

# Towards a European Universities' Charter on Lifelong learning

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University-Business Cooperation: Thematic forum on 'Continuing  
education and lifelong learning'  
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## Presentation overview

- Brief introduction to EUA
- Context of higher education development in Europe
- LLL: Where are we now?
- Why do we need a Charter?
- What should it contain?

## EUA at a glance

- 800 individual university members
- 46 countries
- 34 National Rectors' Conferences Members
- Independent Voice for the University Sector:
  - ✓ policy dialogue (focus: EHEA and ERA)
  - ✓ projects and surveys
  - ✓ services to its members

## **The Context: increasing pressure to “modernise”..**

Fast-changing knowledge society & demographic challenges

-> HEIs should:

- Increase & widen access
- be more local, regional, European, global
- be more competitive / more socially inclusive
- increase mobility within & outside Europe
- improve academic quality / be more responsive to labour market
- provide compatible curricula / cultural diversity
- be more autonomous / conform to framework
- concentrate research / respond to regional needs
- do it all with decreasing public funding...

## LLL: Where are we?

- LLL = confusing amalgam of concepts, including:
  - retraining for those with prior (higher) education
  - « catch-up » for those who have missed out on education
  - cultural enrichment for ageing populations
  - continuing education: part-time; evening classes weekends, online programmes etc
  - economic productivity vs self fulfilment
- > Important to clarify concepts, & for universities to reconsider their role

## LLL Charter for universities

- Process:

Invitation from French PM, Dec 2007

Consultation with stakeholder organisations

First draft to EUA Council, 4 July 2008

Final Text to EUA General Assembly, October 2008

Forward to governments (French Presidency & ...)

## LLL Charter for universities

- Substance: Universities commit to...
  - 1) Integrate LLL in institutional strategies
  - 2) Respond to demand from diversified student population
  - 3) Adapt programmes for needs of non traditional learners
  - 4) Provide Guidance and Counselling
  - 5) Recognise prior learning
  - 6) Embrace LLL in quality culture
  - 7) Strengthen research and teaching in LLL perspective
  - 8) Build on Bologna reforms & tools
  - 9) Develop partnerships
  - 10) Act as role models of LLL institutions

## LLL Charter for universities

- Universities call on governments to commit to:
  - 1) Value the university contribution to LLL
  - 2) Promote social equity and inclusive learning
  - 3) Include LLL in national QA systems
  - 4) Support Guidance and Counselling development
  - 5) Recognise Prior learning
  - 6) Address obstacles that prevent individuals responding to LLL opportunities
  - 7) Ensure autonomy and provide incentives to unis
  - 8) Encourage partnerships
  - 9) Act as role models of LLL institutions

## Questions to address today...

- Is the Charter needed?
- Are there issues of substance to add/delete?
- How should the Charter be used most effectively?



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For comments/questions after today:

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