

# ACCESS TO SUCCESS

Fostering trust and exchange  
between Europe and Africa

# Access to Success: Fostering trust and exchange between Europe and Africa

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With support of the Erasmus Mundus  
Programme of the European Commission

## The Project in brief

- Erasmus Mundus Action 4 project: Enhancing the 'attractiveness' of European higher education
- raising awareness on higher education access and retention issues in Africa and Europe
- inter-institutional mobility and cooperation between Europe and Africa, in particular with regards to student and staff mobility schemes and capacity building partnerships
- what higher education institutions, governments and donor agencies can do
- representatives (senior leadership, faculty) and students from African and European universities, representatives of governments and donor agencies.
- Nov. 2008 – Oct. 2010

## The partner consortium

- Association of African Universities (AAU)
- Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions
- European Access Network (EAN)
- European Student's Union (ESU)
- Flemish Interuniversity Council VLIR-
- European University Association (EUA)





# VLIR-UOS

Flemish Interuniversity Council  
University Development Cooperation



## The organisation

### Two separate units within VLIR

Rectors' conference of the six Flemish universities established in 1976



**VLIR** Vlaamse  
Interuniversitaire Raad

### General secretariat of VLIR

- Higher education, with special focus on quality assessment
- Quality assessment in research
- Advisory body to the universities as well as to the respective authorities responsible for higher education and research

### VLIR-UOS secretariat

- University cooperation for development
- Relation with Directorate General for Development Cooperation



## The organisation

### Members and mission

Mission:

To support the universities in the South to fulfill their role as **actors in the development** of their region and country (education, research and service to society) *through* cooperation with the Flemish universities and university colleges (= non-university higher education institutions).



Vrije Universiteit Brussel





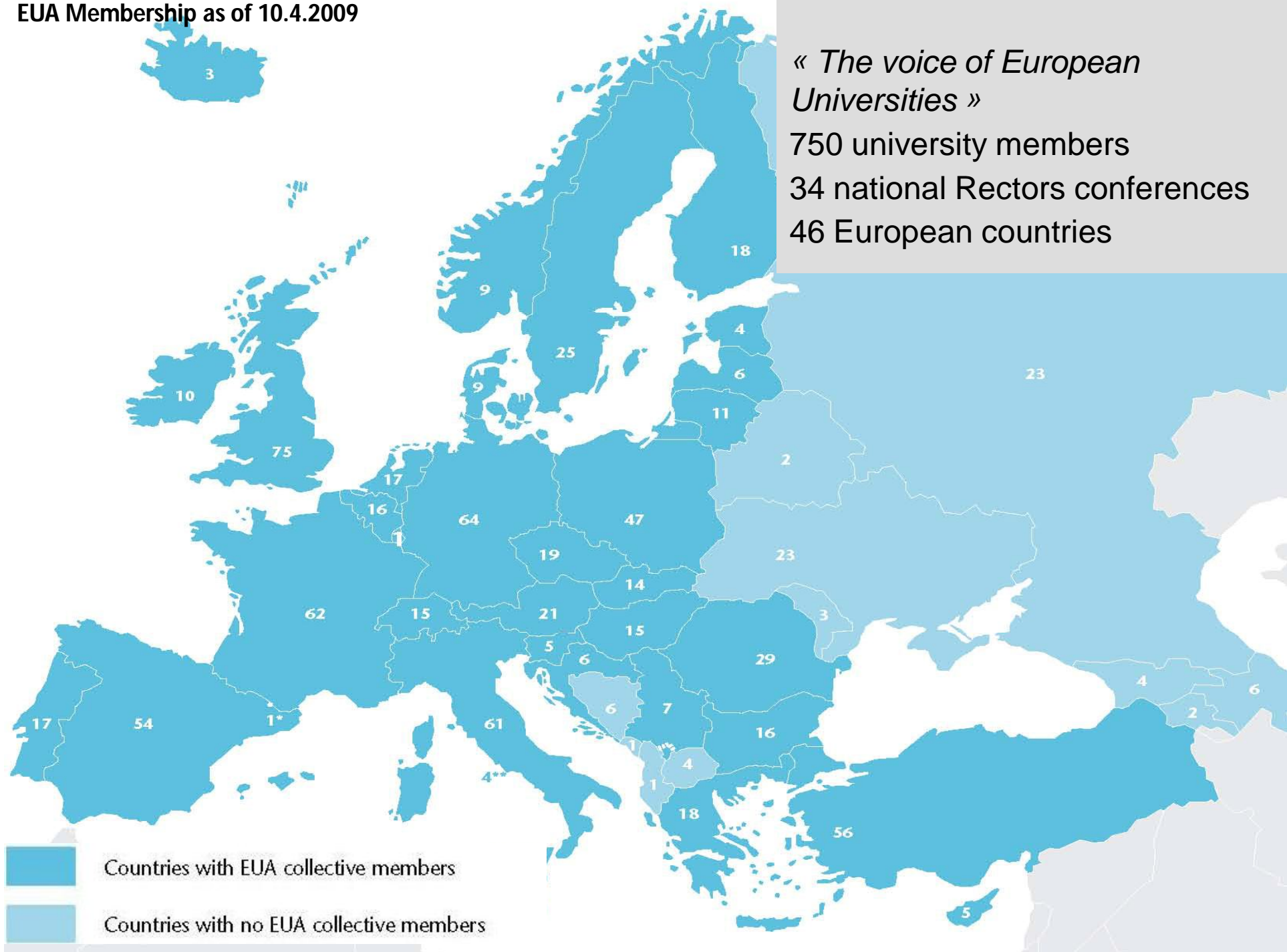
## European University Association (EUA)



*13, Rue d'Egmont,  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
[www.eua.be](http://www.eua.be)*

# EUA Membership as of 10.4.2009

« *The voice of European Universities* »  
750 university members  
34 national Rectors conferences  
46 European countries

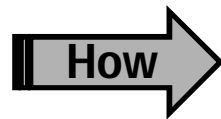


## EUA's Mission

- Represent the interests of European Universities
- Promote coherence in European higher education and research
- Encourage and facilitate cooperation and exchange – within Europe, and beyond
- through interregional dialogue and cooperation
- Consultative member of the Bologna process
- On all boards of the European Union DG Research

## How EUA works

### Strengthen the European Universities



1. Institutional development and dissemination of good practices
2. knowledge - information
3. Influence policy development at European Level

### Example: Bologna Process

- involved in the Ministerial meetings + all working groups
- E4: cooperation with ESU, ENQA, EURASHE
- TRENDS report – survey among 800 universities on reform implementation
- Projects: Quality Culture, SIRUS project on LLL
- Dialogue and cooperation with members and partners
- Public policy statements, advocay etc.

## Access to Success: Rationale

- 1) Examine institutional practice and policies regarding access , retention and mobility in Europe and in Africa
- 2) Use the issue as a base for dialogue between European and African universities: identify mutual priorities, critical issues
- 3) Recommendations:
  - Universities: best practices
  - Governments + donor organisations

## Phase 1: Survey (2008/2009)

- Reader
- 2 institutional surveys (Africa and Europe)
  - Desk research
  - General Institutional policies on access and retention and featured case studies/good practice
  - 60 questionnaire in Europe, 40 in Africa
  - 2 Articles : Oyevole Olusola, Zaid Negash, Hanne Smidt
  - Institutional case studies
- 2 student focus groups
  - Student views on access and retention
  - Stockholm, Sweden 15 October
  - Addis Abba, 17 Nov.

## Phase 2: Discussion and dissemination (2009/10)

- **3 workshops** – small, interactive
- an **outcome report** comprising of case studies, thematic articles, survey results, events
- a **white paper** targeted towards governments and donors, on supporting university partnership in development cooperation
- Final **policy conference** in Brussels: Larger event addressed at government/donor organisations

# Events schedule

- **Access and retention**

17-20 November 2009 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- **Towards a coordinated vision of Europe-Africa  
higher education partnerships: Supporting  
Institutional capacity building in Africa**

February 2010 Oslo, Norway

- **Mobility between Africa and Europe**

Accra, Ghana, 3-4 May 2010

- **Outcome conference**

September 2010 Brussels, Belgium

## Goals of the workshop

- Bring universities together
- Exchange of best practice regarding access strategies at institutional level
- Institutional and national policy development
- Mutually understanding of specific HE challenges (institutional, national, regional context)
- Sensitivity in fostering collaboration and exchange

## Expected workshop outcome

- Thursday afternoon: Reflections/ observations of the General Rapporteur
- Follow-up: all powerpoints + reader available at [www.accesstosuccess-africa.eu](http://www.accesstosuccess-africa.eu)
- Contribution to White paper
- Contribution to Outcome Report
- Beyond?