

Influence of RIs on Training and Knowledge Production at Regional Level

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The European University Association (EUA) in Brussels: Independent Stakeholder for Europe's Universities

- Created in 2001 (as a result of the merger of the Confederation of European University Rectors, CRE, and the European Union University Rectors Association)
- Non-governmental Membership-based Organisation
- 800 Universities in 46 countries (individual members), 34 National Rectors' Conferences (collective members) and university networks (affiliate members)
- Policy Focus: ERA and EHEA
- Support to Members: projects, workshops, conferences, web-based newsletters, targeted information and policy statements/positions

Universities and Europe's Regions

Universities are key components of the economic social cultural development of Europe's regions and cities.

- Through their supply of highly skilled graduates and training of researchers linked to their core missions in fundamental and collaborative research.
- Through their strategic position at the interplay of educational, research and development , and regional innovation policies.
- Through their 'competitive strategies' in attracting students, researchers and research funding and their 'cooperative strategies' in working with regional partners (public and private) and their networking and consultancy advice etc

EUA Viewpoints on European Research Infrastructures Policy Framework (1)

- University-based researchers need to continue to benefit from access granted to large-scale infrastructures through EC/FP actions.
- Challenge must be met of achieving maximum available use of research infrastructure for education and training.
- European research infrastructure policy needs to be linked to other parts of ERA building such as research career development and the modernisation and sustainability of university-based research and training.

EUA Viewpoints on European Research Infrastructures Policy Framework (2)

- Policy on RIs needs to give more emphasis to human resource needs, and the implications of digital technology for future development and use of research infrastructures and their research data and resources.
- Europe's universities offer many types of RIs (large and small, including digital repositories): their collective capacities need to be assessed within overall framework (European, National and Regional) RI development.
- Policy linkage between FP7 funds and EU structural fund investment is of crucial importance for RI renewal and upgrading in Europe's universities, particularly in EU new member states.

EUA Viewpoints on European Research Infrastructures Policy Framework (3)

- University-based researchers are involved extensively in providing expert scientific advice to European and International Research Infrastructures. Their broader university experiences and perspectives will be crucial in order to develop a more 'comprehensive approach' in establishing priorities for new RIs and their up-grading that creates greater synergy between regional, national and European investments.
- RI policy development should place more emphasis therefore on human resource capacities at research and technical skill levels and career development particularly inter-sectoral employment paths.
- Diversified, multi-funding sources are required for research infrastructure development reflecting the various Regional, National, European and International function that they perform.

Relevant EUA Initiatives

New Council for Doctoral Education (CDE)

- Brings together university doctoral training across Europe for mutual learning, collaboration and exchange.
- CDE provides a new European forum for dialogue with European research infrastructures on how to maximise their impact on training, knowledge production and career development.

EUA Prague Convention on ‘Facing Global Challenges European Strategies for Europe’s Universities’ 18th - 21st March 2009, Charles University

- Key messages from university sector on future EHEA and ERA policy development to help facilitate the global competitiveness of European universities to be fed into Inter-Ministerial Conference on EHEA, Leuven (April 2009) and Swedish EU Presidency Conference on ERA, Brussels (October 2009)



Thank you for your attention

For further information visit:

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