

Seminar

Building new university leaderships to transform Europe

**Public presentation of the HE
Leadership & Management Hub
13 September 2023**

Concept note

Higher education institutions, as the main actors in knowledge societies, are facing an unprecedented series of shared challenges, on a local, regional and global scale, that require comprehensive responses in collaboration with governmental and socio-economic agents and in partnership with other universities.

The climate crisis and the loss of biodiversity, demographic pressures, political conflicts and forced migrations, increased inequalities, digitisation and the evolution of the labour market are just a few examples of these challenges, which are directly related with the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the achievement of which require the firm commitment of higher education institutions.

Given this extremely complex context, there is an evident need for universities to redefine their priorities, rethinking their social function in the light of the demands of the 21st century. It has become imperative to develop university policies that view these institutions as true drivers of transformation in the political, economic, social, environmental and cultural spheres.

Hence, the people who run university centres need to be trained to lead processes of change and transformation; qualified professionals who, beyond the management of everyday matters, can also offer a response to today's challenges and plan for those of the future.

As well as ethical and public values, a wide range of knowledge and attributes are required for the management of higher education institutions, which include expertise in the management of teaching and research staff and in the quest for financial sustainability; leadership, strategic planning and change management skills; willingness to overcome inertia and to innovate; the ability to communicate and negotiate; the capacity to make informed decisions in a democratic and participatory manner, and so on.

On the occasion of the Forum of European University Alliances in connection to the Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second semester of 2023, the Global University Network for innovation (GUNi) is holding a seminar on **“Building new university leaderships to transform Europe”** (Barcelona, 13 September 2023).

The seminar is mainly addressed at people who hold leadership, management and administration responsibilities within European higher education institutions, but also at chairpersons of university networks, directors of national quality assurance and internationalisation agencies, and representatives of the higher education ministries of the member states and international organisations.

During the seminar, there will be a public presentation of the HE Leadership & Management Hub, promoted by GUNi and designed to become a permanent platform for reflection, dialogue and professional training among directors and managers of higher education institutions from all around the world.

Programme

4pm

Opening Session

- **Joan Guàrdia**, Rector of the University of Barcelona (UB)
- **Maria Espinet**, Director of the Education Department of “la Caixa” Foundation
- **Vanessa Debiais-Sainton**, Head of the Higher Education Unit at the European Commission (EC)
- **Meritxell Serret**, Minister for External Action and the European Union of the Government of Catalonia (*tbc*)

4.30pm

Main Presentation: “The role of higher education institutions in a new era in Europe”

- **Snježana Prijic-Samaržija**, Rector of the University of Rijeka (UNIRI)

5pm

Panel Debate: “University leadership as a driver of social change”

- **Peter Maassen**, Professor of Higher Education Studies at the University of Oslo (UiO)
- **Marijk van der Wende**, Distinguished Faculty Professor of Higher Education at the University of Utrecht (UU)
- **Sijbolt Noorda**, former President of the Magna Charta Universitatum Observatory (MCU)
- **Josep M. Garrell**, President of the European University Association (EUA)
- **Laia de Nadal**, Rector of the Pompeu Fabra University (UPF)
- Moderator: **Josep M. Vilalta**, director of the Global University Network for innovation (GUNi) and Executive Secretary of the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP)

6pm

Presentation of the GUNi HE Leadership & Management Hub

- **Quim Salvi**, Vice President of the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP) and Rector of the University of Girona (UdG)

6.15pm

Closing Session

- **Daniel Crespo**, President of the Global University Network for innovation (GUNi) and of the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP) and Rector of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC)
- **Joaquim Nadal**, Minister of Research and Universities of the Government of Catalonia
- **Joan Subirats**, Minister of Universities of the Government of Spain
- **Margaritis Schinas**, Vice President of the European Commission (EC) (*tbc*)

6.30pm

End of Seminar

 GLOBAL UNIVERSITY
NETWORK FOR INNOVATION



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