I. The European University Association (EUA) - Structure and Mission -

- The largest and most comprehensive body representing universities across 47 European countries
- Members are 34 national Rectors’ Conferences, over 800 individual universities and also many university networks
- EUA’s mission is to promote
  - ‘a coherent European system of higher education and research’,
  - ‘partnership between Europe and the rest of the world’
II. The European Context

- Decision making for HE remains at national/regional level, but in the context of European frameworks (e.g. Bologna process)
- More responsibility at EU level for research & innovation (ERA and EU framework programmes)
- A second decade of change and reform of higher education is underway at European & national level – focus on modernisation and internationalisation, e.g.
  - Greater access and more societal relevance in response to aging populations & economic crisis
  - Rankings and a stress on ‘world class institutions in response to global competition
Funding Challenges:
- On average ¾ of university funding comes from public sources
- The map shows the trends in public funding over the period 2008-2012
Youth unemployment and EU goal for 2020 of having 40% of the (30-34) year olds qualified at HE level.
III. EUA core activities and concrete examples

- Common policies for the European Higher Education and Research Areas
  - Teaching & learning, Research & Innovation, Governance & Funding, Quality assurance, Internationalisation

- Comparative cross-system research and analysis
  - Studies and reports analysing trends in key areas for universities

- Support to institutional development & internationalisation
  - Exchange of good practice > joint European and international projects and events involving members

- Independently managed à la carte member services
  - Institutional Evaluation Programme (EUA-IEP)
  - Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE)
EUA activities
1. Common Policies - Higher Education

- Advocacy: influencing the form and content of the new EU programmes – ERASMUS for ALL
- Representing universities in a broad range of Bologna working groups & ‘EC ‘peer learning activities’ - growing alignment Bologna actions/EC priorities
- Working with members through projects on strategic topics for universities: 3 examples, 2011/2012, reports published
  - Engaging in Lifelong Learning (SIRUS)
  - Mobility: Closing the gap between policy and practice (Maunimo)
  - Tracking Learners’ and Graduates Progression Paths (Track-It)
2. Research and Innovation

- Strengthening the role and recognition of universities as key European ‘research performing organisations’
  - Range of policy positions on Horizon 2020 -content, funding, and the crucial Rules of Participation, especially the cost models
  - **EUA Memorandum of Understanding** with the Research Commissioner committing EUA to working with members to advance the ERA
- Focus on doctoral programmes and young researchers
  - EUA Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) with over 200 members
  - A range of projects on different aspects of doctoral education including collaborative research university/enterprise
3. Quality Assurance and Evaluation

- European Ministers of Education agreed early in the Bologna process that the core responsibility for quality lies with HEIs.
- EUA is closely involved in QA at policy level & with members:
  - As one of the key actors responsible for the European QA framework, along with Quality Agencies (ENQA), Students (ESU), & professionally oriented HEIs (EURASHE).
  - Through working on the ongoing revision of the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality in the EHEA (ESGs).
  - As a founding member of the European Register of QA agencies (EQAR).
  - Implementing joint projects focused on quality, incl. presently a TEMPUS project and one focusing on the impact of rankings on HEIs.
4. Autonomy, Governance and Funding

- EUA work on autonomy and funding is crucial as these are the cornerstones underpinning the development of universities and systems across Europe.
- EUA reports on trends in and changing modes of public funding across Europe, and investigates the complex financial management challenges for universities faced with increasing numbers of funding sources.
- EUA collects data and has published widely on that state of university autonomy in Europe, looking at academic, organisational, staff and funding autonomy.
5. Internationalisation

- Affects all that EUA does as universities’ global engagement increases, e.g. Student recruitment, addressing the global grand challenges etc..

- Strategic approaches to EU internationalisation are being developed by both the education and the research directorates of the EC; Bologna already has a global strategy.

- EUA: focus on global dialogue and on project work with all regions, some examples:
  - Europe-Africa Quality Connect
  - Co-operation on Doctoral education between Africa, Asia, LA and Europe
  - ALFA PUENTES – cooperation Europe/Latin America
Studies

- Collaborative Doctoral Education: University-Industry Partnerships for Enhancing Knowledge Exchange
- Financially Sustainable Universities II: European Universities Diversifying Income Streams
- Global University Rankings and their Impact
- University Autonomy in Europe II - The Scorecard
For more information on the latest EUA activities and events visit:

www.eua.be
System Consolidation and Networking

- System consolidation and mergers
  - bottom-up & top down - in response to economic downturn, international competitiveness,
  - the importance of universities to society and the economy
  - build ‘world class universities’ (‘excellence initiatives‘)
  - No real evidence of effectiveness until now

- More partners and different partners
  - Industry and local/regional/national authorities
  - Research organisations
  - Local/regional HE partners – universities and colleges
  - International HE partners
Internationalisation/Global engagement

- Rapid development of intra-European mobility & joint programmes > 25 years of EU funding thro’ ERASMUS
  - 20% EU benchmark for 2020
- New approaches, the focus is shifting:
  - Student recruitment seen as a lucrative ‘growth business’ - Europe has 1.5 Mio+ non European students
  - Graduate students are the main targets
  - Strategic approaches are being developed by HEIs & governments
  - Fast growing research collaborations and institutional networking, strong focus on doctoral programmes and young researchers
  - Discussion is just beginning in Europe on new delivery mechanisms