



# An agenda for modernising higher education in Europe

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# An EU agenda for the modernisation of higher education



- **Commission** Communication & Staff Working Document (20 Sept 2011)  
+ Action Plan for taking forward initiatives
- **Council** Conclusions MHE (28-29 Nov 2011)
- Opinions of European **Parliament, CoR, EESC** (early 2012)
- Proposals for EU post 2013 **programmes**



## An EU agenda for the modernisation of higher education

### The 3 big messages:

- **Quantity**: Europe needs more graduates (40% Europe 2020 target)
- **Quality**: quantity must go hand in hand with quality and relevance, employability
- Higher education's contribution to **social and economic growth**



# Five key policy messages for Member States and Higher Education Institutions



## I. Increase attainment levels

in line with Europe 2020 agreed national targets,  
including among underrepresented

- Progression routes and recognition of prior learning and experience
- Outreach to underrepresented groups, guidance and targeted financial support
- Reduce drop-out



## II. Improve quality and relevance

- Graduate employability
- Tailoring learning modes to a diverse student body
- Motivating and rewarding excellent teachers
- Programmes informed by and adapted to labour market needs



### III. Quality through mobility & international co-operation

- Learning mobility windows and moving between programmes
- Efficient recognition of studies abroad
- Improving access & employment for non-EU students and researchers
- 20% mobility benchmark



## IV. Education, research & innovation for excellence and regional development

- Stimulating entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills + environments
- Encouraging partnership and co-operation with business
- Involvement of HE institutions in regional development plans





## V. Governance and Funding to support strategic choices

- Sufficient, efficient and well-targeted funding
- Empowering institutions to play to their strengths



# EU-level Action



## I. Improving the evidence base to support policy-making and increase transparency

- 'U-Multirank'
- Better data mobility and employment outcomes and matching skills + jobs
- Analysis and peer learning on funding approaches
- High level group to look at key topics for modernising HE – starting with 'excellence in teaching' in 2012



## II. Promoting learning mobility & cross-border co-operation

- 'Erasmus Masters' student loan guarantee
- Strengthened ECTS
- Analysis of student mobility flows & franchise education
- European Framework for Research Careers (RTD)



## III. Innovation, job creation and employability

- EIT - Strategic Innovation Agenda
- Knowledge Alliances - stronger interaction universities and business
- Marie Curie European Industrial PhD
- Quality framework for traineeships (EMPL)



## IV. Supporting Internationalisation of HE

- Strategy for the Internationalisation of HE
- Promoting the EU as a study and research destination
- Policy dialogue with partners beyond the EU
- Facilitating mobility and exchanges of students and researchers with countries outside the EU
- Amendments to Student & researchers Directives (MARKT)
- Performance Scorecard for Research and Innovation (RTD)



## V. Strengthening complementarity between EU funding programmes

- Erasmus for All:  
Learning Mobility; Institutional Co-operation; Policy support
- Horizon 2020 – Research & Innovation
- Cohesion Policy – ERDF & ESF



## Where to find out more

### **Communication and Staff Working Document**

+ press release, questions and answers etc

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news3049\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news3049_en.htm)

### **EU Higher Education Policy**

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc62\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc62_en.htm)

### **Studies and research**

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc3039\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc3039_en.htm)

### **‘Phone a friend’**

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Thank you

