

Plenary Session 5 - A Vision for the Future of S&T in Europe

Professor Georg Winckler
President
European University Association

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Key Elements of the Vision: Modern and Open Institutions

- “Modern and Open” Universities recognised as key stakeholders in achieving the future successful development of S & T in Europe. EUA welcomes this clear recognition of universities stated in the ERA Green Paper.
- “Modern”: Modernisation agenda, EC Communication of 10 May 2006.
- “Open”: to collaboration with external partners, regional and international; readiness to share knowledge.

Key Elements of the Vision: Institutional Autonomy

- University Autonomy in the management of its research mission. Principles of University autonomy should cover all aspects of the university's functions – academic, organisational, financial and recruitment and staffing matters.
- No micro-management by governments.

Key Elements of the Vision: Funding

- “Modernisation Agenda for Universities” states the need to reduce the funding gap by 2015 through devoting at least 2% of GDP to higher education institutions.
- More public funding of research on a competitive basis. Strengthen the role and resources of the European Research Council and support well-funded competitive schemes at the national level to maintain and strengthen capacity in established and new fields.

Key Elements of the Vision: Diversity of Missions

- Promote incentive mechanisms for diversified missions of universities.
- Link the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area, particularly in relation to achieving a sufficient flow and supply of researchers and other professionals.

Key Elements of the Vision: Attractiveness of Research Careers in Europe

- Doctoral Reform and Improving the Attractiveness of Research Careers in Academic and Non-academic sectors. Continued Growth of Doctoral and graduate schools with financial support from public and private sources.
- Research, Knowledge Transfer and Innovation. University creative research environments where talented researchers are able to balance interests to pursue fundamental research and explore collaborations with external partners.

Requirement Needed Now to Achieve this Vision

- Innovative Use of the Open Method of Coordination – Involving Universities – on achieving institutional autonomy, the 2% GNP target for Higher Education Institutions and attractiveness of research careers.
- Universities and external stakeholders should be involved in shaping the policy dialogue concerning the use of EU Structural funds for S & T purposes and creating greater synergy across European and national RTD policies and funding.