

Brexit – looking ahead

Thomas Ekman Jørgensen, European University Association

Tuesday, March 27, 2018



BrexitLooking ahead

- Established in 2001
- Non-governmental membership organisation
- More than 800 individual university members
- 34 National Rectors' Conferences Members
- 47 countries
- Independent voice of the university sector
- Forum for exchange, peer learning for members

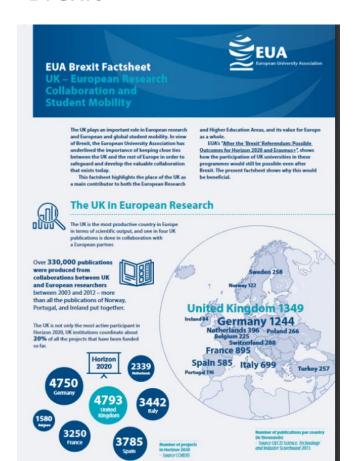
Brief Profile of EUA





BrexitLooking ahead

EUA's work on Brexit



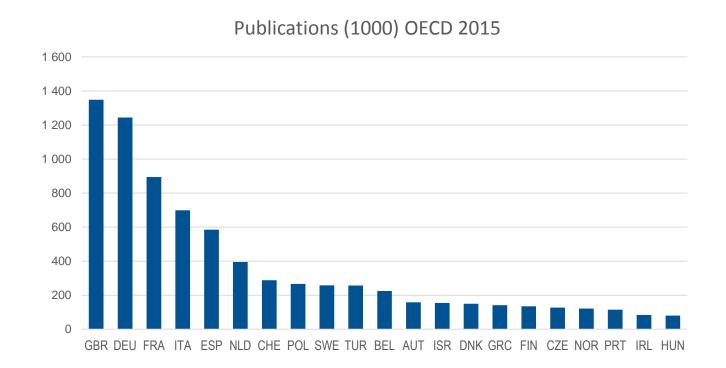
- Solidarity from the start
 - "British universities are and remain an essential part of the European family of universities, which extends beyond EU borders. This community of knowledge and learning is strong and longstanding, and it will surely overcome this crisis" (EUA 24 June 2016)
- Providing the facts
 - Outlining possible outcomes (September 2016)
 - Fact sheet on UK's role in research and mobility (December 2016)
 - Continuously updated FAQ
- Lobbying for retaining ties with the UK

http://eua.be/policy-representation/higher-education-policies/brexit-and-european-higher-education



BrexitLooking ahead

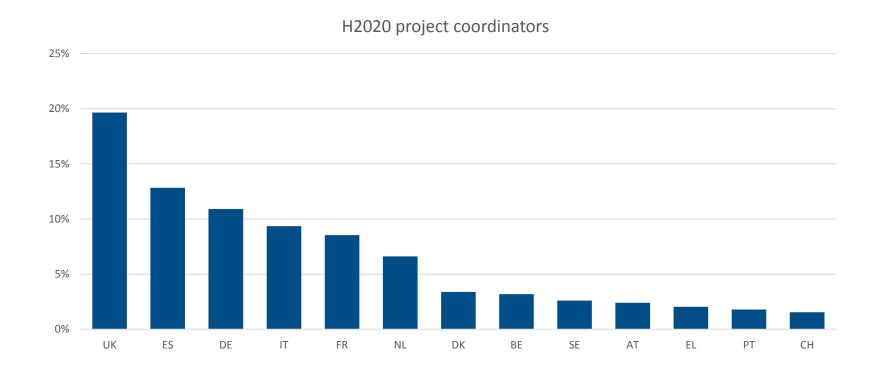
Main fact 1: UK is the leading in European science





Looking ahead

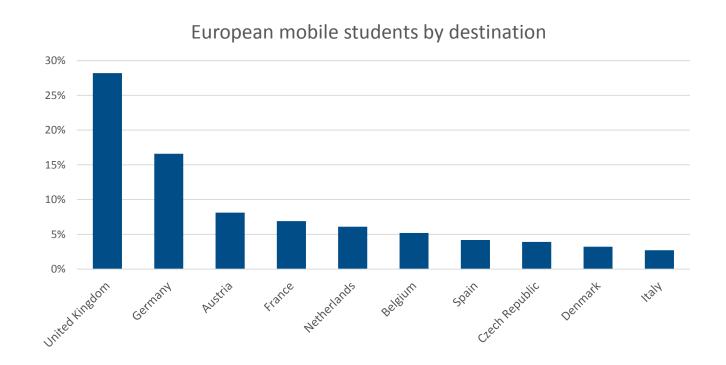
Fact 2: UK is important for EU research cooperation





Looking ahead

Fact 3: UK is unrivalled as a destination for mobile students





Looking ahead

It is all about the process



- We are entering a new phase
- Phase 1 ended well
 - UK continues in Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+ until the end!
- Phase 2 will focus on separation and transition
 - Untangling the relationship
 - Making the Joint Report into a legal document
 - The legal text will not touch the future of academic cooperation (students and research)
 - These issues will be in a separate <u>political</u> declaration



Looking ahead

What could be in the political statement?

European Parliament resolution

- 4 pillars: trade, foreign policy, internal security, thematic cooperation
 - Welcomes cooperation in culture and education
 - 'Could consider' association to the Framework
 Programme without net transfers of money or formal influence

Council of the EU guidelines to Article 50 team

More dispassionate on programmes
 "any participation of the UK should be subject to the
 relevant conditions for the participation of third countries
 to be established in the corresponding programmes in the
 next Multiannual Financial Framework"



Looking ahead

Meanwhile in the rest of the Commission – where will the UK fit?



- The new programme regulations risk limiting the space for negotiation
- FP9 should be 'open to the world'
 - Will openness mean more rules (restrictions on acccess, payment etc)?
 - Will there be an open door for the UK
 - ... or will the regulation limit the space for negotiation
- Erasmus is traditionally more open (and there is more political will)
 - ... But the door needs to be open
- UK might end up with limited access, paying more – but will this be negotiated or prescribed?



Looking ahead

Looking ahead

- The immediate future of the negotiations will move away from academic cooperation
- The programme regulations are the next step
- We will not see the end of it on this side of Brexit...



Thank you for your attention

Dr Thomas Ekman Jørgensen | Senior Policy Coordinator @Thomas_E_Jorgen thomas.jorgensen@eua.eu