

Wednesday 10 April (pre-conference meetings)

- 10.00-12.30 **EUA Board Meeting**
- 12.30-13.30 Lunch for EUA Board, Council and Secretaries General
- 13.30-15.30 **EUA Council Meeting**
- 15.30-16.00 Coffee for EUA Board, Council and Secretaries General
- 16.00-18.00 **Leadership Roundtable**
Risk aware or risk averse? Charting a common direction in knowledge security
The Leadership Roundtable is reserved for executive heads (rectors, vice-chancellors, presidents) of EUA member institutions and organisations.
- 16.00-18.00 **Meeting of EUA Secretaries General Forum**
- 18.00-19.00 **Leadership Meet & Greet**

Thursday 11 April

- 08.30-09.15 Registration for General Assembly
- 08.30-17.15 Registration for Annual Conference
- 08.30-09.15 Welcome coffee
- 09.30-10.45 **General Assembly**
The General Assembly is reserved for EUA members. EUA affiliates may participate as observers.
- 10.45-11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15-11.45 **Conference Opening**

- 11.45-13.00 **Plenary Session 1**
Leading with integrity
The decisions that university leaders make reflect their vision and principles. Indeed, it is consistency between ideas and behaviours that embodies integrity in leadership. This session will offer novel perspectives on the challenges faced by university leaders as they navigate complex decisions and explore how these challenges relate to – perhaps competing or conflicting – values. Participants will be taken on a journey into cultivating value-based leadership that shapes institutions and leaders alike. The focus will be on connecting institutional vision, personal leadership styles and cultures, and decision-making frameworks, providing insights into the intricate task of leading with integrity in today’s complex university landscape.
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-15.15 **➤ Breakout session 1 | Practice presentations & discussion**
Are new technologies reshaping fundamental principles in research ethics and integrity?
Ethics and integrity in research and innovation are fundamental pillars of good science. They notably contribute to ensuring that the pursuit of knowledge and innovation is conducted responsibly inside universities. However, methods in research and innovation are constantly evolving due to the emergence of new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, extended reality, and genome editing. In this interactive session, participants will discuss whether new technologies used in research are impacting the fundamental principles of research integrity. The session will feature practice presentations identified through a call for contributions to EUA members.
- Breakout session 1 | Mini plenary**
Can university integrity exist without digital sovereignty?
How can universities achieve digital sovereignty? For universities, digital sovereignty refers to an institution’s capacity – and ambition – to retain control and promote their own values in the digital domain. This session will explore diverging views on the market-driven development of educational technologies and examine the control of university-generated data. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on the role and responsibility of universities, as key actors in the digital space, in cultivating integrity across the wider data economy. Guided interaction during the session will examine the sector’s engagement with government, regulators and commercial actors, and generate discussion on how this can best drive the evolution of our digital ecosystems while keeping jurisdiction over university data and upholding common values.
- 15.15-16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00-17.15 **Plenary session 2**
When the right answer is wrong – challenges for the integrity of learning and teaching
Integrity in education is not a new topic. On the contrary, ethics in education remain essential for students – who are active citizens, as well as aspiring academics and professionals – and universities – which hold an essential place in science, learning and society. That said, the challenges are changing. This second plenary session will ask how universities can ensure true integrity in learning and teaching, going beyond value statements and individual role models. Speakers will address emerging and novel challenges to achieving this and reflect on how a culture of integrity can contribute to fostering academic freedom, autonomy and collegiality, as well as combatting misconduct and fraud.
- 19.30-22.00 Networking Reception and Dinner

Friday 12 April

09.30-10.45

➤ **Breakout session 2 | Practice presentations & discussion**

Solutions to ensure the integrity of learning and teaching

Following the previous day's plenary on learning and teaching integrity, EUA members will showcase relevant institutional and national-level practices during this session. The practices featured in this session will be identified through a call for contributions.

➤ **Breakout Session 2 | Mini plenary**

Paving the way for an impactful FP10

The European Research & Innovation (R&I) Framework Programme is a cornerstone of the European R&I landscape. It encourages and facilitates collaboration between member states, universities, industries, and other stakeholders to advance the frontiers of science, technology and innovation. It is also a crucial instrument in shaping the direction and priorities of R&I across the continent, providing essential support to the European Research Area, and driving significant public and private investments at the EU and national levels. With the design of the next programme (FP10) on the horizon, this session will offer an opportunity to jointly reflect on ways to enhance the programme's role as a catalyst for change to effectively drive R&I across Europe.

10.45-11.15

Coffee break

11.15-12.30

Plenary Session 3

Towards a fair and transparent assessment of academic careers

Practices in assessing the value and impact of an individual academic's work have long been biased towards research output, such as citation scores. In turn, the planning and trajectory of academic careers have progressively tilted towards certain types of research achievements, to the detriment of equally deserving tasks, such as teaching or societal outreach. Recent years have brought progress towards more balanced and transparent assessment, for example through the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) and increased attention towards better reward and recognition of teaching at institutional and national levels. This panel discussion will take stock of such developments and reflect on what further steps are needed to ensure that academic career paths authentically reflect individual academics' full range of talents, achievements, and contributions.

12.30-12.45

Conference Closing

12.45-13.45

Lunch

13.45-16.15

Satellite event: Workshop on the road towards Diamond Open Access

In the ever-evolving landscape of scholarly communication, Diamond Open Access is gaining momentum. However, the potential to leverage change for the entire academic publishing ecosystem remains insufficiently explored. This session will address those interested in approaches and strategies for supporting non-commercial, scholar-led publishing initiatives in their institutions, on the basis of the work of the EU-funded DIAMAS project.

This session is aimed at leaders of universities (rectors, vice-rectors and deans), university libraries and university presses, other research performing organisations and learned societies. The session is free of charge and registration to the 2024 EUA Annual Conference is not a prerequisite for attendance.