



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

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

AECHE is pleased to announce its fourth leadership conference:

### ***Research for sustainable societies – the role of universities*** **24-26 April 2017**

#### **University Mohammad V, Rabat, Morocco**

The Fourth Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE 4) focuses on **research collaboration and capacity building among Arab and European universities**. It addresses university leadership from both regions, but also heads of doctoral/graduate schools, individual scholars and project leaders involved in bi-regional research collaboration in energy, water and, generally, in sustainability, from sciences, engineering and social sciences, and last but not least, policy makers and representatives from enterprise and innovative industries related to the issues.

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.

#### **Who should attend**

- University leadership (rectors/presidents, vice-rectors of research and education)
- Heads of doctoral and graduate schools, individual scholars and project leaders involved in bi-regional research collaboration in energy, water and sustainability, from sciences, engineering and social sciences, and in social sciences contributing to bi-regional reflection
- PHD candidates, involved in Arab-Europe cooperation
- Policy makers from Europe and the Arab world
- Representatives from industry and civil society organisations, interested in the issue.



### **About the pre-conference event, the workshop on doctoral education (24 April)**

Prior to the conference, a workshop will be organised entitled: **Lessons learned from collaborative doctoral education**", which addresses in particular:

- Scholars / project leaders/ heads of doctoral schools involved in bi-regional research collaboration in particular in
  - Energy, water and sustainability, from sciences, engineering and social sciences
  - Social sciences contributing to social and economic development
- PHD candidates and Masters students from both regions

### **How to participate**

Registration will be opened in November 2016, but you are welcome to submit a declaration of interest to AECHE4 MAILBOX: [AECHE@eua.be](mailto:AECHE@eua.be). You will be alerted when the registration opens, and also receive other updates on the conference.

### **About the host**

The conference will be hosted by the University Mohammed V in Rabat

### **About AECHE**

The Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education is a joint initiative of the Association of Arab Universities (AARU) and the European University Association (EUA) that brings together both AARU's and EUA's members, with the collaboration of the University of Barcelona (U. Barcelona), which maintains its Secretariat.

The aim of AECHE is to open a sustainable process of dialogue and mutual understanding, to exchange knowledge and to increase cooperation between Arab and European Universities.

AECHE organises different activities and projects and holds regular leadership conferences as well as thematic events. More recent events were the [AECHE3 Conference hosted by the University of Barcelona](#) in April 2016, which was attended by around 200 participants, and a [thematic conference hosted by TU Berlin at its Campus in El Gouna, Egypt](#), in October 2015.

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. In addition, institutions and organisations involved in ongoing activities participate in the enlarged Steering Committee.

AECHE has been recognised in the conclusions of the Arab League and the European Union.



For more information about AECHE and its activities, refer to <http://www.ub.edu/aeche/>

## Workshop: Lessons learned from collaborative doctoral education

### Preliminary Programme

24 April

#### Programme

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 9.00  | <b>Opening: Capacity building in doctoral education: serving local needs, addressing global challenges</b>  |
|       | Welcome from host, AARU & EUA<br>Opening keynote  |
| 10.00 | <b>Plenary 1: Doctoral education in Europe and the Arab region</b>  |
|       | Overview presentation on different models, development trends, and common challenges in doctoral education  |
| 11.00 | Coffee – Photo  |
| 11.30 | <b>Plenary 2: International collaboration in doctoral education</b>   |
|       | Including aspects of partnership, mutual benefits, sustainability of relations, funding, alumni relations   |
| 13.00 | Lunch   |
| 14.00 | <b>Breakout session: Interdisciplinary collaborative doctoral education</b>   |
|       | 3 breakout sessions - Heads of Doctoral programmes and PhD students present their experiences from interdisciplinary, collaborative doctoral education within and across regions. |
| 16.00 | <b>Plenary 3: reports, discussion, wrap-up and conclusions</b>  |
| 16.45 | Coffee, networking (conference start at 18.00)  |

#### Conference Programme



## 24 April

|       |  |  |
|-------|--|--|
| 18.00 | <p><b>Setting the stage</b><br/>Keynotes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research responding to local needs in the context of global grand/societal challenges</li> <li>• Science Diplomacy</li> <li>• A New Strategy for EU Foreign and Security Policy</li> </ul> |  |
| 19.30 | Reception  |  |

## 25 April

|              |   |  |
|--------------|---|--|
| 9.00 – 10 15 | <p><b>Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome AECHE &amp; Host</li> <li>• Opening speeches</li> </ul>                |  |
| 10.15.-10.45 | Coffee Break – Photo  |  |
| 10-45-12.45  | <b>Session 1: University research and society: the benefits</b>   |  |
| 13.00-14.00  | Lunch   |  |
| 14.00-15.30  | <b>Session 2: Addressing global challenges through research collaboration</b>   |  |
| 15.30-16.00  | Coffee break  |  |
| 16.00-17.30  | <b>Session 3: Collaborative initiatives and networks and their contributions to research collaboration: Mapping and pointing to synergies</b> |  |
| 20.00        | <b>Dinner</b>   |  |

**26 April**

|             |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|
| 9.00-10.30  | <b>Session 4: Accessibility of scientific research results: Digitalisation and Open Science</b>              |  |
| 10.30-11.00 | Coffee break   |  |
| 11.00-12.00 | <b>Session 5: What are the consequences for Arab - European research and education cooperation?</b>          |  |
| 12.00-13.00 | <b>Closing session: Perspectives for research in Arab-EU policy dialogue</b><br>Followed by closing ceremony |  |
| 13.00-14.00 | Lunch  |  |
| Afternoon   | - Info session: Introduction to H2020 / E+ and Arab Initiatives  |  |