

European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding - Annual Conference

**Plenary session:
Philanthropy, A Growing Asset for Research**

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Characteristics of University-based Research

- Major role in supplying trained researchers
- Diverse missions in basic and collaborative research
- Capacity to foster interdisciplinary research skills and expertise
- Embeddedness in cities and regions as components of social and economic development
- Focal points for dialogue and knowledge exchange with society

Context: Drivers of change in University-based Research

- Increase of external competitive funding sources in university research budgets
- Coupled with the need to both compete and co-operate in building European (and International) research
- Emergence of complex research issues (reflecting global challenges) requiring new interdisciplinary approaches and skills
- Growing societal demand for highly trained researchers for non-academic labour markets
- Impact of the digital revolution on the research process and knowledge exchange

Strong Universities in the European Research System

Universities as Research Institutions Require:

- Greater organisational, financial and staffing autonomy
 - ✓ To diversify their funding streams
 - ✓ To offer competitive salaries
 - ✓ To recruit on European (and international) level
- To move towards full cost coverage of their research activities – away from a 'low cost culture'
 - ✓ Sustainable funding conditions for university-based research, particularly from external funding sources in covering indirect research costs
 - ✓ Specific incentive funding mechanisms to foster partnerships between universities and other research institutions both public and private

European Research Funding Requirements

Universities strive for excellence as research and training institutions and seek to diversify their funding sources. To help achieve this, they need support through:

- A range of funding instruments at the European, national and regional level to help the development of their chosen research profiles and missions.
- Well-funded European competitive funding schemes to build and strengthen capacity in established and new institutions and innovative research fields
- Further “simplification” of external funding, reporting and accountability requirements built upon the premises of ‘Trust’

The Role of Philanthropic Funding of University Research

- It should be developed as an integral part of the university's overall strategy for diversifying its fundraising
- It should re-enforce, therefore, the university's « institutional fundraising culture »
- While, at the same time, it should help to develop successfully the multiple research interests and needs of faculties and departments

EUA Approach to Sustainable Funding of University - based Research

- **Prague Declaration (April 2009) 5th EUA Convention “European Universities – Looking Forward with Confidence”**

Identified 10 ‘Success Factors’ for European Universities in the next decade. Two of which were:

- ✓ **Developing distinctive institutional research profiles:**

by stimulating a rich variety of unique environments that promote interdisciplinary approaches to tackle 21st century global challenges; enhanced through theme focused project development supported by competitive research funding

- ✓ **Increasing and diversifying income:**

to achieve financial sustainability by implementing sound accounting practices that identify the full cost of all activities, diversifying income portfolio and securing adequate public funding

Two major EUA projects addressing University Financing and Income Diversification

- Financially Sustainable Universities: Towards Full Costing in European Universities (results published 2008)
- European Universities Diversifying Income Streams (EUDIS) – results forthcoming, 2010

Both studies show that philanthropic funding accounts for a small percentage of the university budget.

Key Roles for Philanthropic Funding of Research

- To support “risk taking” in research – investing in “out of the box” ideas and approaches
- To support research offering long-term rather than short-term perspectives
- To support the internationalisation of Europe’s Universities through partnerships and mobility in project development, and academic staff and student knowledge exchange and training with other global regions

Creating the best conditions for Philanthropic Bodies and Universities to work together in ensuring the best environment for partnerships to flourish

- Fostering the spirit of philanthropy through alumni associations at the university level
- Opening university governing bodies to independent members from other sectors, including philanthropic bodies
- On the European level, promotion and exchange of best practice on foundation-sponsored competitive funding schemes particularly focusing on building international co-operation in research



Thank you for your attention

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