



EUA EXPERTS CONFERENCE

Towards Financially Sustainable European Higher Education Institutions

Fondation Universitaire Bruxelles, Belgium

7 – 8 February 2008

Meeting the challenge of funding the universities of the future

In an increasingly competitive environment Europe's Higher Education Institutions must find a way to become financially sustainable. This high level conference promises to unite experts from across Europe to identify the key elements necessary for financial survival in the future. Policy makers, institutional leaders and researchers on the topic will explore the links between funding and autonomy, accountability and governance structures and aim to pinpoint the key features of sound costing systems.

“No discussion on modernising higher education can ignore the question of funding”
(Ján Figel'—Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture, and Youth, June 2007)

The conference will source information from EUA's current funding project, supported by the European Commission DG Education and Culture, with the aim to collect examples of good practice in cost accounting with specific emphasis on full cost development. To access key data EUA has selected a group of European universities to compare their income and expenditure flows, accounting systems, legal frameworks and progress towards full cost accounting.

The data collected so far by the EUA reflects the huge diversity of public funding mechanisms across Europe and demonstrates the importance of more comprehensive mapping of public funding models and supplementary income streams.

Conference goals

On the basis of key-note presentations, case studies from across Europe and expert sessions, the goals of the Conference will be to:

- Raise awareness of funding and financing issues.
- Identify the relationship between costing/funding and accountability, governance structures and the degree of university autonomy.
- Discuss questions of general accounting principles, comparability, costing and pricing and financial management.
- Share first findings of the EUA funding project and compare this with other findings.

Audience: The conference will be of interest for institutional leaders: rectors, vice rectors, heads of administration, finance officers, policy makers, researchers and other experts on the topic

This event is part of EUA's Funding project which is supported by the European Commission.

Please note there will be no registration fee but conference participants are expected to contribute to the sharing of knowledge in order to achieve the conference goals. This event has a limited capacity of 120 people.

Registration and detailed information at: www.eua.be

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Speakers

Christina Ullenius

EUA Vice president

Ján Figel'

Commissioner Education, Training, Culture and Youth

Sir Howard Newby,

Vice Chancellor University of the West of England

Tadeusz Luty

Rector, Wroclaw University of Technology, Poland and President, Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland

Hans-Ulrich Küpper

Bavarian State Institute for Higher Education Research and Planning and LMU Munich

Gunnar Hökmark

Member of the European Parliament

Expert Sessions

Autonomy, Funding and accountability

Franz Strehl, Institute of Strategic Management, University Linz

This group will explore:

- The effects that funding systems have on higher education systems with special respect to financial strategies
- The relationship between an increase of financial autonomy (autonomous financial management of budget, including estates and staff) and accountability in HEIs.
- The relationship between diverse modes of governance with a view to determining the ones which engender optimal financial management.

Drivers, benefits and barriers of change

Kåre Bremer, Rector University of Stockholm

This group will identify the essential elements which enable a university to become financially sustainable and analyse the potential benefits and barriers in this process.

Accounting comparisons and benchmarking of performance

Pieter-Jan Aartsen, Universiteit van Amsterdam

This group will examine the fundamental conditions and factors which enable universities to implement costing systems. Comparing the first findings of the EUA funding project with other findings, this group will explore necessary steps involved in establishing "recommended accounting practice for European higher education".

Panel Discussion

- **Giuseppe Silvestri**, Rector University of Palermo and Conference of Rectors Italy (CRUI)
- **Christina Ullenius**, EUA Vice president
- **Howard Newby**, Vice Chancellor University of the West of England
- **Tadeusz Luty**, President, Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland and Rector Wroclaw University of Technology
- **Kåre Bremer**, Vice-Chancellor University of Stockholm

Conclusions and Outlook

Key findings of the EUA funding project and conference