



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**AND**

**THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION**

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The European Commission, hereinafter referred to as 'the Commission', and the European University Association, a membership-based non-profit association, the headquarters of which are in Brussels, Belgium, hereinafter collectively referred to as 'EUA' (jointly hereafter referred to as 'the Partners')

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT**

- The March 2000 Lisbon European Council agreed that to strengthen employment, economic reform and social cohesion an overall strategy should be applied, that aimed, *inter alia*, at preparing the transition to a knowledge-based economy and society by better policies for research and development.
- The Council adopted on 15 June 2000 a Resolution establishing a European Research Area (ERA)<sup>1</sup> that sought to implement the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council.
- The May 2008 "Ljubljana Process - Towards realisation of ERA" Council Conclusions called for enhanced ERA governance based on a long-term ERA vision developed in partnership by Member States and the Commission with support from all stakeholders and citizens. It underlined the importance of ERA as a primary pillar for the Lisbon objectives and as an engine for driving the competitiveness of Europe.
- The Lisbon Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) states that the European Union has the objective of promoting scientific and technological advance, and calls in particular for the achievement of the European Research Area to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of the Union and of its industry, and to make them more competitive. The Treaty refers to the ERA as an area of free circulation of researchers, scientific knowledge.
- The completion of the ERA is an explicit part of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth<sup>2</sup> endorsed by the June 2010 European Council. Developing the European Research Area reinforces the Union's modernisation agenda

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 205, 17.7.2000, p. 1

<sup>2</sup> Commission Communication COM(2010)2020 of 3 March 2010 and European Council Conclusions of 17 June 2010 (<http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/115346.pdf>)

for higher education<sup>3</sup>. Moreover, the February 2011 European Council stated that Europe needs a unified research area to attract talent and investment and called for the completion of the ERA by 2014 and addressing any remaining gaps in order to create a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation.

- At the January 2012 ERA Conference, the Commission announced its intention to both deepen and broaden the ERA partnership with research stakeholders, so as to make rapid and far-reaching progress on the key "big-ticket" measures announced in the ERA Communication adopted by the Commission on 17 July 2012.
- The EUA Council, made up of the Presidents of the National Rectors Conferences of 34 European countries, has authorised the EUA President, Professor Maria Helena Nazaré and the EUA Secretary General, Lesley Wilson, to sign this MoU on behalf of the European University Association (EUA).
- For EUA as a membership-based organisation with the statutory aim of promoting the development of a coherent European system of higher education and research this Memorandum of Understanding constitutes a voluntary, non-binding, informal agreement. It has no legal basis under Belgian law, and acknowledges that Europe's universities operate within national legal and administrative frameworks that define their autonomy and freedom of action.

#### **HAVE DECIDED THE FOLLOWING:**

**EUA WILL** encourage its members to carry out the actions that are set out below by the end of 2013, as far as national legislation allows. In doing so, EUA emphasizes, as stated in its response to the "Innovation Union" Communication entitled "Smart People for Smart Growth", that increased investment by the EU and Member States in training, skill development and research and innovation activities is needed to lead Europe out of the economic crisis.

#### **Doctoral training, research careers and mobility**

1. Start or continue to fill vacancies for first-stage, recognised, established, and leading researchers according to open, transparent and merit-based recruitment procedures, in line with the basic principles of the EC Recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.
2. Start or continue to advertise vacancies for first-stage, recognised, established and leading researchers on the EURAXESS Jobs portal.
3. Develop and start, or continue to implement human resource strategies for their researchers in line with the basic principles of the EC recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Council conclusions on the modernisation of higher education of 28-29 November 2011 [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/126424.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/126424.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> See <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights>

4. Seek to promote, obtain or continue to use the EU Human Resource Excellence in Research logo<sup>5</sup>.
5. Develop and start, or continue to implement institutional gender strategies, for example by encouraging commitment from the university's leadership, by promoting the appropriate mix of gender-specific career development measures and by ensuring monitoring and accountability through the appropriate internal procedures, in line with the Guidelines developed by the EUA Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP).
6. Develop and start, or continue to offer and develop structured doctoral programmes in line with the EUA-CDE "Salzburg Principles" (2005) and the revised Salzburg Recommendations (2010) which form the core of the Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training, as formulated in the Report of Mapping Exercise on Doctoral Training in Europe "Towards a common approach" (27 June 2011).
7. Develop and start, or continue to develop university/industry/business collaborative doctoral level mobility programmes for the training of excellent researchers for universities and industry/business/public sector, and to aim for increasing mobility between universities and industry/business/public sector as well as enhancing international mobility (in the context of both ERA and Horizon 2020 policy implementation). These actions will be based on the recommendations arising from the EC funded EUA DOC-CAREERS coordination projects (2008 and 2012).
8. Explore, and/or pursue with the appropriate authorities, the scope for portability of pension rights and/or an EU-wide Supplementary Pension Fund taking account of relevant national initiatives.

### **University industry collaboration and knowledge transfer**

9. Explore, develop and start, or continue to implement research support and knowledge transfer/exchange programmes in cooperation with external partners. These actions should reflect the "open innovation" environment and build upon the "Responsible Partnering Guidelines" based on best practices developed together by EUA, EARTO, EIRMA and ProTonEurope (2005 and revised in 2009).

### **Cross border cooperation**

10. Explore the possibility of encouraging the development, in a cost-efficient way, of research cooperation with universities ("twinning") and/or regions ("teaming") in other EU Member and Associated States, building on existing experience and taking advantage of research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation.

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<sup>5</sup> See <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/strategy4Researcher>

## **Open access to publications and data**

11. Explore, develop and implement open access to the publication of the results of publicly-funded research, in particular by encouraging universities to establish or share existing institutional digital repositories and encourage their researchers to deposit peer reviewed articles in those repositories, thus enabling wider access to the research community. These actions will be based on EUA's Recommendations on Open Access (2008) which recognise the importance of reviewing a range of different approaches to open access.
12. Explore, develop and start or continue to implement at institutional level principles, standards and procedures for open access to research results and data emanating from publicly-funded research.
13. Seek to ensure that all researchers are trained, aware of and can benefit from the application of information and communication technology in the research process and adhere to recognised ethical principles of research conduct.

## **Reporting**

14. Produce a concise progress report on the implementation of the actions listed above by December 2013

## **THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION WILL**

### **Stakeholder Platform**

- Establish a dedicated ERA Stakeholder Platform, which EUA agrees to join, for the purpose of consulting with stakeholders on progress towards the completion of the ERA.

### **Monitoring**

- Organise in June 2013 a meeting to review progress on the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

## **BOTH PARTNERS WILL**

- In a proportionate way, share with each other the already available, relevant, and necessary information to monitor the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Done in duplicate at Brussels on 17 July 2012

**FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**FOR THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY  
ASSOCIATION**

**Máire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN**

Commissioner for Research, Innovation  
and Science

**Professor Maria-Helena NAZARE**

President, EUA

**Lesley WILSON**

Secretary-General, EUA