

2022 EUA Annual Conference

University values: what, why and how?

28-29 April 2022, hosted by Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary

In recent years, many countries have gone through a large-scale, societal reflection on democratic values. For universities, this development implies that particular attention must be paid to safeguarding values such as academic freedom, university autonomy and freedom of expression. In order to remain environments that are defined by openness, freedom of thought and enquiry, and scientific rigour, universities must embrace their societal responsibility, foster a culture of academic integrity and engage in partnerships that both further their strategic objectives and honour their principles and values.

The 2022 EUA Annual Conference will provide a platform to discuss which values shape the missions and strategic objectives of Europe's universities and how these values help to guide their activities. Through plenary and breakout sessions of various formats, including audience participation, the conference will also provide insights into the measures universities can take to ensure that their values are understood and lived individually and collectively. Finally, the event will invite the audience to reflect on and share measures to uphold academic values even in a context of mounting external pressures.

The 2022 EUA Annual Conference will be a physical event and speakers will be present in person unless otherwise stated.

Draft programme (as of 25 April 2022)

All time indications refer to CEST (Central European Summer Time).

Wednesday, 27 April (pre-conference meetings)

The pre-conference meetings are by invitation only to EUA Board and Council members and the secretaries general of national rectors' conferences. The Leadership Roundtable is for rectors of EUA member universities only.

- 10.00-13.00 **EUA Board Meeting**
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch for EUA Board, Council and secretaries general
- 14.00-16.00 **EUA Council Meeting**
- 16.30-18.30 **Leadership Roundtable**
- 16.30-18.30 **Secretaries General Meeting**
- 18.30-19.30 **Leadership Meet & Greet**

Thursday, 28 April

- 08.30-09.30 Registration for EUA General Assembly
- 08.30-18.00 Registration for Annual Conference
- 09.00-10.00 Welcome coffee
- 10.00-11.00 **EUA General Assembly**
By invitation only

- 11.15-12.00 **Spotlight on Ukraine**
- László Borhy, President, Hungarian Rectors' Conference
 - Jerzy Lis, Rector, AGH University of Science and Technology, Poland
 - Olga Porkuian, Rector, Volodymyr Dahl East Ukrainian National University, Ukraine
 - Kseniia Smyrnova, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine
 - Chaired by Michael Murphy, President, European University Association (EUA)
- 12.00-13.30 Lunch
- 13.30-15.00 **Official Opening and Plenary Session I: Academic freedom – from policy to reality**
- Drawing from international frameworks for civil liberties, this session will address the role of academic freedom in safeguarding broader democratic values, ensuring self-reflection and striving for continuous societal enhancement. The session will also explore what universities can do in practice to ensure that academic freedom is and remains a lived reality.
- Official conference opening by Michael Murphy, President, EUA; Tibor Czigány, Rector, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary; and László Borhy, President of the Hungarian Rectors' Conference
 - Svein Stølen, Rector, University of Oslo, Norway
 - Adam Bodnar, Dean of Faculty of Law, SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw, Poland
 - Christian Ehler, Member of European Parliament
 - David Kaye, Director of International Justice Clinic/Co-Director of Fair Elections and Free Speech Center, UC Irvine School of Law, United States/ former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (*joining remotely*)
 - Plenary chaired by Amanda Crowfoot, Secretary General, EUA
- 15.00-15.30 Coffee break
- 15.30-16.10 **Breakout Sessions, Round I**
- 16.10-16.30 Break to move back to the plenary room
- 16.30-17.30 **Plenary Session II: Nurturing a culture of open and respectful debate**
- Against the backdrop of debates around “cancel culture” and “de-platforming”, this session will look into the potential ramifications of such trends for freedom of speech in European universities: What can universities – and other actors – do to ensure free expression? In addition, what is the role of university leadership in such endeavours?
- Martina Darmanin, President, European Students' Union
 - Éric Fassin, Professor, University Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis, France
 - Iain Gillespie, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Dundee, United Kingdom
 - Chaired by Anne Lequy, Rector, Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, Germany and EUA Board member
- 19.00-22.30 Networking Reception and Gala Dinner

Friday, 29 April

- 09.30-11.00 **Breakout Sessions, Round II**

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-12.45 **Plenary Session III: Values in global cooperation**

Higher education and research thrive on collaboration and universities are therefore by nature collaborative entities. The Covid-19 pandemic, during which universities around the world remained connected in order to find solutions to a shared challenge, is but the latest occasion that demonstrated this. Universities' choice of partners is often guided by their strategic objectives as well as their values, and this latter factor becomes particularly central when considering partnerships around the globe. This session will discuss the mechanisms universities have in place to engage in partnerships that bring true added value, and the role values play in these mechanisms.

- Peter-André Alt, President, German Rectors' Conference
- Carsten A. Holz, Professor, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Sijbolt Noorda, President Emeritus, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Chaired by Ivanka Popović, Professor, University of Belgrade, Serbia and
EUA Board member

12.45-13.00 **Conference closing and invitation to the 2023 EUA Annual Conference**

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.30 **EUA Hot Topic Session: Leadership for autonomous universities**

This session will provide a snapshot of the latest developments in university autonomy throughout Europe, as EUA prepares to launch its renewed Autonomy Scorecard. The discussion will focus on the role of leadership in governance models. It will also be a chance to reflect on what might be fit-for-purpose in governance in the years to come.

- Marita Hilliges, Secretary General, Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions
- Kerstin Mey, President, University of Limerick, Ireland
- Marcin Pałys, Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland
- Chaired by Thomas Estermann, Director of Governance, Funding and Public Policy Development, EUA