

4th EUA Funding Forum **Frameworks that empower, universities that deliver**

Hosted by Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain
18 - 19 October 2018

(draft programme as of 28 May 2018)

Wednesday 17 October 2018

19:00-20:00 Welcome reception

Thursday 18 October 2018

08.30-09.30 Registration

09.30-10.00 **Opening Session**

10.00-11.00 **Plenary session – Funding trends in Europe**

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 **Plenary session – Leaders’ panel: “Steering through the storm”**

University leaders will share experiences in positioning their institution on the national, European and global stages while facing increasing financial uncertainty. They will reflect on the challenges leaders must address when steering their institution and bringing the university’s constituencies on board, to make the most of increasingly complex and fast-changing environments.

13.00-14.00 Networking lunch

14.00-15.30 **Master Classes**

Participants will be invited to choose one Master Class to attend.

1- Transformational leadership training

This highly interactive session is exclusively reserved to university leaders (Presidents, Rectors, Vice-Rectors, Heads of Administration, or other practitioners with a clear leadership role in their institution). It will focus on the development of transformational leadership skills and provide hands-on advice on how to achieve goals more efficiently and what transformational leaders need most.

2- Economic impact studies of university activities

The session will focus on system-wide approaches to assessing economic impact in the university sector. National Rectors’ Conferences that have commissioned and exploited such studies will provide insights on the experience and the use of results in the national policy dialogue and communication with stakeholders.

3- Development of income-generating partnerships

What is the potential for income generation by new types of partnerships? The session will provide a framework for analysis and detail approaches adopted by universities that have gone the extra mile to develop income-generating partnerships that support their missions.

4- Designing an institutional efficiency strategy

In this hands-on training session, participants will learn how to use and exploit the University Efficiency Hub, an online tool launched at the occasion of the Funding Forum. This tool allows leaders to assess how efficiency is currently supported at their institution in terms of governance, organisation, collaboration, resources and skills, as well as reporting and key performance indicators. The tool also includes benchmarking options and insights on how to forward the efficiency agenda based on the institutional background.

5- Research Master Class 1

The session will showcase the latest research findings around Europe in Higher Education and R&I funding and management. This first session will include paper presentations focusing on funding models as well as internal financial management in universities.

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.00 **Learning café**

Getting the conversation going: participants will be invited to join thematic discussions in smaller groups animated by moderators. Topics to choose from include:

- *Communicating the value of investment in higher education and research*
- *Public funding: all about performance?*
- *Innovative financial management*
- *The next generation of European funding for universities*

Participants will select on site the Café they wish to join. The outcomes will be reported in the final plenary session.

17.00-18.00 **Plenary session: conclusions of the day**

20.00-22.00 Dinner

Friday 19 October 2018

09.00-10.00 **Plenary session: Efficient university management & efficient frameworks**

The session will associate institutional and system-level views on what shapes today's efficiency agenda in the higher education sector. The discussion will review enablers, challenges and lessons learnt, and the respective roles of the sector and public authorities. Panellists will explore new perspectives for enhancing efficiency in operational, governance and academic contexts of university management.

- 10.00-11.30 **Plenary session – An efficient funding landscape: Aligning funders’ practices?**
Simplification of the funding landscape for universities is a complex matter, in the national and European contexts. The panel will be an opportunity to have a dialogue with different types of funding organisations on the scope for impactful simplification and potential for channelling resources back to the completion of the universities’ core mission in higher education and research.
- 11.30-12.00 Coffee Break
- 12.00-13.15 **Reform roundtables**
Participants will be contacted ahead of the event to prepare for these sessions, which will be structured around most relevant issues related to these specific change processes.
- 1- Funding reform roundtable**
- The roundtable will gather the participants involved in discussions and implementation of a significant change of the funding model for universities. The goal is to extract good practice and recommendations from systems that have gone through such reforms to support those systems where these processes are either ongoing or being planned. Particular attention will be paid to evolving funding formulae and performance agreements.*
- 2- Governance reform roundtable**
- The roundtable will gather the participants involved in discussions and implementation of new governance modalities for universities. The goal is to extract good practice and recommendations from systems and universities that have gone through such changes to support those systems and institutions where these processes are either ongoing or being planned. Discussions will notably explore the increasing role of external stakeholders in university governance, centralisation vs decentralisation governance models, and the evolving role of board-type governing bodies.*
- 3- The next generation of European funding**
- In this roundtable, participants will discuss the potential changes and adaptations linked to the upcoming European funding programmes of relevance to universities, which will kick in after 2020 and are subject to negotiations between governments and the European Parliament. How will universities deliver in this future framework?*
- 12.00-13.15 **Research Master Class 2**
The session will showcase recent research around Europe in Higher Education and R&I funding and management. This second session will include paper presentations focusing on governance and organisational aspects of university management. Impacts of funding models will also be explored.
- 13.15-14.15 Network lunch

14.15-15.45

Expert Rooms

Participants will be invited to choose one Expert Room to attend.

1- Financial instruments for universities

This session is dedicated to sharing the experience and lessons learned by universities from acquiring strategic investment funds. Panellists will explore new opportunities and pitfalls arising from the use of various financial instruments at the regional, national and European level (e.g. national or EIB loans).

2- Efficiency-generating sector collaboration

This session examines the measures that are in place in universities across Europe to enhance efficiency at operational level. The session addresses the question of operational efficiency in universities in a European comparative way, breaking it down into three thematic dimensions: efficiency in professional, operational and support services; efficiency in academic matters, and efficiency through strategic governance.

3- Investing in students

This session will approach financial questions related to the university's investment in student support. Experts will share insights on how their institutions reacted to policy changes in this field and developed strategic initiatives, implementing new income generation strategies and investing in student support and quality of teaching and research.

4- New models to support campus decisions

This session will focus on campus management challenges that European universities are facing and introduce models to support decision-making in this field, to create policy-supportive, meaningful, functional, affordable, resource-efficient and sustainable places to learn, work, innovate, live and visit.

15.45-16.45

Conclusions and closing session