



Press release

European University Association (EUA) launches Europe-wide platform for doctoral education

28th January 2008. The European University Association (EUA), an organisation representing nearly 800 universities and 34 national rectors' conferences across Europe, has today announced that it will launch the first Europe-wide platform for institutions offering doctoral education. The **EUA Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE)** is a new membership service that, as part of EUA, will develop and advance doctoral education and research training in Europe.

EUA President, Professor Georg Winckler highlighted: "The EUA Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) has been created in response to the growing demand from universities in Europe for a more structured approach to promote cooperation and exchange of good practice between doctoral schools and programmes in Europe. Doctoral education will play a key role in achieving Europe's ambitious goals to strengthen its research capacity and international competitiveness, and the new Council will be crucial for the development, advancement and improvement of these goals."

The objectives of the new Council include:

- Enhancing the quality of doctoral education in Europe by fostering debate and promoting the exchange and dissemination of good practice;
- Encouraging and supporting the development of institutional policies and strategies as well as the introduction of effective leadership and management practices;
- Strengthening the international dimension of doctoral programmes and research training through improved cooperation among its members and by establishing dialogue with partner organisations in other world regions;
- Identifying and monitoring emerging trends in doctoral education inside and outside Europe;
- Promoting the doctorate as a key professional qualification and underlining the importance of young researchers for a knowledge-based society.

The new EUA-CDE is an integral part of the EUA. It will function as an independent membership service under the responsibility of a Steering Committee that will be responsible for organising annual activities including conferences and workshops, preparing reports and studies, and disseminating information on latest trends in doctoral education in Europe and beyond. Professor Jean Chambaz, Vice President Université Pierre et Marie Curie-Paris VI, and Mary Ritter, Pro Rector at Imperial College London, have been elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Steering Committee while EUA Vice President Professor Jean Marc Rapp will be an ex officio Committee member thus ensuring the link to the EUA Board and Council.

Membership will be open to EUA full members and also to universities awarding doctoral degrees that are not members. Further details on membership (criteria and costs) will be published in due course. EUA-CDE will also seek active cooperation with partner organisations with similar interests such as national associations of doctoral education and young researchers' associations and other stakeholders.

The creation of the CDE underlines EUA's commitment to the sustainable development of master and doctoral education and research training in Europe. As highlighted in the recent EUA report on doctoral education the nature of doctoral education is changing rapidly in Europe, notably with the introduction of new organisational structures to manage doctoral education, the increasing focus on learning 'transferable skills' and the growth in new types of doctoral programmes. At the same time, the report highlighted the importance of both universities and public authorities doing more to attract and retain the best young research talent.

The European University Association, as the representative organisation of both the European universities and the national rectors' conferences, is the main voice of the higher education community in Europe. EUA's mission is to promote the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research.

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