

## **University Autonomy in Europe: the autonomy scorecard project and the case of Portugal**

*Jointly organized by the European University Association (EUA) and the Portuguese Council of Rectors (CRUP)*

***Under the High Patronage of His Excellency Professor Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of the Portuguese Republic ( t.b.c.)***

**Date:** May 14 (Monday)

**Time:** 10:00am to 5:00pm (free lunch from 1:15pm to 2:30pm)

**Venue:** Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon

**Invited Speakers:** members of the EUA Autonomy Scorecard Project Steering Committee, senior HE education experts and members of CRUP

**Participants:** senior academics and administrative staff of HE institutions, central and regional government officials and members of Portuguese Parliament involved in HE, national experts in HE, academics with an involvement in HE governance and management. No registration fee will be charged for attendance if registration is sent in advance to CRUP's Office – [Carolina@crup.pt](mailto:Carolina@crup.pt) , until a week before the event. Registration will also be accepted on the day of the event subject to the number of participants

**Language:** Mainly English (translation from Portuguese into English will be provided)

### **Background & Objectives:**

The EUA launched in November 15 the “Autonomy Scorecard” a major report which compares university autonomy across 26 European countries. In addition to an in-depth analysis of the current state of university autonomy in Europe, the study includes four scorecards which rank and rate higher education systems in four areas: organizational, financial, staffing and academic autonomy.

The scorecard concept is intended as a tool to compare and benchmark legislative frameworks in national higher education systems with the purpose of engaging all higher education stakeholders in a more in-depth debate on autonomy and ultimately to improve the systems, both at national and European level.

Despite the encouraging signs in some countries where governments have indeed granted universities more autonomy, the study also showed that economic crisis and austerity measures have, in some cases, led to tighter governmental controls of university budgets which, together with additional cuts, sometimes without criteria, have created unnecessary administrative burdens and reduced financial autonomy.

CRUP participated in the study providing data from the year of 2010 which showed that Portuguese Universities were placed in the higher middle level group with higher score in organizational autonomy due to effects of recent legal changes introduced by new legal regime of 2007, particularly in the case of university foundations.

The implications of the global economic crisis and of the national financial situation on Portuguese Universities need to be discussed in the context of institutional autonomy. In Portugal, as in Europe as whole, autonomy does not mean independence or absence of rules. Governments need to provide appropriate frameworks for universities to fulfill their missions which are high quality teaching, excellent research and knowledge transfer to the society. Although institutional autonomy is not a goal in itself it is a vital multi-factorial element for the success of universities in accomplishing their mission.

The discussion will cover the following topics:

- *Presentation of the “Autonomy Scorecard Project”*
- *Organisational Autonomy (main issues)– Europe and Portugal*
- *Financial Autonomy(main issues) – Europe and Portugal*
- *Staffing Autonomy(main issues) – Europe and Portugal*
- *Academic Autonomy (main issues) – Europe and Portugal*
- *The Balance between Institutional Autonomy and Public Accountability*

**Organizing Committee: CRUP**

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**14 May 2012  
Programme**

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|---------------|--|
| 9.30 – 10.00  | <b>Registration</b>  |
| 10.00 – 10.30 | <b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eduardo Marçal Grilo, Administrator, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation</li><li>• Helena Nazaré, President, European University Association (EUA)</li><li>• António Rendas, Rector UNL, President, Council of Rectors of Portuguese Universities (CRUP),</li><li>• His Excellency the President of the Republic, Professor Aníbal Cavaco Silva (t.b.c.)</li></ul> |
| 10.30 – 11.00 | <b>Session – 1: Chair, Helena Nazaré, EUA</b><br><b>The European Autonomy Scorecard Project</b><br>Thomas Estermann, Head of Unit, EUA   |
| 11.00 – 11.15 | Coffee   |
| 11.15 – 13.15 | <b>Session – 2: Chair, Alberto Amaral, A3Es and Carlos Braumann, Rector, Universidade de Évora</b>   |
| 11.15 – 12.00 | <b>Organisational Autonomy</b><br>Sir Howard Newby, Vice-Chancellor, University of Liverpool, UK<br>António Cunha, Rector, Universidade do Minho   |
| 12.00 – 12.45 | <b>Academic Autonomy</b><br>Jean-Marc Rapp, Ex-EUA President, Switzerland<br>João Queiroz, Rector, Universidade da Beira Interior  |
| 12.45 – 13.15 | <b>Discussion</b>  |

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- 13.15 – 14.30 Lunch (free)
- 14.30 – 16.15 **Session – 3: Chair, António Barreto, Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation and Manuel Assunção, Rector, Universidade de Aveiro**
- 14.30 – 15.15 **Financial Autonomy**  
Thomas Estermann, EUA  
António Cruz Serra, Rector, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa
- 15.15 – 16.00 **Staffing Autonomy**  
Ikka Niiniluoto, Chancellor, University of Helsinki  
António Rendas, Rector, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
- 16.00 – 16.15 **Discussion**
- 16.15 – 16.45 **Session – 4: Chair, Eduardo Marçal Grilo and Manuel Braga da Cruz, Rector, Universidade Católica Portuguesa**
- Institutional Autonomy versus Public Accountability**  
Sir Howard Newby, Vice-Chancellor, University of Liverpool, UK
- 16.45 – 17.00 **Closing Remarks**
- Eduardo Marçal Grilo, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
  - Helena Nazaré, EUA
  - António Rendas, CRUP