Digitally-enhanced learning and teaching at European higher education institutions
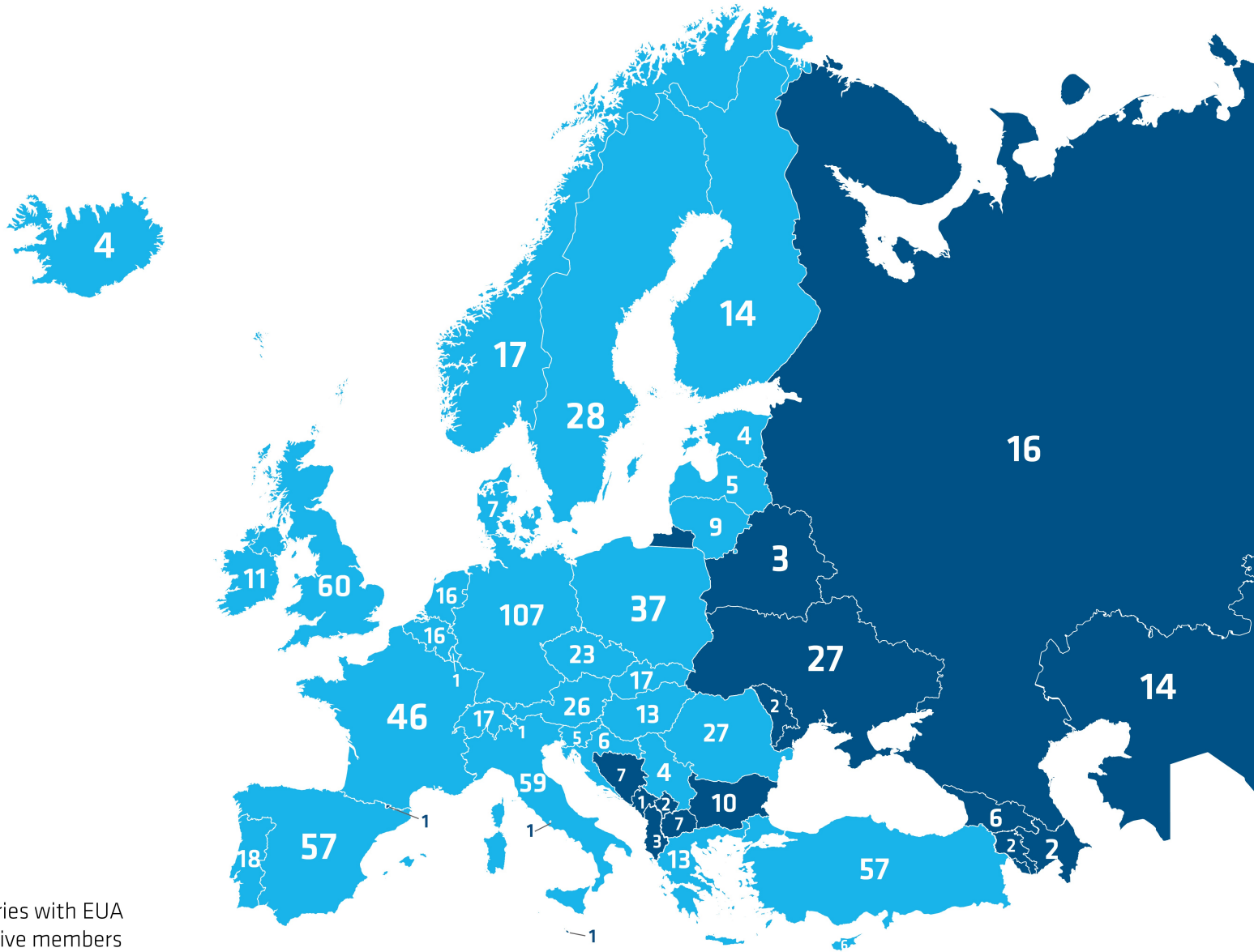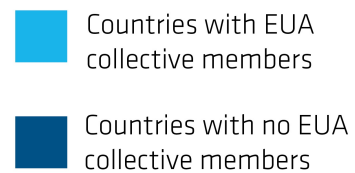
Michael Gaebel
Director of Higher Policy Unit
25 March 2021

European University Association (EUA)

- 840 members in 48 countries
- voice of universities
- EU policy making & Bologna Process
- Institutional development

Countries with EUA collective members

Countries with no EUA collective members

DIGIHE 2019-2022

Institutional approaches for (digital) learning

SURVEY REPORT
DIGITALLY ENHANCED LEARNING AND TEACHING IN EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Michael Gaebel, Thérèse Zhang, Henriette Stoeber and Alison Morrisroe

January 2021

- European University Association (EUA)
- Dublin City University, Ireland (DCU)
- Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University, Germany (DHBW)
- Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania (VMU)
- University of Jyväskylä, Finland (JYU)

- Survey to institutional leadership
- Data collection: April to June 2020
- Pre-crisis situation - Covid-19 questions
- 368 responses – mainly universities
- 48 countries
- Longitudinal data (2014 report)

2020 (pre-crisis) compared to 2014

1. Digital L&T has become more strategic & also more mainstreamed, with scope for enhancement

No major change in the number of institutions providing blended and online learning

- Blended learning (75% - in some countries higher)
- Online degree courses (36% - in some countries higher)
- MOOCs (36%)
- Every second institution provides short, non-degree courses (most frequent type of online provision)

More strategic and mainstreamed

- used across the institution (57% - in Northern Europe: 84%)
- Institutional strategies: 88% (2014: 63%)
- Digital learning as a strategic priority: 77%
- Trend towards institution-wide support & coordination structures

Widening access, LLL through digitalisation

… is a strategic development priority (81%)

… has contributed to major transformation over past five years (48%)

Digital supports internationalisation	Past 5 years	Next 5 years
Transforms inter-institutional collaboration	64%	85%
Outreach to international students	57%	86%

3. Enhancement of L&T

Top 3 impacts

- **89%** • Innovates teaching
- **75%** • Flexible provision
- **35%** • Data on student learning

4. Acceptance among students & staff

- **80%** • It brings benefits to the student experience
- **73%** • Students have a positive attitude towards it
- **62%** • Staff have a positive attitude towards it

5. Lack of resources

Digital library access:

90%

Enhancement due to crisis:

65%

EU Digital Education Action Plan: the need for "infrastructure, connectivity and digital equipment"

6. How to change

Top 3 Enablers & Barriers

- Proactive participation of students & staff
- Staff resources, training
- Funding
- Strategy

Top 3 Measures to move ahead

- Peer learning
- national & international training
- Institutional data

Covid crisis – immediate & long-term impact

Immediate:

- pre-existing strategies, structures & capacities
- joining the dots & innovation
- Reflection on L&T - but also generally role of the university
  - learning - social experience
  - University - contribution to society
  - higher education - public responsibility
- resilience strategies

Post crisis:

- Prospects to retain some of the changes?
- more comprehensive approaches (hybrid, hi-flex)
- digital fatigue
- risk of financial cuts – despite capacity needs

EU Digital Education Action Plan
"Including the capacity to deliver hybrid modes of learning and teaching (remote and on-site)"

Enhancing L&T

- Innovative pedagogics
- Student centeredness
- Access & inclusion
- Open education
- Internationalisation at home

Lifelong learning

- Upgrading/ reorientation
- From CPD to joint research
- Different formats , incl. short courses – microcredentials

Mariya Gabriel: *"The European Education Area and the Digital Education Action Plan are both essential for* **European recovery and future growth**. *They set out a common vision of the future of education linked to our commitments towards the* **digital and green transitions**. *We now need to focus on implementation and on* **creating synergies** *between them."*

Global priorities

- Inclusion
- Health
- Greening /SDG
- Internationalisation
- Local & global cooperation

Transforming the institution

- Interplay of physical and virtual campus
- Careers – who contributes to teaching?
- Sharing & collaboration among institution, non-HE partners

Universities without walls
A vision for 2030

EUA Annual Conference: From vision to reality - 22-23 April

Publications referenced

- **European Union - Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027** https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/digital-education-action-plan_en
- **Universities without walls – A vision for 2030 -** https://eua.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?id=3079
- **Digitally enhanced learning & teaching in European higher education institutions, 2021** *https://www.eua.eu/resources/publications/954:digitally-enhanced-learning-and-teaching-in-european-higher-education-institutions.html*
- **EUA position paper on learning and teaching**, 2018 https://eua.eu/resources/publications/340:learning-and-teaching-in-europe%E2%80%99s-universities-an-eua-position-paper.html
- **Trends 2015: Learning and teaching in European universities** https://eua.eu/resources/publications/388:trends-2015-learning-and-teaching-in-european-universities.html
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- **E-Learning in European Higher Education Institutions, 2014** https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/e-learning%20in%20european%20higher%20education%20institutions%20results%20of%20a%20mapping%20survey.pdf
- **Public Funding Observatory 2020/21, Part 1, Oct. 2020** https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/pfo%20part%201_ppt%20-%20im.pdf