



University governance tops agenda at high-level European meeting

European University Association (EUA) Spring Conference at the University of Barcelona, Spain (27-29th March)

20th March 2008. The issue of improving university governance across Europe will be at the top of the higher education agenda next week, when around 300 university leaders, policy makers and higher education experts meet at a high-level conference in Barcelona, Spain. The three-day European University Association (EUA) Conference, hosted by the University of Barcelona, will tackle the theme: *The Governance of European Universities post 2010: Enhancing Institutional Mission and Profiles*.

All over Europe, politicians are becoming convinced that universities matter. The European Commission sees them as central to the creation of a knowledge society and to the "Lisbon agenda". At national level, universities are seen as wealth-creators, agents of competitiveness. Cities and regions vie for new universities and see them as engine for development and bringing income and status. It is against this background of changing missions for Europe's universities that the issue of university governance has become a key factor in the modernisation of European higher education.

This is why EUA has decided to focus the Barcelona Conference on university governance at both the national and institutional level – looking forward past 2010, the date the European Higher Education Area will come into force. HE Leaders and policymakers will discuss and debate the policies and strategies being pursued by universities and regional or national authorities in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of increasingly diverse higher education institutions and systems. This is becoming increasingly more important across Europe in response to growing societal demands and in order to face global competition.

In addition to key note presentations from leading international experts, there will also be a series of focused workshops to tackle key issues such as engaging the academic community in strategy and governance, increasing critical mass (mergers and collaborations) and the development of regional research clusters.

Màrius Rubiralta, Rector of the University of Barcelona says: "Europe's higher education institutions need to determine together the best responses to current challenges by encouraging modern measures of governance for their universities."

To find out more about the conference, please visit: <http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=572>

The European University Association (EUA), 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.

For further information, please contact:

Andrew Miller, Press officer, tel : +32 2 788 53 19, or Mobile/GSM: +32 473 748 785

email: andrew.miller@eua.be

You can also visit our website at www.eua.be
