



## **CALL FOR SPEAKING CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **Fourth Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE 4):**

***Research for sustainable societies – the role of universities  
24-26 April 2017, University Mohammad V, Rabat, Morocco***

***Combined with a workshop on ‘Lessons learned from collaborative doctoral education’***

***24 April***

The President and Secretary General of EUA would like to invite EUA members to join them at the AECHE 4, which will focus on bi-regional research collaboration and capacity building in the fields of energy, water, food and environment. The conference will be preceded by a related workshop on doctoral education, to which EUA members are also invited.

The event will gather representatives from the higher education community, in particular university and research leadership, policy makers and innovative industries. It is expected that the conference will produce recommendations for the Conference of Euro-Mediterranean Research Ministers, which takes place on 3-4 May 2017 in Malta.

The conference will provide ample opportunities for exchange and networking with colleagues from all over the Arab world.

AECHE is a joint initiative of the Association of Arab Universities (AARU) and the European University Association (EUA). The University of Barcelona holds its Secretariat and UNICA, UNIMED, the Union for the Mediterranean and other institutions participate in its Steering Committee.

***For more information, please refer to [About AECHE](#)***

### **Speaking contributions**

University leadership engaged in strategic collaboration, as well as heads of doctoral/graduate schools, coordinators of bilateral research and capacity building projects, are invited to share their experiences and lessons learnt regarding:

- research capacity building and research collaboration in water, energy, food and environment: inter- and multidisciplinary approaches in these areas, considering not only science and engineering, but also social sciences and humanities.
- development trends in international research collaboration and doctoral education



- cases studies, approaches and models for research collaboration, research capacity building and doctoral education, including aspects of partnership building, sustainability of relations, funding and alumni relations
- experiences of international research networks
- accessibility of scientific research results: Digitalisation and Open Science

### Submission of proposals

Please submit a proposal (short abstract, half a page, word document), indicating to which of the sessions listed in the attached programme you would like to contribute. Please feel welcome to provide links and information on research collaboration projects, study programmes etc. in relation to your presentation.

The abstract should describe briefly how your case study, model or approach relates to Europe-Arab research collaboration, and what added value it could be to one or several sessions listed in the programme.

**Deadline for submission: 25 November, 2016 \*\*Deadline Extended to 2 December 2016**

Abstracts should be sent to [aeche@eua.be](mailto:aeche@eua.be)

Contributors would also be invited to provide a short paper (max 4 pages) that will be published on the AECHE website and featured with the conference proceedings (optional).

For the Conference, there will be a limited number of travel and accommodation grants for speakers. Please let us know whether you would require funding. Participants of the doctoral education workshop will have to fund their own participation.

### Available slots

*For the detailed programme and more information about the content of the Conference, please see the additional attachment.*

### **Workshop: Lessons learned from collaborative doctoral education – 24 April**

<b>24 April, 11.30-13.00</b>	<b>Plenary 2: International collaboration in doctoral education</b> Including aspects of partnership, mutual benefits, sustainability of relations, funding, alumni relations <b>4 presentations - 8 min each</b> <b>Short input: being international alumni (4 min)</b>
<b>24 April, 14.00-16.00</b>	<b>Breakout session: Interdisciplinary collaborative doctoral education</b>



	<p><b>3 breakout sessions à 5-6 presentations (8 min. each) followed by 5 minutes Q&amp;A and discussion</b></p> <p>Heads of Doctoral programmes and PhD students present their experiences from interdisciplinary, collaborative doctoral education within and across regions. These may consider issues such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experiences with different models and modes (including mobility, use of technology, structured programmes, taught modules, access to labs etc.)</li> <li>• How to best incorporate interdisciplinarity</li> <li>• How the collaboration contributes to research capacity building</li> <li>• How industry can contribute to international collaboration</li> <li>• international/-regional research groups</li> <li>• how to sustain and develop relations with international alumni</li> </ul>
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***Conference: Research for sustainable societies – the role of universities – 24-26 April***

<p>25 April, 10-45-12.45</p>	<p><b>Session 1: University research and society: the benefits</b>  <b>4 presentations (presidents or vice presidents for research) à 8 min. followed by discussion.</b></p> <p>Research is a central mission of universities but not all universities can become research-intensive. Research contributes to the advancement of knowledge as well as serving national and local innovation; it is also a determining factor for the quality of university education. Four studies will present how universities build research capacity and use research results (maybe from other institutions) with different goals and how they succeed in aligning these different, not always synergetic goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building and sharing capacity/Nurturing talent</li> <li>• Trend towards research clustering and concentration</li> <li>• Contribution to society in different ways: a research based education producing graduates who have the disciplinary and generic skills to take key positions in policy making, industries etc. to deal with complex problems, some of them of global dimension, in an increasingly interconnected world</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing national and local problems in a global context</li> <li>• The role of university collaboration in building research capacity</li> </ul>
25 April, 14.00-15.30	<p><b>Session 2: Addressing global challenges through research collaboration</b></p> <p><b>4 presentations à 8-10 min</b> each focusing on either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water</li> <li>• energy</li> <li>• food</li> <li>• environment</li> </ul> <p>The sessions would demonstrate the global nature of these challenges, and the need to address them through interdisciplinary, interregional research collaboration, and propose lessons learned and good practices for discussion with other participants.</p>
25 April, 16.00-17.30	<p><b>Session 3: Collaborative initiatives and networks and their contributions to research collaboration: Mapping and pointing to synergies</b></p> <p><b>5 minutes presentation, followed by 5 minutes Q&amp;A</b></p> <p>The session would provide an opportunity to present different networks and collaboration initiatives</p>
26 April, 9.00-10.30	<p><b>Session 4: Accessibility of scientific research results: Digitalisation and Open Science</b></p> <p><b>4 presentations à 8-10 min</b></p> <p>on the developments in open science, how this is likely to impact international research collaboration. In discussion with the audience, recommendations for the Arab-European context will be developed.</p>

### About the conference, and about AECHE

The conference will explore how universities can develop research capacity and collaboration in research, addressing issues of high national, regional and global priority: water, energy, and the related environmental and sustainability challenges, which also require social sciences. In tackling these specific and strategic topics, the conference will discuss more generally the



question how Arab and European universities can work closer together in promoting research and research-based education, and will also explore relevant policy and funding frameworks. Involving university leadership along with policy makers, it will seek to provide concrete recommendations for policy making at inter-regional level.

***The Arab-Euro Conference of Higher Education platform (AECHE) has been established in 2012. It is an ongoing process, aimed at facilitating debate and collaboration among university leadership from both regions, but also scholars, educational practitioners, university administrators, policy makers and representatives of business and society. The initiative is guided by a Steering Committee which – in addition to AARU, EUA and U. Barcelona- comprises the following permanent members: Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA), Union for the Mediterranean.***