

2026 EUA Funding Forum

Hosted by Brno University of Technology

14-16 October 2026

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OPEN UNTIL MONDAY 30 MARCH 2026

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1. The Funding Forum

The European University Association’s Funding Forum is a unique, inclusive platform open to all higher education and research funding stakeholders. It seeks to expose these stakeholders to the latest academic and policy research, exchange and discuss the latest trends in higher education and research funding.

In 2026, the EUA Funding Forum returns to explore *a university of value*. How we fund universities reflects our collective beliefs about their purpose and reveals our vision for the future. Funding models are not neutral; they shape institutional priorities, influence academic autonomy and signal what societies expect from their universities.

Within institutions, the conversation around value, and particularly added value, is intensifying. Financial and regulatory constraints are prompting universities to rethink sustainability, strategy and impact. Leaders are navigating a complex landscape: how to enhance institutional value while safeguarding core academic values.

This Forum invites university leaders and policy makers to examine the latest funding reforms, interpret emerging signals and share strategic perspectives. Together, we will explore how to support and sustain a university of value for Europe: one that is equipped to meet the demands of the present and shape the possibilities of the future.


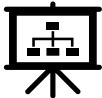


EUA invites proposals focusing on university funding at the institutional, national or international level for its breakout sessions. Breakout sessions will last 60 to 90 minutes and will be designed by EUA, taking into account the submitted proposals, which may be paired/grouped according to the needs.

2. Topics of contributions

Your submission should relate to the overall Forum theme and may connect to the following list of sub-themes. Other topics related to university funding and with explicit relevance to the European level, and that are not included in the list below, may also be submitted.

Funding of university consortia / alliances
Investing in the green and digital transitions at universities
NextGenerationEU funds in higher education & research: impact assessment
EU funding for higher education & research activities
Integrity & risk management in university funding
Showcase of funding model reforms (system perspective, but can be combined with an analysis of the impact at the university level)
Excellence initiatives, competitive and targeted funding: what room for strategic steering by funders?
Strategic financial planning among policy priorities and steering instruments
Evolving funding models for universities in light of demographic changes
Evolution of the private higher education sector
Value for money for students
Financial instruments for EDI (equity, diversity and inclusion)
The finances of higher education internationalisation
Rethinking university real estate
New funding models for new activities by universities
University mergers, asset sharing, efficiency, effectiveness

3. Types of sessions

		Session	Expected contributions
	1	Peer learning for universities: case studies sharing the experience of HEIs in adapting to changing funding models, transforming internal funding allocation processes, designing financial strategies, etc.	Oral presentation under 15 minutes, with visual support (such as PPT) not exceeding 10 slides.
	2	Policies & frameworks: comparative studies, system-level analysis, including the effect of reforms on institutions, or plans for reform with rationale and expected effects.	Oral presentation under 15 minutes, with visual support (such as PPT) not exceeding 10 slides.
	3	Facilitated sessions: these sessions do not feature main content delivered through presentations/speech and focus on structured interaction among participants	Facilitation to foster interaction among participants around a specific topic.
	4	Poster presentation: the purpose of this activity is to concisely communicate key findings and stimulate discussion	Presenters are responsible for bringing their own poster in A1 format 5-10 min per presentation

4. Your proposal

Your submission should relate to the Forum theme and this connection should be made evident in the proposal. It may be based on research (i.e. trend analyses, data-informed and evidence-based insights, benchmarking, or forecasting related to university funding with a discussion on the implications for policy or practice) or present an institutional case study or policy approaches at the national or European level, analysing the success factors, challenges encountered, possible shortcomings and transferability to other contexts.

Please pay special attention to your abstract: it should be concise, correspond to the content of the contribution, appeal to the participants and have a succinct title.

If selected, EUA reserves the right to amend the abstract in order to ensure that it accurately reflects the content of the proposed session and is linguistically correct.

EUA welcomes proposals accompanied by a short video message (e.g., a recording of yourself, a voiced-over PPT) of 1-3 minutes summarising the proposal. Submitting a video message is optional. The material will be used solely for the selection process.

Option A: Presentation for peer-learning session

Peer-learning presentations are expected to share and discuss experiences at the institutional level in a self-reflective and critical way, or to test ideas for new initiatives and receive feedback from participants. Presentations should invite participants to reflect on whether lessons learnt from this practice or approach could be transferable to their contexts, allowing the audience to exchange on similar experiences and on how they compare to the presented practice. To ensure audience engagement, presentations will be limited to 15 minutes and be followed by a discussion with the audience.

The proposal for contribution should:

- identify the presenter;
- include the presenter's short biography;
- be clearly and concisely written, and a maximum of 800 words;
- explain why the presented topic is considered relevant for the Forum audience, a critical analysis of challenges, benefits and problem-solving strategies, as well as lessons learnt;
- include discussion questions for the audience;
- be written in English.

Option B: Presentation for policies & frameworks session

For these sessions, presentations should focus on system-wide policies or initiatives, including narrative, objectives, implementation and effects. Presentations may also share findings of comparative analyses carried out in several systems. All presentations must be relevant to a European audience (European higher education systems must be considered in the policies or analysis presented). To ensure audience engagement, presentations will be limited to 15 minutes and be followed by a discussion with the audience.

The proposal for contribution should:

- identify the presenter;
- include the presenter's short biography;
- be clearly and concisely written, and a maximum of 800 words;
- explain why the presented topic is considered relevant for the Forum audience, a critical analysis of challenges, benefits and problem-solving strategies, as well as lessons learnt;
- include discussion questions for the audience;
- be written in English.

Option C: Facilitated session

Facilitated sessions will take place during a time slot of 60 to 90 minutes each. Proposals for workshops should focus on providing participants (up to 30) with a structured exercise to enhance their understanding of a specific topic, or provide hands-on practical advice on how to implement or use specific tools as well as tangible solutions to current challenges. The focus in the workshops should be on participant activity rather than a presentation by the session facilitator(s). Collaborative workshop proposals, submitted by a team of contributors representing different institutions, institutional levels or types of actors and stakeholders, are encouraged.

The proposal for contribution should:

- identify the facilitator(s);
- include the facilitator's short biography;
- identify the target audience for the session;
- in no more than 800 words, explain the main objectives/intended learning outcomes, and explain the activity to be carried out during the session;
- specify any practical requirements (materials, audio-visual, room layout, etc.);
- be written in English.

EUA strongly encourages selected facilitators to prepare their activities carefully, and manage the timing of these effectively. They should also be prepared to adapt their activity to the final number of participants.

Option D: Poster presentation

Poster presentations will take place during the networking breaks. A dedicated poster stand will be available to facilitate presentation and discussion. The aim is to present published or forthcoming research or reform analysis, or case study in a visually engaging format that reaches diverse audiences and fosters meaningful exchange. In addition, the poster stand will remain in place throughout the Forum to ensure greater visibility among participants.

The proposal for a poster presentation should:

- Introduce the topic and context;
- State the research question and objective;
- Briefly explain the methodology;
- Present key results, preferably using charts or graphs;
- Summarise the main findings and key takeaways;
- Include references;
- Be written in English.

5. Submission

All proposals for contributions should be submitted using [this form](#).

You also have the option to send a short video message (1-3 min) summarising the proposal by email to funding@eua.eu.

Submitted proposals will be reviewed by the EUA secretariat with the support of the Funding Forum Advisory Group based on the following criteria:

- ✓ The proposed contribution has a clear focus that will be of interest to the meeting participants.
- ✓ The proposed contribution relates to the thematic programme of the conference.
- ✓ The argument and structure of the proposed contribution are logical, coherent and understandable.
- ✓ The proposed contribution has the potential to start a lively debate.
- ✓ Proposed contributions presenting examples of institutional practices are critical and self-reflective.

Please note that no proposal for commercial purposes will be accepted.

The selection process also considers the diversity of institutional profiles, overall geographical distribution and gender balance across the programme.

You will be informed at the beginning of May 2026 if your proposal has been accepted. Selected proposals may receive comments on how they should be amended before the Forum. Please note that due to limited resources, no comments can be provided on unsuccessful proposals.

Authors of selected contributions will benefit from a fee reduction (one per contribution), which will be applied through a special registration process. Please do not register to the Forum before EUA notifies you of the results of the selection.

Retained presentations will be posted on the EUA website after the event.
All correspondence will be by e-mail.

The deadline to submit proposals is **30 March 2026, end of day**. Submissions received after this date cannot be considered.

January 2026	Launch of the call.
30 March 2026	Deadline to submit proposals using the online form.
Beginning of May 2026	Notification of acceptance or rejection is sent by e-mail.
June 2026	Information regarding the date and time of sessions at the Forum is provided.
September 2026	Preparatory online session for Forum contributors
14-16 October 2026	Funding Forum 2026 hosted at Brno University of Technology

To stay up to date with the event, follow EUA on all platforms and use the hashtag **#EUAFF26**.