

EADTU Strategy 2019 – 2025

# Annex 2 The EADTU activity cycle

*The EADTU activity cycle*

The EADTU activities arise from a strong bottom up approach, based on institutional needs, experienced by the universities or associations. The Board discusses these needs and establishes task forces for prioritized topics with experts from the institutions. Topics so far included quality benchmarking for online and flexible education, Open educational resources and MOOCs, university strategies and business models for online, open and distance higher education (open universities; conventional universities); virtual mobility and collaborative curricula; international study centres, university-business collaboration through interfaces, and the organisation of expertise and service centres.

These task forces produce a position paper or prepare a project that subsequently is funded by external resources, e.g. the European Commission. Projects create the opportunity to explore innovative approaches to online and flexible education. EADTU has a long experience with managing projects with the members for all topics mentioned above. The results of a project are reports, evaluation instruments, guidelines, recommendations, etc.

As the institutions in the Board conceive the themes of task forces and projects, they are close to the core business of universities. The processes and results are mainstreamed during the course of the activities and sustained afterwards by the annual EADTU Conference and by national or local seminars on demand of the members. In recent years, these activities are supported to the Jean Monnet Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. The conference and seminars assure a two-way interaction between the Board and the task force and project experts at one hand and a broader audience at the other.

For themes EADTU has gained a specialised expert basis with a consistent expert body in the membership, expert and service centres are established, working with a sustainable business model. This already is the case for E-xcellence (quality benchmarking), OpenupEd (MOOCs and OER) and EMPOWERing universities.

This activity cycle is designed *to activate as many experts as possible from different institutions and countries*. These not directly involved, are reached by the mainstreaming activities or by the expert and service centres.

**Members play a spectrum of roles in each of the layers in this activity cycle, e.g. as :**

- member of the Board, the Rectors’ Meeting or the Associations’ Meeting

- expert in the preparation of position papers and advices for the European Union or national governments

- leader or institutional member of an EADTU task force

- work package leader or expert in an EADTU project

- member of the scientific committee of the Annual Online, Open and Flexible Education Conference, organised by EADTU

- expert in national and local seminars, organised in cooperation with the members

- reviewer for quality benchmarking (E-xcellence), MOOCs (OpenupEd)

- trainer in seminars, regarding multiple facets in the transition of European universities to online and flexible education

Member universities and their staff can propose new actions to be accommodated in the EADTU network, valorising experience and expertise already in place in their institutions or organising collaborations between them.

The EADTU secretariat coordinates and support EADTU activities and activates the members in different stages of the activity cycle.