



**ACADEMIC
COOPERATION
ASSOCIATION**

National structures and regional cooperation in the internationalisation of higher education.

A look at European associations.

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Sources



This presentation is based on two publications:

Bernd Wächter, *Handbook of European Associations in Higher Education*, ACA Papers on International Cooperation in Education, Bonn: Lemmens 2000.

Bernd Wächter, *Global Manual of Higher Education Associations* (under preparation, to appear spring 2008)



Governmental Higher Education Cooperation in Europe.



- **EU Context**

**EU Cooperation with regard to HE since mid-1970s (low-key, secretive) and, more palpably, since Maastricht Treaty and OMC.
(Council of Ministers/Education; Programme Committees)**

- **Council of Europe**

- **Intergovernmental Processes, such as 'Bologna'**

**Ministerial Conferences, Bologna Follow-up Group, intergovernmental working groups; but also: non-governmental members and events
(European HE convention)**

De facto networks



- Thousands of transnational European groupings below formal association level;
- Temporary in nature;
- Mostly project-based;
- Very often in the framework of EU funding programmes;
- Backbone of European cooperation in higher education (shop-floor level);
- Sometimes the nucleus of a formal association.

Post WW-II History of European Associations

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- Uneven development: peaks and 'dead' periods'.
- Majority of European associations in HE created between 1985 and 1990;
- Clear link to the launch of major EU HE programmes (for example Erasmus);
- Many networks originated out of EU programme project-based consortia;
- EU programme design favourable to European associations (multilateral institutional/departmental networks required).
- explains that seat of association is mostly in old (north-western) Union member states.

Typology

By membership (one criterion among many)

- Institutional
- National (associations of associations)
- Individual
- Regional
- Higher education 'plus'

Most associations belong to more than one group.

Institutional associations



Largest group of all associations in Europe.

Examples Type 1 (comprehensive):

- **European University Association (EUA)**
- **EURASHE (non-university institutions)**
- **Coimbra Group („Europe’s traditional universities“)**
- **Santander Group („Europe’s young universities“)**
- **UNICA (capital city universities)**
- **ECIU (self-proclaimed innovative)**
- **FUCE (Catholic)**
- **Compostela Group (on the pilgrimage route to Santiago or elsewhere)**

Institutional Associations (2)

Institutional associations with discipline/sectoral focus

- *Management*: Community Of European Management Schools (CEMS)
- *Management*: European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD)
- *Fine and Performing Arts*: European League of Schools of the Arts (ELIA)
- *Distance Education*: European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU)
- *Languages*: European Language Council (ELC)
- *Engineering*: Société Européenne pour la Formation des Ingénieurs (SEFI)
- *Continuing Education*: European Universities' Continuing Education Network (EUCEN)



National-level associations

- *National organisations for international cooperation:*
Academic Cooperation Association (ACA)
- *National rectors' conferences:*
European University Association (EUA), in its 'incarnation' of national rectors' conferences

Individual members' associations (professional)

- *'International Relations' Officers'*: European Association for International Education (EAIE)
- *PR staff*: European Universities' Information and Public Relations Officers
- *Student Counselling staff*: Forum Européen de l'orientation académique (FEDORA)
- *Researchers in higher education*: European Association for Institutional Research (EAIR)

Student organisations

- **ESIB (ESU): European Association of National Unions of Students (Bologna Process)**
- **Erasmus Student Network (ESB)**
- **Association des Etats-Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe (AGEE)**
- **Association Internationale des Etudiants en sciences Economiques et commerciales (AIESEC)**

Highly Active and Relevant Organisations (general)

- **European University Association, EUA**
(in almost all respects of HE, particularly: Bologna Process, HE and research link, institutional development)
- **Academic Cooperation Association, ACA**
(internationalisation, particularly linking Europe with other continents, HE innovation, 'Lisbon Process')

Highly active and relevant associations (Specific)

- **European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD)**
- **European League of Institutes of Art (ELIA)**
- **European Association for Institutional Research (EAIR)**

European Associations with strong global interests

- **EUA**: policy dialogue with non-European countries
- **ACA**: Europe's position in global HE
- **Coimbra Group**: focus on Latin America (possibly in the past)



More about ACA

www.aca-secretariat.be