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#4 - April 2020

In the light of the current coronavirus pandemic, EUA is making great efforts to adapt its work to the current situation. The Secretariat is moving at full speed, working closely with members to take forward events, projects and publications, using new methods and technologies. The Annual EUA General Assembly was successfully held online on 16 April, with more than 200 participants from well over 100 different member institutions. In addition to statutory decisions, participants discussed the EUA draft strategic plan, which is due to be adopted in June. The EUA Annual Conference was also held via three webinars with almost two thousand participants. The recordings of all three sessions are [now available online](#).

Due to the current uncertainty, including in relation to travel restrictions, we will continue to develop online alternatives to the events planned in the coming months: our workshop on “Academic Career Assessment in the Transition to Open Science” has been transformed into [a webinar series starting on 18 May](#), the [student entrepreneurship focus group](#) will hold a closed online meeting for the selected participants, while the [Council for Doctoral Education annual meeting](#) in June and the [Funding Forum](#) in September will both comprise a mix of open webinars and closed online sessions. The respective programme of each of these last two events will take into account the experiences of EUA members in relation to the effects of, and the changes caused by, the coronavirus crisis.

EUA is very aware that universities have come under strong pressure to shift to digitally enhanced teaching and online learning during the crisis. While this is an exceptional situation, the topic will clearly remain crucial, and play a prominent role in the future. [EUA has launched a survey on digitally enhanced learning and teaching](#) with the aim of mapping the situation across Europe. The survey was planned before the current crisis, but now includes questions on how higher education institutions are adapting to the situation. We encourage you to contribute to the survey before 4 June.

Notably, this week, EUA has published its position “[The future of the European Universities Initiative – the sector’s perspective](#)”, along with the results of the [EUA member survey on international strategic institutional partnerships and the European Universities Initiative](#). They come at a crucial time when decisions are being made on future EU funding programmes, against the backdrop of the coronavirus situation. These documents outline the sector’s views on the future of the initiative.

In this newsletter you will find many other elements related to the current crisis, including news and Expert Voices articles that cover university funding and lessons learnt from the 2008 financial crisis; refugees and the recognition of their medical qualifications; special measures for Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020; and resources for digital learning and teaching.

I hope this will be an enjoyable and useful read.

Amanda Crowfoot  
EUA Secretary General

## SPECIAL CORONAVIRUS

### **EUA stands united with members and invites universities to share good practices**

As universities grapple with management decisions in the face of this significant challenge, EUA supports members through online events and encouraging the sharing of experiences and solutions.

### **European Commission takes special measures for Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020**

The coronavirus pandemic has implications for student and staff mobility and projects funded by EU programmes such as Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020.

### **Resources for digital learning and teaching during the coronavirus pandemic**

As more than 90% of the world’s students are now at home, digital learning has taken centre stage. This piece details how major global organisations are offering information and support.

### **Consortia and universities call for wide access to electronic resources amidst coronavirus crisis**

In the ongoing crisis, digital access to scientific research and electronic resources is more important than ever. EUA provides information on the latest calls and initiatives in the field of Open Access.

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## NEWS

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### [The future of the European Universities Initiative: EUA publishes position and survey report](#)

These publications outline the sector's views and demands for the future of the initiative. They come at a crucial moment when decisions are being taken on future EU funding programmes.

### [ERC President resigns, EUA calls for unity and cooperation as the way forward](#)

The president of the European Research Council (ERC) resigned, citing dissatisfaction with the EU response to the coronavirus crisis. In this response, EUA expresses support for the ERC.

### [EUA provides European perspective on Open Access to research outcomes in the United States](#)

EUA gave input to the "Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications, Data and Code Resulting From Federally Funded Research" consultation by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

### [Registrations open for EUA's Institutional Evaluation Programme](#)

The Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP) is now accepting registrations for the 2020-21 round. IEP offers comprehensive, improvement-oriented evaluations by higher education leaders.

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## PUBLICATIONS

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[International strategic institutional partnerships and the European Universities Initiative - Results of the EUA survey REPORT](#) | European Universities Initiative

[The future of the European Universities Initiative - the sector's perspective POSITION](#) | European Universities Initiative

[Recognition of professional qualifications BRIEFING](#) | Recognition

[EUA 2019 Annual Report REPORT](#) | EUA general

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## EUA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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### [Webinar Series](#)

[Strength in numbers can university alliances change the game?](#)  
WEBINAR RECORDING

[Promoting universities societal engagement](#)  
WEBINAR RECORDING

[Making a difference through partnerships](#)  
WEBINAR RECORDING

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## EVENTS

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8  
MAY  
Barcelona, ES

**Joint workshop: University approaches to citizen science in the transition to Open Science**  
Postponed

18-20  
MAY  
Webinar

**2020 EUA Workshop on Academic Career Assessment in the Transition to Open Science**  
Registrations open

28  
MAY  
Webinar

**EUA webinar: Key issues in effective curriculum design**  
Registrations open

18  
JUN  
Online  
meeting

**Focus Group Student Entrepreneurship: Learning for Impact**  
Selection is ongoing

24-26  
JUN  
Webinars

**2020 EUA-CDE Annual Meeting**  
The role of doctoral education within Europe's universities  
Save the date

24-25  
SEP  
Online event

### 2020 EUA Funding Forum

Save the date

12-14  
NOV  
Espoo, FI

### 2020 European Quality Assurance Forum

Save the date

18-19  
FEB  
Bilbao, ES

### 2021 European Learning & Teaching Forum

Save the date

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## GET INVOLVED

#### EUA Funding Forum 2020

Call for contributions | Deadline: 30 April

#### Two surveys on how Europe's universities support researchers at risk

Call for participation | Deadline: 1 May

#### EUA survey on digitally enhanced learning and teaching

Call for participation | Deadline: 4 June

#### 2020 European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF)

Call for contributions | Deadline: 27 July

## EXPERT VOICES

#### Why the EU should rethink its push for a digital research and education “lighthouse”

Amanda Crowfoot | EUA

Europe must connect its ambition of being a digital leader with initiatives already happening at its universities, says the Secretary General in *The Parliament Magazine*.

#### University funding amid the coronavirus pandemic: lessons learnt from the 2008 global economic crisis

Thomas Estermann | EUA

As the coronavirus pandemic impacts the global economy, funding for universities is bound to take a hit. This article examines parallels with the 2008 global financial crisis.

### **Covid-19, refugees, and their medical qualifications – why we need to keep things connected**

*Michael Gaebel | EUA*

In the context of the coronavirus pandemic, this piece makes the case for the recognition of qualifications for refugees with medical experience.

### **Considerations for quality assurance in research**

*Tia Loukkola | EUA*

Research assessment practices are becoming more accurate, transparent and responsible, partly due to the increase in external evaluations that lead to internal evaluation processes. This article discusses the role of internal quality assurance in research.

### **Beyond transformative agreements**

*Astrid Söderbergh Widding, Wilhelm Widmark, Anna Lundén, Britt-Marie Wideberg | Swedish Bibsam Consortium*

The Swedish Bibsam Consortium is taking a leading role in the transition to Open Access and aims to switch from “read-and-publish” agreements to “pure publish” deals after 2024.

### **Learning outcomes: why we need a common language between the worlds of work and education**

*Helene Peterbauer and Thérèse Zhang | EUA*

The importance of learning outcomes has gained traction at Europe’s universities. This piece offers an in-depth explanation of what they mean for universities and calls for a dialogue across sectors.

### **Changing the narrative: How to make diversity a driver of excellence**

*Mathieu Schneider | University of Strasbourg*

Diversity is, as much as excellence, the strength of our universities. This article highlights the need for a new narrative, giving concrete examples of how to make diversity a driver of excellence.

### **The role of quality assurance in promoting social dimension of higher education**

*Tia Loukkola | EUA*

What would be the most effective way forward for universities to promote social dimension in their respective contexts? This article discusses the role that quality assurance can play and its limitations.

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## MEMBERS & PARTNERS

**ESU’s survey on student life during the COVID-19 pandemic**

CALL

**DENSYS’s call for proposal: Topics for the challenge-based module**

CALL

**SOS International launches the world’s biggest survey on students’ opinions on sustainability**

CALL

**Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: call for inputs from doctoral candidates**

CALL

**Call for Posters for the Conference “Revitalising Democracy in Times of Division”**

CALL

**RDA COVID-19 Working Group - Call for Expert Contributions**

CALL

**ULB’s Solidarity Fund for Researchers**

CALL

**LIBER statement on COVID 19**

CALL

**Friends of the ERC’s petition to protect independent research in the EU budget**

CALL

**EUA hosted 1st meeting of EOSC Skills and Training Working Group**

EVENT REPORT

**EHEA Ministerial Conference 2020, Rome**

EVENT | 18-20 November

**InSPIREurope 2020 Virtual Stakeholder Forum**

EVENT | 8 June

**EQAR and ENQA offer support for quality assurance agencies during coronavirus crisis**

PUBLICATION

**UNIMED’s collection of online learning stories during COVID-19**

PUBLICATION

Research institutions in Pisa and the European Union's Joint Research Centre sign a collaboration agreement  
ANNOUNCEMENT

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ABOUT EUA

With 850 members across 48 countries, EUA is the largest and most comprehensive organisation representing universities in Europe. As the voice of Europe's universities EUA supports and takes forward the interests of individual institutions and the higher education sector as a whole.

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