

## EU focus on open science 'detracts from research career efforts'

Leru says that commission's focus should be on improving scholars' employment prospects

September 16, 2017



By [Holly Else](http://content/holly-else) ([/content/holly-else](http://content/holly-else))

Twitter: [@HollyElse](https://twitter.com/HollyElse) (<http://www.twitter.com/HollyElse>)



Source: Alamy

The European Commission's pursuit of the open science agenda has detracted from efforts to make research careers more stable, according to a sector analyst.

Katrien Maes, chief policy officer at the League of European Research Universities, said that unappealing career prospects for researchers risk “undermining our credibility as the bedrock for scientific progress”.



(/news/research-funders-urged-act-short-term-contracts)

Research funders urged to act on short-term contracts (/news/research-funders-urged-act-short-term-contracts)

[READ MORE \(/NEWS/RESEARCH-FUNDERS-URGED-ACT-SHORT-TERM-CONTRACTS\)](#)

Speaking at the Vitae annual conference in Birmingham, she said that the development of research careers needed to be put “squarely back on the agenda” in Europe, which has the largest research labour market in the world.

Many researchers, particularly in the early stages of their careers, are contracted by universities to work on a series of precarious short-term contracts, and some bemoan the lack of support and career guidance offered to them by their institution.

“We know that career prospects may be called unappealing or off-putting,” Dr Maes said, adding that this might mean that universities are unable to attract the “brightest and the best”.

“[There is] a need for us and other organisations to put this squarely back on the agenda of the European Union because the current commissioner for research and innovation, Carlos Moedas, has made open science his agenda,” she said.

**Search our database of global university jobs** (<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/>)

“Open science, open innovation, open to the world...this sometimes detracts from where I would like to see some of the core action, really focusing on research careers.”

Dr Maes added that Europe had about 1.73 million researchers, more than China and the US. “It is the biggest labour market for research in the world,” she said.

“There are many good practices and changing practices, but where there is smoke there is fire. This is still an issue for universities because it risks undermining our credibility as the bedrock for scientific progress.”

Dr Maes added that many of the institutions that have secured Human Resources Excellence in Research Awards, instigated by the European Commission to boost working conditions for researchers, are in the UK, with far fewer going to continental universities.


[holly.else@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:holly.else@timeshighereducation.com) (<mailto:holly.else@timeshighereducation.com>)

Read more about: [Careers \(/policy/careers\)](#) [Employment \(/policy/employment\)](#) [Postgraduate and early-career \(/policy/postgraduate-and-early-career\)](#)

## RELATED ARTICLES




(/news/research-funders-urged-act-short-term-contracts)

Research funders urged to act on short-term contracts (/news/research-funders-urged-act-short-term-contracts)   
August 8, 2017




(/career/quarter-arts-phds-neglect-career-development)

Quarter of arts PhDs ‘neglect career development’ (/career/quarter-arts-phds-neglect-career-development)   
August 7, 2017




(/news/fixed-term-now-the-  
norm-for-early-career-academics-says-university-  
and-college-union-ucu)

Fixed-term now the norm for early career academics, says UCU (/news/fixed-term-now-the-norm-for-early-career-academics-says-university-and-college-union-ucu)   
April 14, 2016




(/features/how-to-give-the-  
next-generation-of-scholars-a-career-  
boost/2017878.article)

How to give the next generation of scholars a career boost (/features/how-to-give-the-next-generation-of-scholars-a-career-boost/2017878.article)   
January 15, 2015



(/news/hundreds-of-phd-  
students-chasing-every-early-career-  
post/2016799.article)

Hundreds of PhD students chasing every early career post (/news/hundreds-of-phd-students-chasing-every-early-career-post/2016799.article)   
November 6, 2014

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Comment \*

Please make sure that your comment does not contravene our terms and conditions (/terms-and-conditions/).  
Update your username to use in public-facing parts of the site, such as commenting on articles here (/user).

Submit comment

## SPONSORED

GLOBAL TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD 2018 Celebrating institution-wide teaching excellence

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Promoted by Higher Education Academy



**| SPONSORED**

## **Bilkent University**

Find the latest world ranking position for Bilkent University and key information for prospective students here today.

Promoted by Bilkent University

FEATURED JOBS

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)/Vice-President  
(//www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/listing/63477/?trackid=10)  
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY (UTS)



Research Assistant/Research Fellow in Modelling Root Traits to Bio-engineer Soil  
(//www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/listing/63502/?trackid=10)  
CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY



Lecturer in Data Science - Data Sciences with Analytics  
(//www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/listing/63506/?trackid=10)  
UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH



Digital Marketing and Recruitment Executive  
(//www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/listing/63511/?trackid=10)  
LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICAL SCIENCE LSE



Science Education Technician (//www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/listing/63515/?trackid=10)  
UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON



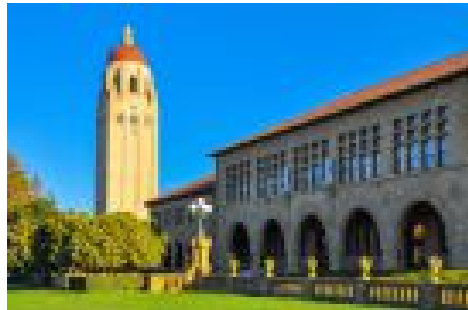
See all jobs (//www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/listings/)

MOST VIEWED



(/student/best-universities/best-universities-uk)

Best universities in the UK (/student/best-universities/best-universities-uk)  
September 5, 2017



(/student/best-universities/best-universities-united-states)

Best universities in the United States (/student/best-universities/best-universities-united-states)  
September 5, 2017



(/student/best-universities/best-universities-canada)

Best universities in Canada (/student/best-universities/best-universities-canada)  
September 5, 2017



(/news/world-university-rankings-2018-results-announced)

World University Rankings 2018: results announced (/news/world-university-rankings-2018-results-announced)  
September 5, 2017



(/books/how-to-write-a-thesis-by-umberto-eco/2019071.article)

How to Write a Thesis, by Umberto Eco (/books/how-to-write-a-thesis-by-umberto-eco/2019071.article) 🔒  
March 19, 2015

Looking for the next step in your career?

Job title, keywords or company name

Location

Search Jobs

MOST COMMENTED