

Transatlantic Roundtable: The Current State of EU-US People to People Exchanges in Higher Education

Monday, 9 October 2023

15:00-18:00 CET / 09:00-12:00 EST / 06:00-09:00 PT

The Roundtable is conceptualized for a hybrid format. Physical attendance is possible at the following location: **Arts 56, Avenue des Arts 56, 1000 Brussels, Belgium**. Virtual attendants can join the conference via the following teams link: [Transatlantic Roundtable: The Current State of EU-US People to People Exchanges in Higher Education](#) (Conference ID: 313 878 185 732, Password: mLvWcS)

About the Transatlantic Roundtable

People to People exchanges in higher education between the member states of the European Union and the United States of America have a very long tradition and become increasingly important. This was reaffirmed in the Joint Statement of 10 March 2023 by President Biden and President von der Leyen: *“Recognizing our shared history as well as our joint visions for the future, we believe that people to people exchanges strengthen the transatlantic partnership, especially for younger generations. We will discuss how to deepen our cooperation.”*

Against this policy background, the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), two organizations whose core mission it is to strengthen academic ties, have organised this interactive roundtable with key stakeholders from both sides of the Atlantic.

In particular, the Roundtable aims at:

- assessing and mapping the current state of EU-US People to People Exchanges in Higher Education.
- identifying barriers that are hindering an intensification of mutual exchanges.
- defining areas and topics where an increase in mobility can be organised in the short- and medium-term.
- reflecting on the purpose and benefits of transatlantic partnerships in higher education.

The Roundtable will consist of two distinct sessions. In the first session the current State of Play will be assessed by various actors in the field of international exchanges. Against the background of the overarching importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, a specific emphasis will be placed on the identification of barriers, the definition of areas for progress and the benefits of equitable exchanges. The second session will contextualise the contribution of student and early-researcher mobility as a central pillar for enhanced cooperation in research, innovation and the transatlantic economy.

Draft programme

Moderator: Michael Hörig, Director, DAAD Brussels Office

15:00 – Words of Welcome

- Dr Kai Sicks, Secretary-General, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- Dr Allan E. Goodman, CEO, Institute of International Education (IIE)

15:10 – Session 1: The current State of EU-US People to People Exchanges in Higher Education: barriers & levers for increasing mobility

Format: Input presentations, followed by Q&A

Speakers:

- Filip Van Depoele, Head of Unit International Cooperation, DG EAC, European Commission
- A. Sarah Ilchman, Co-President, Institute of International Education (IIE)
- Erica Lutes, Executive Director, Fulbright Commission Belgium
- Benedikt Brisch, Director, DAAD Office New York - *virtual*

16:15 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – Session 2: The Importance of Transatlantic Partnerships for Higher Education

Format: 5 minutes pitches by experts on “why” transatlantic cooperation in higher education matters, from different angles. The list of themes covered will range from the benefits for the transatlantic economy, to technology and innovation, the upskilling and reskilling of the workforce to tackling climate change.

Speakers:

- Dr Daniel S. Hamilton, Senior non-resident Fellow at the Brookings Institution and Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) – *virtual*
- Anthony Koliha, Director of the Office of Global Educational Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State - *virtual*
- Dr Zahar Barth-Manzoori, Director, German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH), San Francisco – *virtual*
- Tanguy Guibert, Vice-President, European Students’ Union

17:45 Wrap-up by Dr Allan E. Goodman & Dr Kai Sicks

18:00 Drinks and light refreshments