**TEFCE presentation at the 2020 European University Association (EUA) Annual Conference webinar series: Universities building a better Europe**

**Date:** 22 April 2020; 14.00-15.00 CET

**Type of event and name of the event**: 2020 European University Association (EUA) Annual Conference webinar series

**Organizer:** European University Association (EUA)

**Venue:** Webinar at <https://eua.eu/events/122-2020-eua-annual-conference-webinar-series.html>

**Type of the TEFCE activity:** presentation, PPT

**Presenter:** Ninoslav Šćukanec Schmidt, Institute for the Development of Education and Snježana Prijić Samaržija, University of Rijeka

**Title of the presentation:** Towards a European framework for community engagement in higher education

**Video from the event:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04HxWFK82Do>

**Webinar “Promoting universities societal engagement”**

This webinar included presentations of two approaches to addressing higher education’s societal responsibility. One showcases an institution’s implementation of a European framework for community engagement in higher education, as well as the project upon which this framework is based. The other presentation demonstrated one university’s efforts to support researchers at risk and promote academic freedom.

Snježana Prijić Samaržija, Rector, University of Rijeka, Croatia and Ninoslav Šćukanec Schmidt, Director, Institute for the Development of Education, Croatia

Orla Duke, Programme Manager Scholars at Risk Europe, Maynooth University, Ireland

Chaired by Tia Loukkola, Director, Institutional Development Unit, EUA

**Presentation Towards a European framework for community engagement in higher education’, by Snježana Prijić Samaržija and Ninoslav Šćukanec Schmidt**

The goal of this session was to examine whether there is an opportunity to develop innovative policy tools both at the university and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) level for assessing externally and internally the community engagement of universities. Community engagement is about mutually beneficial cooperation between universities and their wider communities, which will be presented on the University of Rijeka example. The session included: analysis of different approaches to community engagement in higher education; a mapping of challenges connected with community engagement; discussion related to new developments in relation to community engagement; and debate about a possible European framework for community engagement. There have been no initiatives yet at the EHEA level that have focused exclusively on community engagement. We will explain how a European framework for Community Engagement might fill this gap and support universities in institutionalising their cooperation with the wider community.