

European University Association (EUA)

Activities - state December 2025

This update provides a selection of EUA activities that might be of interest for you and your colleagues.


You are welcome to share this within your ministry, your organisation, with higher education institutions and other relevant organisations.

For more information, please check our website www.eua.eu or [sign up to the newsletter](#)

- [Publications & Expert voices](#)
- [Ongoing projects](#)
- [Events](#)


Recordings of past events are usually available on [EUA's YouTube channel](#)

EUA's impact in 2024 - facts and figures




18 POSITIONS
NEW POLICY INPUTS
REPORTS
BRIEFINGS

EUA launched a revamped website – with eua.eu getting over 1.3 million views in 2024.




REVAMPED WEBSITE

EUA's publications and conference papers were downloaded over 55,000 times in 2024, a 79% increase on 2023.




+79% downloads



3 newsletters


- Monthly EUA newsletter
- President's Newsletter
- EUA-CDE newsletter

exclusive to EUA members



PODCAST

After our first series 'HigherEd in Practice' wrapped up in January 2024, we launched our second podcast series – 'Universities Futures Lab' in November.



[EUA 2024 annual report](#)

Upcoming events and initiatives

DATES	EVENT/INITIATIVE	PLACE	TARGETED AUDIENCE	LINK
16 December 2025	EUA Webinar 'Navigating the future of scholarly communication, Open Science and AI'	Online	Institutional leaders (rectors, vice-rectors and heads of administration), research department staff, university library staff, as well as researchers in general.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/navigating-the-future-of-scholarly-communication-open-science-and-ai.html
15-16 January 2026	EUA-CDE Thematic Workshop 'Doctoral education for the future of European R&I'	University of Liège, Belgium	Academic leaders, doctoral education managers & professionals, advisors for European grants and policies at the doctoral level as well as doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/2026-eua-cde-thematic-workshop.html
12-13 February 2026	European Learning and Teaching Forum: Impactful staff development for educational transformation	Lisbon, Portugal	Gathering a wide range of learning and teaching professionals to exchange and discuss institutional practice and policy developments, the Forum is an ideal event for vice-rectors for academic affairs, deans, heads of learning and teaching centres, and management involved in learning and teaching. It also welcomes students, policy makers and other stakeholders in higher education.	Information and registration: https://eua.eu/events/eua-events/2026-european-learning-teaching-forum.html
12-13 February 2026	European Learning & Teaching Forum 'Impactful staff development for educational transformation'	Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisbon	Vice-rectors for academic affairs, deans, heads of learning and teaching centres, and management involved in learning and teaching. The Forum also welcomes students, policy makers and other stakeholders in higher education.	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/2026-european-learning-teaching-forum.html
February – September 2026	EUA Leadership Development Programme	A combination of online and onsite sessions Onsite sessions in Istanbul and Brussels	Dynamic programme designed to enhance leadership skills and competencies for senior academic and professional leaders of EUA member universities. With a distinctive European perspective, the programme provides a blend of international insights and tailored support for EUA members. The programme aims to foster meaningful connections with European peers and equip participants to drive impactful change within their institutions.	https://eua.eu/our-work/projects/eua-projects/eua-leadership-development-programme.html

February- November 2026	Thematic Peer Groups on Quality Assurance	A combination of online and in-person meetings at the participating institutions	Senior managers or coordinators with responsibilities for quality assurance at their university.	https://eua.eu/our-work/get-involved/call-for-participation-2026-quality-assurance-thematic-peer-groups.html
23-25 March 2026	STAFF-DEV Masterclass 3: Joint transnational staff development for teaching in higher education	Bochum, Germany	<p>The third masterclass focuses on higher education didactic training programmes that are carried out jointly by universities across national borders. The masterclass will identify the conditions for success for such cooperative continuing education programmes, and allow participants to exchange, reflect on and develop implementation scenarios. During the masterclass, participants will collect questions, ideas and material in a portfolio and use this to develop their individual action plan.</p> <p>This masterclass target representatives with institutional responsibilities in designing and organising staff development in teaching, at higher education institutions already carrying out activities in joint transnational staff development.</p> <p>Applications for this masterclass are open until 10 December 2025.</p>	Information and applications: https://eua.eu/events/eua-events/joint-transnational-staff-development-for-teaching-in-higher-education.html
16-17 April 2026	EUA annual conference	Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Türkiye	<p>The 2026 EUA Annual Conference will shed light on how key drivers are shaping why, how and with whom universities cooperate. Such drivers include (geo)politics, technological advances, sustainable development and economic challenges.</p> <p>The event will investigate the evolution of different types of university partnerships; between institutions, with the public sector, with industry and other partners – locally, nationally and internationally,</p>	https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/2026-eua-annual-conference.html

			through a mix of panel and interactive discussions.	
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Recent events & publications

EVENT/PUBLICATION	DESCRIPTION	LINK
<p>Thematic Peer Group Report Learning and teaching to empower students</p> <p>27 March 2025</p>	<p>The 2024 EUA Learning & Teaching Thematic Peer Group ‘Learning and teaching to empower students’ explored a crucial prerequisite for cultivating these qualities in graduates: an empowering learning and teaching environment.</p> <p>This final report from the group outlines the various aspects of student empowerment as well as the challenges and benefits that are typically associated with the concept. It also includes practical examples of what universities can do to support student empowerment.</p>	<p>https://www.eua.eu/publications/reports/learning-and-teaching-to-empower-students.html</p>
<p>Thematic Peer Group Report Exploring strategies for institutions to leverage the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning</p> <p>4 April 2025</p>	<p>This report by the 2024 EUA Learning & Teaching Thematic Peer Group ‘Exploring strategies for institutions to leverage the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning’ analyses various aspects of the implementation of SoTL, identifies challenges, and offers recommendations to promote wider adoption. It concludes that structured frameworks, student participation, and institutional leadership are essential for embedding SoTL in higher education.</p>	<p>https://www.eua.eu/publications/reports/exploring-strategies-for-institutions-to-leverage-the-scholarship-of-teaching-and-learning.html</p>
<p>Thematic Peer Group Report Learning and teaching in situations of crisis: needs and support provision</p> <p>12 May 2025</p>	<p>This report summarises the findings of the 2024 EUA Learning & Teaching Thematic Peer Group on ‘Learning and teaching in situations of crisis: needs and support provision’. The group explored how crises—ranging from pandemics and natural disasters to political interference, armed conflicts and technological disruptions—affect higher education institutions (HEIs) and their ability to deliver quality education.</p> <p>The report reflects on discussions, a survey of institutional leadership, and case studies from the seven participating universities, providing insights into crisis preparedness, management, and resilience-building, with a strong emphasis on ensuring the continuity of learning and teaching during emergencies.</p>	<p>https://www.eua.eu/publications/reports/learning-and-teaching-in-situations-of-crisis-needs-and-support-provision.html</p>
<p>Position EUA L&T Agenda 2030: A strategic framework to strengthen universities’ first mission</p> <p>22 May 2025</p>	<p>The EUA Learning & Teaching Agenda 2030 constitutes a strategic framework for the Association’s Learning & Teaching activities up until 2030. Although the Agenda’s primary purpose is to guide EUA’s activities in L&T, it may also provide inspiration to the Association’s members.</p> <p>Three focus areas form the basic framework of the Agenda, establishing the overarching values and goals of EUA’s work on L&T: ensuring quality, connectivity and transformation. These thematic foci have been identified in close collaboration with EUA’s membership, in order to ensure that they reflect the most relevant issues in the field and enable the Association to adequately support its members. EUA will address these three focus areas in a holistic manner in the coming years, while also drawing on intersections with its work in other fields, including, but not limited to, quality assurance, leadership development and funding.</p>	<p>https://www.eua.eu/publications/positions/eua-l-t-agenda-2030.html</p>
<p>Position Key principles for attractive and sustainable academic careers</p>	<p>Academic careers have always been competitive, but Europe’s higher education sector now faces numerous challenges such as demographic shifts and funding cuts, precarious contracts and working conditions.</p> <p>As European higher education institutions navigate this evolving landscape, this publication presents five key principles for their efforts to ensure that academic careers remain attractive and sustainable in the long term. They address: 1) the role</p>	<p>https://www.eua.eu/publications/positions/key-principles-for-</p>

27 May 2025	of professional development, rewards and recognition in shaping careers; 2) the need for academic careers to reflect the diversity and inclusivity of higher education in Europe; 3) the vital role of the institution as a space that balances competition and collegiality; 4) the role and needs of early-career academics as the most vulnerable group of academics; and 5) the links between academic careers and the societal embeddedness of higher education.	attractive-and-sustainable-academic-careers.html
Report Doctoral education in Europe today: enhanced structures and practices for the European knowledge society 2025 EUA-CDE survey report (I) 6 June 2025	<p>This report presents the first findings of the 2025 (EUA-CDE) survey. With 2025 marking the 20th anniversary of the Salzburg Principles, which remain central to shaping doctoral education in Europe, the report looks back at the key achievements of the last twenty years.</p> <p>The publication offers an overview of today's doctoral education landscape, highlighting how institutions incorporate the Salzburg Principles into their structures and practices. It addresses key themes such as supervision practices, support services for doctoral candidates and the ways universities are responding to changing career development needs in a competitive labour market.</p>	https://www.eua.eu/publications/doctoral-education-in-europe-today-enhanced-structures-and-practices-for-the-european-knowledge-society.html
EUA's webinar "Making sustainability reporting a strategic asset for universities" 17 June 2025	<p>This webinar was organised as part of EUA's "Spotlight on Sustainability" initiative to explore the strategic role of sustainability reporting at European universities. It also addressed the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), which some public universities use as a guiding framework, and where interest continues to grow. Participants heard from university leaders actively engaged in sustainability reporting, who outlined its benefits, challenges, and opportunities.</p>	https://eua.eu/events/eua-events/making-sustainability-reporting-a-strategic-asset-for-universities.html
Briefing Participation in university governance: Evolving models of university governance II 9 July 2025	<p>The report explores the evolving landscape of university governance in Europe, drawing on data from the latest edition of EUA's Autonomy Scorecard and building on previous analyses. It offers a detailed overview of how governance structures, legal frameworks, and inclusiveness have developed and currently operate across 31 European higher education systems.</p>	https://eua.eu/publications/briefings/participation-in-institutional-governance.html
Report Inspireurope+ updated recommendations 17 September 2025	<p>When researchers are at risk, not only are individual lives and careers in jeopardy, but the quality and very future of research is also at stake. Therefore, Europe's engagement is of utmost importance. Protection programmes can support these researchers to regain the intellectual space they need to continue their work. Since 2019, the Initiative to Support, Promote and Integrate Researchers at Risk in Europe (Inspireurope+) has documented and analysed existing initiatives to support researchers at risk in Europe, and helped to establish new ones.</p> <p>The project's recommendations, first published in 2022, have been updated to reflect the changing political contexts and the progress made to enhance the situation of researchers at risk in Europe.</p>	https://eua.eu/publications/reports/expanding-opportunities-in-europe-for-researchers-at-risk-2.html

<p>Sustainability webinar series (III)</p> <p>Competitiveness and sustainability: can universities find a common ground?</p> <hr/> <p>23 Sep 2025</p> <hr/>	<p>This webinar explored how Europe can balance sustainability with industrial competitiveness. It examined recent shifts in EU discourse that frame green goals and reduced regulation as competing priorities, and asked whether this tension threatens Europe’s holistic sustainability agenda. Speakers highlighted how universities—through interdisciplinarity, mission-driven approaches and broad partnerships with industry and society—are already helping reconcile competitiveness and sustainability. The discussion focused on how evolving university–industry collaborations can support future-ready skills, innovation and sustainable economic development.</p>	<p>https://eua.eu/events/eua-events/competitiveness-and-sustainability-can-universities-find-a-common-ground.html</p>
<p>SPHERE Bologna Symposium & Annual Conference</p> <p>1-3 October 2025 Bucharest, Romania</p>	<p>The SPHERE (Centralised Support to the Network of Higher Education Reform Experts) Bologna Symposium took place from 1-2 October 2025, hosted by University Politehnica of Bucharest. It was the first event of this kind, as the 2022-2025 SPHERE programmes foresees one conference dedicated to the topic, to be organised in conjunction with the BFUG. The BFUG Working Group on Global Policy Dialogue (WG GPD) organised it’s meeting to precede the Symposium, enabling synergies between both events, regarding topic and participation. The core objective of the symposium was to promote peer learning on higher education policy reform and implementation, in consideration of its impact on HEI and their members, in respect of the Bologna Process, its achievements, challenges and lessons learnt. During the two-day event, around 70 participants engaged in a variety of sessions, keynote speeches, and panel discussions. In addition, the 2025 SPHERE Annual Conference was organised in conjunction reflecting on this year achievements, impact and next steps for the SPHERE initiative .</p>	<p>No public link to the event yet. SPHERE Community: https://erasmus-networks.europa.eu/organization/sphere-community</p>
<p>The EU’s Innovation Act</p> <p>The EU’s Innovation Act can address hurdles to innovation and boost Europe’s competitiveness</p> <hr/> <p>3 October 2025</p> <hr/>	<p>The report presents EUA’s key messages on the upcoming European Innovation Act.</p> <p>There is a growing need to boost European competitiveness through policies and funding that enable innovation. To fully leverage universities’ pivotal role in regional ecosystems across Europe, the Innovation Act should reflect a comprehensive and dynamic understanding of innovation, where the process and the outcomes are equally important and adequately facilitated by talent, culture and incentives.</p> <p>In addition, EUA’s response underlines the social impact that interdisciplinarity and cross-sectoral partnership can achieve when coupled with entrepreneurial skills and diverse career paths for researchers. Whether in startups or established companies, European researchers demonstrate that universities are the cradle of new ideas that lead to job creation, environmental sustainability and local development.</p>	<p>https://eua.eu/news/eua-news/the-eus-innovation-act-can-address-hurdles-to-innovation-and-boost-europes-competitiveness.html</p>
<p>Master Class 2 (STAFF-DEV project): Fostering educational leadership and scholarship</p>	<p>Attention to learning and teaching (L&T) has increased in recent years, both at European higher education institutions (HEIs) and in European policy making. To enhance L&T, adequate staff development practices and approaches are needed, as well as recognition for teachers to continuously improve, through academic</p>	<p>https://www.eua.eu/events/eua-events/advan</p>

<p>8-10 October 2025 Utrecht</p>	<p>assessment and career paths. Across the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), the responsibility for organising staff development mostly lies with the institutions themselves.</p> <p>Against this background, the ‘Staff development for learning and teaching at European universities’ (STAFF-DEV) project was launched in 2024. STAFF-DEV aims to analyse how staff development and academic assessment are conducted at European HEIs and to strengthen institutional capacity and strategies in this regard. Led by EUA in consortium with four universities from across Europe, the project is funded under the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission.</p> <p>As part of its activities, STAFF-DEV offers a series of four masterclasses in 2025 and 2026, aimed at building and reinforcing HEIs’ capacity to offer insightful staff development opportunities, as well as embed it into a broader institutional framework for learning and teaching.</p>	<p>ced-staff-development-fostering-educational-leadership-and-scholarship.html</p>
<p>Report Universities and competitiveness. A big picture view on the EU’s new policy paradigm and the implications for universities.</p> <p>29 October 2025</p>	<p>What does the European Union’s new paradigm of competitiveness mean for universities? To define their role and respond to the political drive for competitiveness, security and sustainable prosperity, universities need to take a longer-term perspective. This report gives an overview of the present discourse and policies in the EU, and presents three different forecasts, or pictures of alternative futures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europe’s resurrection • Tech oligarchy under US hegemony • Fragmented society <p>All three forecasts are set ten years in the future: in the Europe of 2035, and describe how events since 2025 have affected higher education and research. In addition, the report summarises feedback from university leaders, gathered by the authors in a series of workshops and interviews. These considerations in turn inform the report’s findings on what this new paradigm means for European universities today, notably on how they can strategically position themselves, as well as the framework conditions they need to contribute to Europe’s competitiveness.</p>	<p>https://eua.eu/publications/reports/universities-and-competitiveness.html</p>
<p>2025 EQAF (European Quality Assurance Forum)</p> <p>12-14 November 2025</p>	<p>The 2025 European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) took place at Corvinus University of Budapest on 12-14 November 2025. It provides a platform for discussion, professional development and exchange of experiences among the main stakeholders in quality assurance (QA). This year’s Forum, entitled ‘QA in times of crises - Ensuring stability, autonomy and international cooperation in higher education’, reflected on the role of QA in upholding public education as a shared societal asset and promoting academic values to ensure higher education continues to be a foundation for progress and development.</p>	<p>https://eua.eu/events/eua-events/2025-european-quality-assurance-forum.html</p>
<p>IQA webinars: Making internal QA work for institutional growth</p> <p>24, 27 November and 5 December 2025</p>	<p>This webinar series addressed issues with internal reviews which are often seen as a bureaucratic task, especially when the data collected isn’t analysed properly or used to drive meaningful action. This can negatively affect stakeholder engagement in the review process and hinder the development of a quality-focused culture.</p> <p>This series of webinars helped institutions close the feedback loop by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _offering guidance on several key areas of the process, including engaging a diverse range of stakeholders in the data analysis process; _increasing the visibility of the analysis and implementation stages to raise awareness within the institution; _encouraging self-reflection and constructive criticism within the institutional community, _planning and executing follow-up actions; _overcoming challenges such as limited financial and human resources; _connecting internal and external review processes; and _fostering a culture of institutional quality. 	<p>https://eua.eu/events.html#events5189</p>
<p>Report Sustainability and greening in European higher education</p>	<p>Higher education institutions are key actors in reaching the objectives of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda. They address sustainability across all missions, including education, research and innovation and the third mission, as well as in their campus organisation and management. And as this report shows, European universities</p>	<p>https://eua.eu/publications/reports/sustainability</p>

27 November 2025	<p>have become increasingly strategic in this area, with many taking a comprehensive approach regarding the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, that goes beyond climate and environmental issues</p> <p>The results of the European University Association's 2025 survey on sustainability and greening captures a wide range of perceptions and approaches among the 400 higher education institutions that participated from 43 countries.</p>	y-and-greening-in-european-higher-education.html
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