Public consultation on a renewed Modernisation Agenda for Higher Education in the European Union

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

0. Information about respondents

* Are you answering this survey as a) as an individual or b) as a representative of an organisation?

○ As an individual
◉ As a representative of an organisation

Please indicate which type of organisation you represent

○ A higher education or research institution or representative body of higher education and research institutions
○ An educational establishment outside the higher education sector
○ A student union or other student representative organisation
○ A public administration
○ A social partner organisation
◉ A non-governmental organisation not covered by the above
○ Other

* Is your organisation registered in the Transparency Register of the European Commission and the European Parliament?
If you are answering this questionnaire as an organisation, please register in the Transparency Register. If your organisation/institution responds without being registered, the Commission will consider its input as that of an individual and will publish it as such.

◉ Yes
○ No

* What is the name of the organisation you represent?

Text of 1 to 100 characters will be accepted

European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS)

* In which country do you live or is your organisation located?

- ○ Austria
- ◉ Belgium
- ○ Bulgaria
- ○ Croatia
- ○ Cyprus
- ○ The Czech Republic
- ○ Denmark
- ○ Estonia
- ○ Finland
- ○ former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- ○ France
- ○ Germany
- ○ Greece
- ○ Hungary
- ○ Iceland
- ○ Italy
- ○ Ireland
- ○ Latvia
- ○ Liechtenstein
- ○ Lithuania
- ○ Luxembourg
- ○ Malta
- ○ Norway
- ○ The Netherlands
- ○ Poland
- ○ Portugal
- ○ Romania
- ○ Slovakia
- ○ Slovenia
- ○ Spain
- ○ Sweden
- ○ Switzerland
- ○ Turkey
- ○ The United Kingdom
- ○ Other

Please specify

1. The State of Higher Education Systems in Europe

This question is designed to gather your views about the current state of higher education systems in Europe, including possible challenges. Please indicate whether you wish to comment on the state of higher education in:

- ○ A specific European country you know well
- ● The EU in general

1.1 Access and completion in higher education

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree *in general* with the following statements about access and completion in higher education in the country you have selected or in the EU in general.

	Disagree strongly	Disagree to some extent	Agree to some extent	Agree strongly	No opinion
*My country / the EU needs more people with higher education than is currently the case	○	○	○	●	○
*Too many people drop out of their higher education studies without finishing	○	○	●	○	○
*Prospective students are supported well to make informed choices about what to study	○	●	○	○	○
*There is good cooperation between higher education and secondary schools in the area of study and career guidance	○	○	●	○	○
*Too few students study science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects	○	○	●	○	○
*Too few students study professionally oriented courses with a direct link to a particular profession	○	○	○	●	○

*People with talent and interest can go into higher education irrespective of their own financial resources	○	●	○	○	○

1.2 Teaching and learning in higher education

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree *in general* with the following statements about teaching and learning in higher education in the country you have selected or in the EU in general.

	Disagree strongly	Disagree to some extent	Agree to some extent	Agree strongly	No opinion
*The quality of teaching in higher education is generally high	○	○	●	○	○
*Students receive adequate academic guidance during their studies	○	○	●	○	○
*Teaching staff in higher education institutions receive the training they need to teach well	○	●	○	○	○
*Good teaching in higher education institutions is rewarded in an adequate way	●	○	○	○	○
*Technology is being used effectively to improve teaching and learning	○	●	○	○	○
*Students have enough opportunities to gain relevant work-related experience during their studies	●	○	○	○	○
*Cooperation with employers in the design and delivery of					

courses is sufficiently developed	◉	○	○	○	○
*Students have enough possibilities to study or train abroad as part of their studies	○	○	◉	○	○
*State-of-the-art research results are regularly embedded into higher education courses	○	◉	○	○	○
*A well-balanced range of academic and professionally oriented study programmes is available	○	◉	○	○	○

1.3 Preparing students for the future

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree *in general* with the following statements about how higher education in the country you have selected or in the EU in general prepares students for the future.

	Disagree strongly	Disagree to some extent	Agree to some extent	Agree strongly	No opinion
*Higher education courses equip students with the kinds of knowledge and skills that are needed in the labour market	○	○	●	○	○
*Higher education courses are effective at helping students to develop "soft skills" like communication, problem-solving and working in teams	○	●	○	○	○
*Higher education courses encourage students to be creative and innovative	○	●	○	○	○
*The people designing higher education courses are sufficiently aware of likely skills needs in the labour market	○	●	○	○	○

*There is a good match between the supply of higher education graduates and the knowledge and skills the economy needs	○	◉	○	○	○
*Higher education courses help prepare students to contribute actively to society	○	◉	○	○	○
*Higher education courses are effective at helping students to develop develop digital skills and digital literacy	○	○	◉	○	○

1.4 Research and innovation in higher education institutions

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree *in general* with the following statements about research and innovation in the higher education system(s) in the country you have selected or in the EU in general.

	Disagree strongly	Disagree to some extent	Agree to some extent	Agree strongly	No opinion
*Researchers, including doctoral candidates, are recognised as professional members of staff	○	◉	○	○	○
*Researchers receive the support that they need from their institutions to reach their potential	○	◉	○	○	○
*The value of inter-disciplinary research is appropriately recognised and rewarded	○	◉	○	○	○
*Cooperation between higher education institutions and businesses in applied research and innovation is sufficiently developed	◉	○	○	○	○
*Higher education institutions play a strong role in contributing to innovation at regional and national level	○	○	◉	○	○

1.5 Internationalisation of higher education

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree *in general* with the following statements about the internationalisation of the higher education system(s) in the country you have selected or in the EU in general.

	Disagree strongly	Disagree to some extent	Agree to some extent	Agree strongly	No opinion

	Disagree strongly	Disagree to some extent	Agree to some extent	Agree strongly	No opinion
*There are enough staff in higher education with international experience	○	○	◉	○	○
*The international experience of staff members is viewed as an asset	○	○	◉	○	○
*The presence of foreign students is positive for higher education courses	○	○	○	◉	○
*There are enough foreign students in higher education	○	◉	○	○	○
*Recognition of qualifications from abroad works well	○	◉	○	○	○

1.6 Funding and governance of higher education

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree *in general* with the following statements about funding and governance in the higher education system(s) in the country you have selected or in the EU in general.

	Disagree strongly	Disagree to some extent	Agree to some extent	Agree strongly	No opinion
*Higher education institutions receive enough funding overall for them to fulfil their missions effectively	◉	○	○	○	○
*Higher education institutions have enough freedom to make decisions about their strategy and activities	○	○	○	◉	○

*Quality assurance of teaching and learning in higher education is well organised and effective	○	◉	○	○	○
*The way research is funded rewards quality	○	○	◉	○	○
*The way teaching is funded rewards quality	○	◉	○	○	○

1.7 General assessment

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree *in general* with the following general statements about the higher education system(s) in the country you have selected or in the EU in general.

	Disagree strongly	Disagree to some extent	Agree to some extent	Agree strongly	No opinion
*The higher education system(s) is (are) functioning well	○	◉	○	○	○
*Higher education receives adequate attention in government policy	◉	○	○	○	○

2. Priorities for change

This question focuses on things you would like to see *change* in higher education systems and what the priorities should be for those in charge of higher education systems (in particular higher education institution leadership and government). For each of the statements about future priorities below, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree.

Those in charge of higher education should…

	Disagree strongly	Disagree to some extent	Agree to some extent	Agree strongly	No opinion

	1	2	3	4	5
*…do more to widen access to higher education to more groups of society	○	○	●	○	○
*…do more to steer students to study fields where there is strong labour market demand	○	○	●	○	○
*…steer students away from courses with no clear link to the labour market	○	○	●	○	○
*…make higher education courses more rigorous in terms of academic content	○	○	●	○	○
*…ensure higher education courses focus more on developing "soft skills" like communication, creativity and working in teams	○	○	●	○	○
*…encourage more inter-disciplinary courses	○	○	●	○	○
*…improve the training available to teaching staff in higher education	○	○	●	○	○
*…attract more international staff and researchers to institutions	○	○	○	●	○
*… do more to support short-term mobility abroad in higher education courses	○	○	○	●	○
*…do more to increase cooperation between higher education and business in design and provision of courses	○	○	○	●	○

*…provide more opportunities for students to gain work experience during their studies	○	○	○	●	○
*…make work experience a compulsory part of all higher education courses	○	○	●	○	○
*…develop more cooperation between higher education and business in the area of product and service innovation	○	○	○	●	○
*…support more international cooperation between higher education institutions	○	○	○	●	○
*...go further in involving students in research	○	○	●	○	○
*…increase the availability of professionally oriented programmes	○	○	●	○	○
*…make institutional funding more dependent on the results they achieve	○	○	●	○	○
*...do more to help students develop their digital skills and digital literacy	○	○	●	○	○

3. What should the EU do?

The Treaties stipulate that the EU should support Member States to develop their higher education systems, and encourage cooperation and mobility of individuals across borders. Please indicate how useful you think it would be for the EU to undertake the types of activity listed below.

	Not at all useful	Moderately useful	Very useful	No opinion

*Collect comparable information on higher education in the EU	○	○	◉	○
*Provide information about future skills needs	○	○	◉	○
*Improve the way we measure how well national higher education systems perform	○	○	◉	○
*Examine how EU higher education graduates move into the labour market and their career development	○	○	◉	○
*Support more cooperation between governments and higher education institutions to widen access to higher education	○	◉	○	○
*Support more cooperation between governments and higher education institutions to reduce drop-out from higher education	○	◉	○	○
*Support more cooperation between governments and higher education institutions to improve the labour market and societal relevance of higher education courses	○	○	◉	○
*Support more cooperation between governments and higher education institutions to develop links between higher education institutions and business	○	○	◉	○
*Support more cooperation between governments and higher education institutions to improve higher education's contribution to innovation	○	◉	○	○
*Improve recognition of qualifications and learning credits gained abroad	○	○	◉	○

*Support more international mobility for higher education students	◎	◎	◉	◎
*Support more international mobility for higher education teaching staff	◎	◎	◉	◎
*Support more international mobility for researchers	◎	◎	◉	◎

Do you have particular suggestions about what the EU should do to help improve higher education systems in Europe? If so, please say briefly what these are.

2400 character(s) maximum

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The close link between research and teaching in some institutions means that
some skills of high importance to industry are poorly covered in undergraduate
courses because they do not attract research funding. Many recent graduates
have received little training in analytical chemistry, yet the job market for
analysts is extremely healthy.

Universities enjoy a large degree of autonomy concerning what they teach and
how they teach it. The EU should highlight areas where academia is not serving
the needs of industry as well as it could.

More support for trans-national quality assurance for teaching and learning is
needed.
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Contact

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