



Brexit and European Higher Education

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Association

Hearing at European Parliament

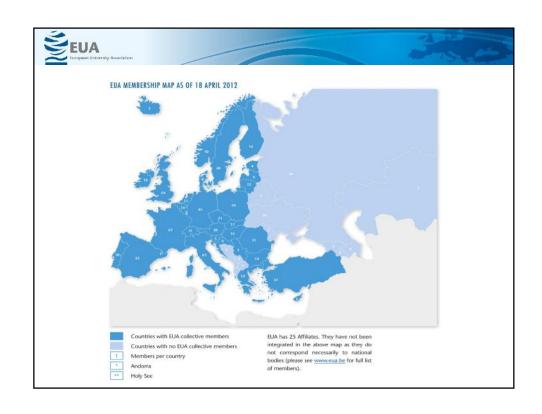
21 June 2017



Brief Profile of EUA

- Established in 2001
- Non-governmental membership organisation
- 850 individual university members
- 34 National Rectors' Conferences Members
- 47 countries
- Independent voice for the university sector







EUA's position on Brexit

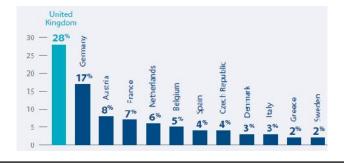
- UK universities will always be part of the European family (24 June)
- "we will work together to ensure that the longstanding research and exchange relationships between Europe's universities continue"
 - ✓ statement signed by 24 Rectors' Conferences and EUA President 22

 July
- Association agreements for Erasmus and FP are a possible solution – EUA Fact sheet 8 September
- UK participation in research collaboration and student mobility are central for Europe as a whole – EUA Fact sheet 1 December



Student mobility - the immediate issue

- The UK is by far the most popular destination for mobile students in the EU
- Degree mobility and credit mobility exceeds 200,000 students – more than a quarter of the total





Student mobility

- Risk of administrative obstacles (UK side)
 - ✓ Cap on international students
 - ✓ Expensive, cumbersome procedures
- Financial obstacles (UK side)
 - ✓ No access to UK loans and domestic fees
- EU26 (DK not part) keeps lenient access through the directive for students and researchers (Directive 2016/801)
- English-language provision is growing fast
- However, EU27 will have a logistical challenge in accommodating all students that want to be mobile



Erasmus

- Legally straightforward UK can be a programme country
- Small print
 - $\checkmark\,$ If Erasmus continues to be managed by national agencies EU needs to control these offices through ...
 - ✓ EC supervision
 - ✓ OLAF
 - ✓ Court of Auditors
 - $\checkmark \; \dots$ in a much more stringent way than is the case with the centrally managed H2020



Citizens' rights

Access to UK HE

- ✓ Highly complex dependent on what kind of Brexit (EEA-like, 'hard Brexit')
- ✓ Current guidelines aim for equal access for EU citizens and their children resident in the UK until the leave date (March 2019?)
- It would be beneficial for all parties to retain equal access to HE beyond 2019, but there is no straight legal road to this (neither on the EU side or on the UK side)
- ✓ Depends on political decision

Recognition

- \checkmark Recognition of professional qualifications would also be part of citizens' rights according to the guidelines
- ✓ How big a problem is this? Little likelihood to withdraw already given recognition
- ✓ Recognition of academic qualifications not directly part of Brexit, but part of EHEA (though the National Academic Recognition Information Centres – NARICs are related to the EU)



Disentangling EU and EHEA for the UK

EHEA

- ✓ Formally not part of Brexit
- ✓ However parts are connected to the EU: ECTS, NARIC (not ENIC)
- ✓ ... or have parallel EU elements: EQF

ET2020

- ✓ Based on OMC formally EFTA+candidate countries
- ✓ Current mandate lasts until 2018 could be reformulated to include UK after 2019
- ✓ Would keep the UK as part of the European HE community
- ✓ Would give the UK a way to 'be in the loop' as the are no longer in Council or Parliament
- ✓ Question of political will
- Points at overall question about UK participation in OMC



Last word

 The interrelation between EU, OMC, and intergovernmental structures makes higher education very complicated

