EUA Annual Conference 2017

Autonomy and freedom:
The future sustainability of universities

Hosted by University of Bergen
Bergen, Norway
6-7 April 2017

Programme (as of 15 March 2017)

Wednesday 5 April 2017

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**
International Room, Student Centre

09.00-13.00 **EUA Secretaries General Meeting**
Sports Hall, Student Centre

13.00-14.00 Lunch for Board, Council and Secretaries General
Café Christie, University Aula building

14.00-16.00 **EUA Council Meeting**
University Aula

16.00-16.30 Coffee break
Café Christie, University Aula building

16.30-18.30 **Leadership Roundtable: Strategic Positioning of Universities**
University Aula

- Introductory presentation by Dag Rune Olsen, Rector, University of Bergen, Norway

18.30-19.30 **Leadership Meet & Greet reception**
Café Christie, University Aula building

- Rolf Tarrach, President, European University Association
- Dag Rune Olsen, Rector, University of Bergen, Norway

Thursday 6 April 2017

08.00-09.00 **Registration for EUA General Assembly**
Entrance Foyer, Student Centre

09.00-11.30 **EUA General Assembly**
University Aula

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

08.00-18.00 **Registration for EUA Annual Conference**
Entrance Foyer, Student Centre

11.30-12.30 Coffee break
Cafeteria, Student Centre

12.30-13.30 **Conference opening**
University Aula

Reflections in the conference opening will address institutional autonomy as a crucial prerequisite for making higher education fit for purpose. Universities need stable and enabling frameworks in order to address the ever more pressing political, economic and societal challenges that Europe as a whole is facing. Setting the frame for the discussions in the conference, the opening session will consider how autonomy creates the conditions for value-driven university activities.

- Torbjørn Røe Isaksen, Minister of Education and Research, Norway
- Rolf Tarrach, President, European University Association
- Dag Rune Olsen, Rector, University of Bergen, Norway

13.30-14.30 Lunch
Cafeteria, Student Centre

14.30-16.00 **Plenary I: University Autonomy in Europe**
University Aula

Today's universities are expected to fulfil both their (traditional) teaching and research missions, as well as take on a number of different societal roles. In order to do this successfully, they need to be able to take decisions on the issues affecting them, such as their management, finances, human resources and academic profile. In the first plenary session, the topic will be addressed through an illustrative keynote presentation and the release of EUA's updated Autonomy Scorecard, which benchmarks university autonomy throughout Europe. Five years after its original launch, the Scorecard will show how the relation between the sector and the state has evolved across Europe, highlighting trends and challenges.

- António Rendas, Rector, NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Thomas Estermann, Director, Governance, Funding and Public Policy Development, European University Association

Chair: Lesley Wilson, Secretary General, European University Association

16.00-16.30 Coffee break
Cafeteria, Student Centre

16.30-18.00 Breakout Session I – Working groups

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the different dimensions of university autonomy in four thematic breakout sessions. Each working group coordinated by a university leader will approach their topic practically. The aim of these interactive sessions is to generate a common understanding of the concrete impact and added value of each given autonomy dimension in day-to-day management, as well as in the broader institutional strategy setting. The participants will be invited to assess the related effects on the capacity of universities to respond to the societal challenges. Participants will be able to select one the four main "autonomy dimensions", according to their interest in internal organisation and decision-making processes; financial management and budget allocation; human resources recruitment and management; and internal academic affairs.

1. **Organisational autonomy** *(session intended for institutional leadership only)*
   University Aula
   - *Facilitator*: Mari Sundli Tveit, Rector, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway and Board member, European University Association
2. **Financial autonomy**
   Sports Hall, Student Centre
   - *Facilitator*: Stefano Paleari, former Rector, University of Bergamo, Italy and Board member, European University Association
3. **Staffing autonomy**
   Seminar Room E, Student Centre
   - *Facilitator*: Martine Rahier, former Rector, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland and Vice-President, European University Association
4. **Academic autonomy**
   Auditorium, Student Centre
   - *Facilitator*: Jean Chambaz, President, University Pierre and Marie Curie, France and Board member, European University Association

19.30-22.30 Networking Reception and Gala Dinner
Grieghallen, Edvard Griegs plass, Bergen

Friday 7 April 2017

09.00-10.30 Breakout Session II – Presentation of case studies

In these thematic sessions, participants will hear about concrete institutional practices and activities in addressing the four aspects of university autonomy. In each breakout session, two university leaders will share insight into how they develop institutional strategies that build on the opportunities created by favourable regulatory frameworks. Sessions will also consider challenges linked to limiting environments in each of the autonomy dimensions.

1. **Organisational autonomy**
   University Aula
   - Josep M. Garrell i Guiu, Rector, Ramon Llull University, Spain
   - Jaak Aaviksoo, Rector, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

   Chair: Curt Rice, Rector, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Norway
2. **Financial autonomy**
   Sports Hall, Student Centre
   - Cristina Messa, Rector, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy
   - Michael Hengartner, President, swissuniversities and Rector, University of Zurich, Switzerland

   Chair: Liisa Laakso, Rector, University of Tampere, Finland

3. **Staffing autonomy**
   Seminar Room E, Student Centre
   - Andrew J. Deeks, President, University College Dublin, Ireland
   - Stephen Hwang, Vice-Chancellor, Halmstad University, Sweden

   Chair: Luciana Vaccaro, Rector, University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland, Switzerland

4. **Academic autonomy**
   Auditorium, Student Centre
   - Friedrich Faulhammer, Rector, Danube University Krems, Austria
   - Marek Šmid, Rector, University of Trnava, Slovakia

   Chair: Glenn Burgess, Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Hull, United Kingdom

10.30-11.00 Coffee break
Cafeteria, Student Centre

11.00-12.30 Plenary II: Panel discussion on autonomy and academic freedom
University Aula

This plenary session will bring together different stakeholder perspectives - voices from universities as well as those of students and scholars – in a discussion about the state of the art in institutional autonomy. Special emphasis will be given to the impact the current political, economic and societal challenges in Europe and beyond have on academic freedom.

- Agneta Bladh, Vice-President, Magna Charta Observatory, Italy
- Lea Meister, President, European Students Union, Belgium
- Marit Egner, Member of the Steering Committee for Scholars at Risk Network, Norway Section

Facilitator: Sybille Reichelt, Director, Reichert Consulting for Higher Education, Germany

12.30-13.00 Conference Closing
University Aula
- Rolf Tarrach, President, European University Association

13.00-14.00 Lunch
Cafeteria, Student Centre

14.00-15.30 EUA Hot Topic Session
Auditorium, Student Centre

In response to the refugee crisis, European universities have launched initiatives in order to welcome and integrate refugee students and researchers. EUA has supported and mapped these activities in its interactive Refugees Welcome Map, which currently showcases 240 initiatives from 31 countries. In the session, European university leaders will share the experiences of their institutions in assisting refugee students and researchers. Together with the audience, they will discuss how institutions can collaborate on refugee issues, and how national and European level policy responses can be enhanced.

- Barbara Moser Mercer, Director, InZone, University of Geneva, Switzerland
- Helena Lindholm, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Chair: Michael Gaebel, Director, Higher Education Policy, European University Association

Follow us on Twitter under #EUA2017Bergen