

Media Invitation

Brussels, 24 January 2017

EUA Annual Conference 2017 Autonomy and freedom: The future sustainability of universities (6-7 April, Bergen, Norway)

The European University Association (EUA) is pleased to invite you to its 2017 Annual Conference, “**Autonomy and freedom: The future sustainability of universities**”, hosted by the University of Bergen in Norway from 6 to 7 April 2017.

The Conference will focus on how university autonomy and academic freedom are linked to addressing the current political, economic and societal challenges in Europe. EUA has become one of the most important actors on these topics through its numerous conferences, meetings and studies, as well as through its [Autonomy Scorecard](#). A full update of the Scorecard will be launched at the Annual Conference, providing the backdrop for the discussion and pointing to areas of progress and tension.

The conference will bring together high-level institutional leaders, policy makers and stakeholders to share their experiences and discuss the impact of recent change on university governance, funding, human resources and academic matters, as well as the appropriate forms of accountability in relation to autonomy and freedom.

Torbjørn Røe Isaksen, the Norwegian Minister of Education and Research will open the event with an address on the importance of developing enabling frameworks in order for universities to tackle the ever more pressing challenges that Europe is facing. The discussion will also look at how autonomy creates the conditions for value-driven university activities.

In addition, a special “Hot Topic” session will highlight the experiences of universities in welcoming refugee students and researchers. In response to the crisis, European universities have launched hundreds of initiatives in order to assist and integrate refugees. This session is closely linked to [EUA’s Refugees Welcome Map](#), which showcases the extensive work the university community is doing to aid students and scholars who have been displaced.

Please note that **EUA will waive conference fees for journalists**. Prior registration is necessary as the number of places is limited. Unfortunately EUA cannot pay accommodation or travel costs for this event.

To register and for more information please contact:

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For more details or to view the preliminary programme, [please visit the conference webpage](#).

Follow the event on Twitter under #EUA2017Bergen.

The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities in 47 European countries and 33 national rectors’ conferences (NRCs). The EUA Council is made up of the president, the members of the Board, and of the presidents of all of Europe’s NRCs. EUA works closely with its members to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard.