

# Transnational mobility in the European Higher Education Area

DAAD Seminar on  
« Transnational mobility in bachelor and  
master programmes »

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## I. Introduction to EUA

- Membership organisation of 850 members: universities and national rectors' conferences in 46 countries
- Mission: To ensure that universities have the means to fulfill their three-fold public mission (research, teaching and service to society)
- Activities: Policy development, projects, research and publication
- Active in EU and in a wider Europe: Unique overview of different processes that take place at different levels

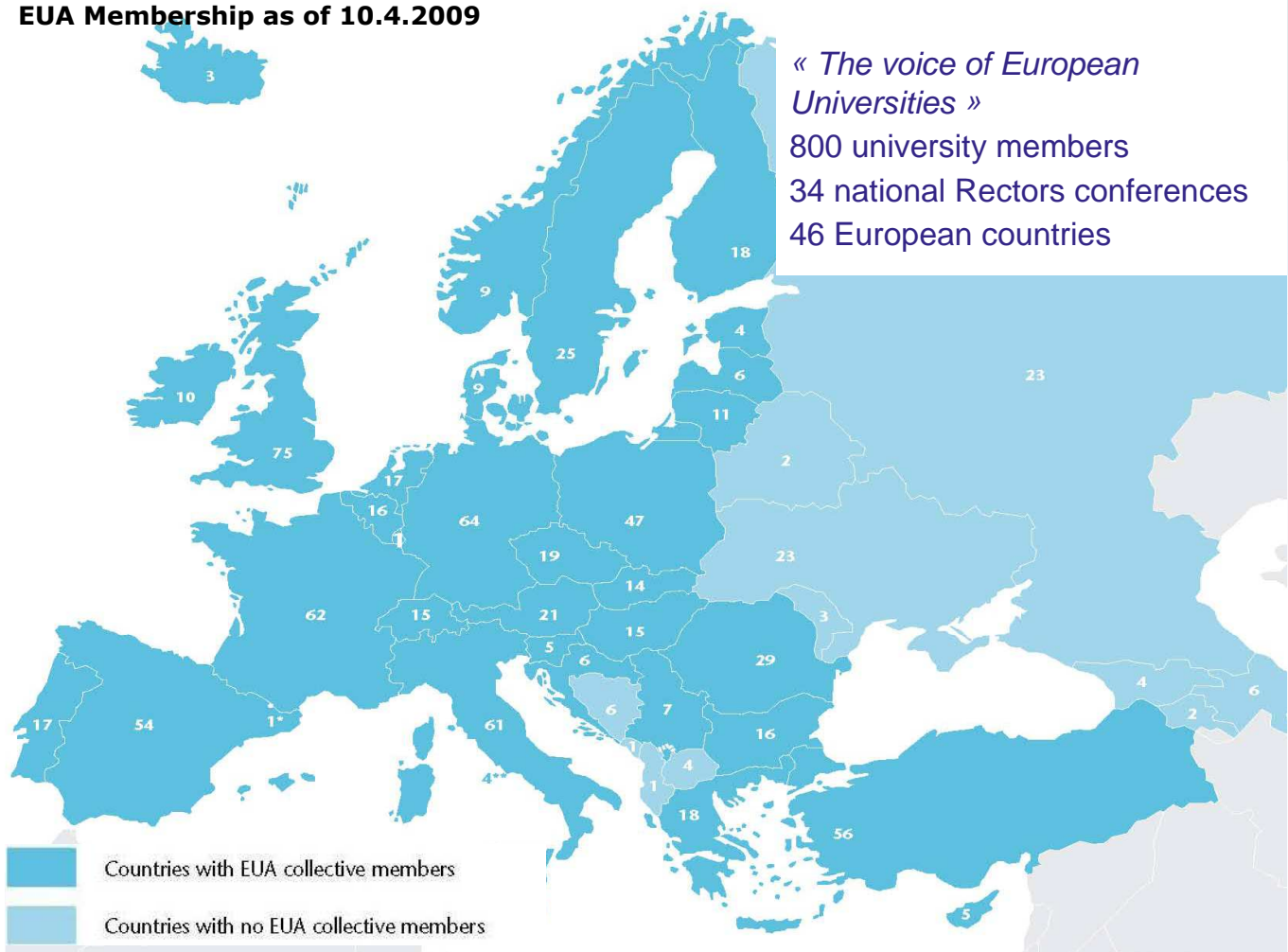
## EUA Membership as of 10.4.2009

« The voice of European Universities »

800 university members

34 national Rectors conferences

46 European countries



## EUA Prague declaration (2009): 10 Success factors for European universities in the next decade

*For inclusive and responsive universities pursuing their primary tasks of teaching and research this requires:*

1. Widening opportunities for participation and completion
2. Improving researcher careers
3. Providing relevant and innovative study programmes
4. Developing distinctive institutional research profiles

## **EUA Prague declaration (2009): 10 Success factors for European universities in the next decade**

*For strong and flexible universities pursuing excellence in their different missions this also requires:*

5. Shaping, reinforcing, and implementing autonomy
6. Increasing and diversifying income
7. Enhancing quality and improving transparency
8. Promoting internationalisation
9. Increasing and improving the quality of mobility
10. Developing partnerships

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### **Increasing and improving the quality of mobility**

- What kind of mobility?  
⇒ All types of mobility between sectors, institutions and countries
- Why mobility?  
=> Mobility is a way to enhance personal, academic and professional development and to improve transferable skills (e.g. linguistic competence)
- How should this be done?
  - ✓ By developing coherent institutional strategies
  - ✓ By providing structured opportunities
  - ✓ By removing obstacles to the mobility of students, staff and researchers at all stages in their careers

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## What is EUA doing to address the issue?

- **Conduct research**
  - ✓ Survey of master degrees in Europe
  - ✓ the upcoming Trends 2010 report
- **Provide universities with a platform for inter-regional dialogue**
  - ✓ Asia-Europe Higher Education Platform; Africa-Europe Rectors' Dialogue
- **Develop projects, disseminate outcomes**
  - ✓ Work on Joint Degrees
  - ✓ Project proposal on developing a Mobility Mapping Tool for staff and student mobility
- **Advocacy: Joint EUA-EI-ESU mobility initiative**
  - ✓ Providing a working definition of mobility
  - ✓ Addressing the challenges of measuring mobility
  - ✓ Proposing an agenda for promoting mobility

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## EUA study on Master degrees in Europe

- **On-course mobility & the impact of BA/MA**
  - ✓ Mixed feedback: AT, FI, ES vs. DE, BE(FI)
  - ✓ Barriers:
    - Asymmetric curricular change (module sizes)
    - Producing English language info packs
    - Crowding-out of mobility by research modules, internships
    - Financial constraints

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## EUA study on Master degrees in Europe

- Inter-cycle mobility:
    - ✓ Likely to grow in the next years, BUT
    - ✓ Barriers:
      - Confusing nomenclatura and variation in practice
      - Lack of transparency in selection procedures
      - Diploma Supplement can't solve all transparency problems
    - ✓ Consequences:
      - More work needed on recognition and transparency of degrees
- => User-friendly National Qualification Frameworks

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## A working definition of mobility

A **working definition** of mobility, identifying key characteristics of mobile students and mobile staff

- 
- Enrolled at university
  - Transnational
  - Physical
  - Serves a learning purpose
  - Organised or on individual basis
  - Of various durations
- employees at HEIs
  - Transnational
  - Physical
  - the intention to return (excluding migration)
  - Organised or on individual basis
  - for teaching, research or Training purposes

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## The challenges of measuring mobility & achieving the 20% benchmark

- Mobility needs to be embedded in the institutional internationalisation strategy
- Defining indicators adequately reflecting mobility is a complicated task
- A need to complement data with **qualitative information**: HEIs mapping existing mobility activities according to a clearly defined scheme – a Mobility Mapping tool
- Reaching the political aspiration should be seen as a driver to improve mobility activities in the next decade and the collection of data as a tool to demonstrate progress.
- Consequently: the search for the right indicators can never replace the advocacy work that is needed to promote student and staff mobility.

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## Thank you!

Feedback and questions:

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