

3 A Brief Report on the Delphi Study ‘European Higher Education and Research in 2020’

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Introduction

Below we present the main findings from the research project *European Higher Education and Research in 2020*.

The project was designed to gain insight into the expectations and desires of European higher education experts on the topic ‘higher education and research landscape in 2020’. Will a uniform study structure be implemented across European higher education systems? Will a European Research Council be the most important funding organisation for basic research? Will academics still play an important role in university management?

We formulated 49 statements on higher education in Europe in 2020, that were organised around six themes: 1) education, 2) research and innovation, 3) funding, 4) quality, 5) higher education, society and labour market, and 6) institutional governance and management.

Approximately 750 individuals from 24 countries and an additional 30 supranational experts were approached by e-mail to participate in the project by filling out a web-based questionnaire. Participants were asked to estimate the desirability and likelihood of all 49 statements. In addition, they were asked to give arguments to support their views. For many of the statements participants were also invited to estimate the statement would be likely in their home country.

Of the about 780 participants, 164 sent in answers before the deadline (21% response rate). For some countries and groups of individuals the response rates were rather low. Overall the different European regions (north, west, east, south) and participant groups

(national policy-makers; intermediary organisations; employers/employee organisations, students; institutional leaders; researchers) were well represented in the sample.

We explored what we perceived to be the most challenging issues in a second round. The respondents of the first round were confronted (again) with fifteen of the initial forty-nine statements. But this time, they were informed about the results of the first round and the arguments used by other respondents. For a number of statements the results for the first and second round (84 respondents) differed significantly.

The findings for each of the statements are presented in the appendix. These include the total number of respondents to the statement, the overall scores per category (including the number of individuals giving 'no opinion'), the average score and the standard deviation. A scale ranging from 'very probable/desirable' to 'highly improbable/desirable' was converted a four-point scale, implying that an average of 2.500 could be interpreted as the neutral middle position. The qualitative data (i.e. the argumentations of the respondents) are not presented in this report, but did however form important inputs for building the scenarios.

Most Important Findings

We found a number of important findings that are presented below, including: (a) the statements that were considered most likely/desirable; (b) the statements that were considered least likely/desirable; (c) the statements that led to the largest variety of responses; (d) the statements for which the difference between desirability and likelihood was largest; (e) statements that led to large differences between regions in Europe; and (f) statement that led to large differences between types of respondents.

Most Probable or Desirable

The statements reported to be most desirable:

- In Europe 2020, more than 3% of the gross domestic product (GDP) is spent on research, technological development and innovation (average = 1.354).
- In Europe 2020, recognition of prior learning has become a common practice in higher education institutions (average = 1.525).
- In Europe 2020, more than 50% of academic journals are e-journals, owned and controlled by academics themselves (average = 1.599).
- In Europe 2020, more than 40% of masters students hold a bachelors degree from a different institution (possibly but not necessarily in another country) (average = 1.617).
- In Europe 2020, regional (both intra-national and cross-border) authorities are responsible for regional innovation clusters (average = 1.648).
- In Europe 2020, higher education management has developed into a recognisable professional career (average = 1.705).
- In Europe 2020, consensus has been achieved on the Bachelor-Master structure: a uniform 3+2 structure is implemented in all countries and degrees are comparable across Europe (average = 1.769).

The statements reported to be most probable:

- In my country in 2020, the Bachelor-Master structure has been implemented with a 3+2 structure and degrees are comparable to those across Europe (average = 1.692).
- In Europe 2020, vast differences in academic salaries still exist across countries (average = 1.778).
- In my country in 2020, only a few ‘clusters of excellence’ are competitive on a global level in each (multi-)disciplinary research field (average = 1.795).
- In Europe 2020, regional (both intra-national and cross-border) authorities are responsible for regional innovation clusters (average = 1.816).

Least Probable or Desirable

The statements reported to be least desirable:

- In Europe 2020, only a few universities consider making an independent and critical contribution to intellectual and cultural life to be an important part of their mission (average = 3.365).
- In 2020, the Lisbon-2000 agenda to make Europe the world’s most dynamic knowledge economy has clearly failed. The most excellent research is still done elsewhere (e.g. United States, South East Asia, China) (average = 3.312).
- In Europe 2020, the rapid growth in graduate supply far exceeds societal demand, resulting in graduate unemployment and over-schooling on a large scale (average = 3.217).
- In Europe 2020, the quality of academic research is highly skewed – research is much stronger in the North-West with Southern and Eastern countries lagging significantly behind (3.134).
- In Europe 2020, research fields that are economically less relevant for business and industry are far weaker than they were in 2000 (average = 3.099).
- In Europe 2020, the effective marketing of ‘quality’ rather than the genuine quality of education and research attracts the brightest students (average = 3.082).

The statements reported to be least probable:

- In my country in 2020, there is a jungle of accreditation agencies, some linked to the ministry of education, others private and for-profit (average = 2.968).
- In my country in 2020, only a few universities consider making an independent and critical contribution to intellectual and cultural life to be an important part of their mission (average = 2.901).
- In Europe 2020, all (national as well as European) accreditation schemes have been abandoned (average = 2.883).
- In my country in 2020, more than 60 per cent of basic research (in terms of full-time equivalent researchers) is conducted outside higher education institutions (average = 2.873).

The Statements with most Variation in the Responses

- In Europe 2020, participation rates in higher education have increased considerably to some 70% of 18-22 year olds (probability in own country, standard deviation = .994).
- In Europe 2020, all higher education students pay tuition fees (desirability, standard deviation = .972).
- In Europe 2020, the European Union has a single, centralised accreditation office for higher education, which is part of the EU apparatus (desirability, standard deviation = .971).
- In Europe 2020, private higher education institutions that are accredited by recognised accreditation agencies are treated the same way in all respects as accredited public higher education institutions (desirability, standard deviation = .906).

The Statements with Largest Discrepancies between Desirability and Probability

Probable, but not or less desirable:

- In 2020, the Lisbon-2000 agenda to make Europe the world's most dynamic knowledge economy has clearly failed. The most excellent research is still done elsewhere (e.g. United States, South East Asia, China) (difference between desirability and probability = 1.300).
- In Europe 2020, the quality of academic research is highly skewed – research is much stronger in the North-West with Southern and Eastern countries lagging significantly behind (difference between desirability and probability = 1.190).

Desirable, but not or less probable:

- In Europe 2020, the quality of study programmes is fairly consistent across all countries – from North to South and from East to West (difference between desirability and probability = .843).
- In Europe 2020, more than 25% of first-degree students study in another European country for the full duration of their programme (difference between desirability and probability = .795).

Desirable, but not probable in own country:

- In Europe/my country 2020, more than 25% of first-degree students study in another European country for the full duration of their programme (difference between desirability in Europe and probability in own country = .920).
- In Europe 2020, more than 40% of masters students hold a bachelors degree from a different institution (possibly but not necessarily in another country) (difference between desirability in Europe and probability in own country = .896).

Less desirable, but probable in own country:

- In 2020, my country has failed to make its full contribution to meeting the objectives of the Lisbon-2000 agenda to make Europe the world's most dynamic knowledge economy (difference between desirability in Europe and probability in own country = 1.085).

- In my country in 2020, research fields that are economically less relevant for business and industry are far weaker than they were in 2000 (difference between desirability in Europe and probability in own country = .947).

The Statements with most Variation in the Responses by Region/Type of Respondent

The statements with large variety in responses by region:

- In Europe/my country 2020, the rapid growth in graduate supply far exceeds societal demand, resulting in graduate unemployment and over-schooling on a large scale.

Respondents from Western Europe judge this statement as (significantly) less probable in Europe 2020 and (significantly) less probable in their own country in 2020. Respondents from Southern Europe judge this statement as (significantly) more probable in their own country in 2020.

- In Europe/my country 2020, all higher education students pay tuition fees.

Respondents from Western Europe judge this statement as (significantly) more probable in their own country in 2020, respondents from Northern Europe judge this statement as (significantly) less probable in their own country in 2020.

- In Europe 2020/my country, participation rates in higher education have increased considerably to some 70% of 18-22 year olds.

Respondents from Western Europe judge this statement as (significantly) less probable in Europe 2020 and in their own country in 2020. Respondents from Southern Europe judge this statement as (significantly) more desirable in their own country in 2020.

The statements with a large variety in responses by type of respondent:

- In Europe 2020, recognition of prior learning has become a common practice in higher education institutions.

Representatives of national governments (ministries) judge this statement as (significantly) less probable in Europe 2020.

- In Europe 2020, all higher education students pay tuition fees.

Representatives of universities (central level administrators/leaders) judge this statement as (significantly) less probably in their own country.

- In Europe 2020, the typical higher education institution is managed in a business-like way, stressing efficiency and productivity.
Higher education researchers judge this statement as (significantly) less desirable in Europe 2020.

Comparison First and Second Round (15 statements)

Comparing the first and second round answers (second round 87 respondents), the most striking findings were:

- Standard deviations: the second round standard deviations were all lower, hinting at an increasing homogenisation of views. This should be interpreted carefully for the size of the two groups was clearly different. Statistical tools could not be used to determine significant differences.
- Average scores: almost all (24 out of 30) increased. Respondents in general were inclined to see the statements (even) more improbable and undesirable than in the first round.
- The largest differences were found for the following statements:

In Europe 2020, more than 60 per cent of basic research (in terms of full-time equivalent researchers) is conducted outside higher education institutions (probability from 2.491 to 2.821; desirability from 2.578 to 3.171).

In Europe 2020, the European Research Council funds more than 50% of the research projects in higher education institutions (probability from 2.689 to 3.163; desirability from 2.199 to 1.579).

In Europe 2020, the European Union has a single, centralised accreditation office for higher education, which is part of the EU apparatus (probability from 2.700 to 3.072; desirability from 2.566 to 3.000).

In Europe 2020, the rapid growth in graduate supply far exceeds societal demand, resulting in graduate unemployment and over-schooling on a large scale (probability from 2.414 to 2.741; desirability from 3.217 to 3.598).

In Europe 2020, the academic staff structure in higher education is standardised across all countries and all higher education and research institutions (probability from 2.654 to 3.119; desirability from 2.321 to 2.713).

Appendix: Overview of the Results

I. Education, Research and Innovation

1a) In Europe 2020, consensus has been achieved on the Bachelor-Master structure: a uniform 3+2 structure is implemented in all countries and degrees are comparable across Europe.

Note: The Bologna Declaration agreement on comparable degree structures has been realised.

N=162	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	48	89	23	2	1.870 (.688)	0

N=160	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	57	79	20	2	1.769 (.706)	2

Second round:

N=84	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	27	50	6	1	1.774 (.628)	0

N=84	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	30	43	8	1	1.756 (.677)	2

1b) In my country in 2020, the Bachelor-Master structure has been implemented with a 3+2 structure and degrees are comparable to those across Europe.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	79	50	23	4	1.692 (.816)	0

2a) In Europe 2020, recognition of prior learning has become a common practice in higher education institutions.

Note: The diversity of students entering higher education in terms of educational background and (work) experience has resulted in many students claiming credit for this 'prior learning'. Institutions have developed procedures for doing this.

N=161	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	31	96	26	0	1.870 (.619)	8

N=160	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	68	70	12	0	1.525 (.638)	10

2b) In my country in 2020, recognition of prior learning has become a common practice in higher education institutions.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	40	80	27	2	1.853 (.715)	7

3a) In Europe 2020, universities' research agendas are determined in close interaction with external stakeholders.

Note: The distinction between basic/fundamental research on the one hand and applied research on the other has blurred. Most research is characterised by elements relating both to its fundamental nature (knowledge for the sake of knowledge) and to its practical application. As a consequence, the role of individual professors in setting the research agenda has diminished.

N=162	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	45	92	22	1	1.846 (.656)	2

N=162	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	39	73	42	5	2.043 (.796)	3

3b) In my country in 2020, universities' research` agendas are determined in close interaction with external stakeholders.

N=157	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	26	103	22	4	2.000 (.645)	2

4a) In Europe 2020, more than 60 per cent of basic research (in terms of full-time equivalent researchers) is conducted outside higher education institutions.

Note: Business and industry are the main sectors performing basic research.

N=161	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	13	43	82	14	2.491 (.782)	9

N=161	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	8	37	79	24	2.578 (.803)	13

Second round:

N=84	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	1	22	52	9	2.821 (.624)	0

N=83	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	2	6	50	24	3.171 (.663)	1

4b) In my country in 2020, more than 60 per cent of basic research (in terms of full-time equivalent researchers) is conducted outside higher education institutions.

N=157	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	8	30	69	44	2.873 (.848)	6

5a) In Europe 2020, a striking feature of higher education is its strong functional stratification.

Note: There is a striking division between highly selective top-universities employing the best academic staff and having a strong emphasis on research and post-graduate programmes, and a wide range of other higher education institutions.

N=159	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	33	101	22	0	1.893 (.593)	3

N=158	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	20	60	57	9	2.196 (.818)	12

5b) In my country in 2020, a striking feature of higher education is its strong functional stratification.

N=154	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	18	75	56	2	2.234 (.686)	3

6a) In Europe 2020, participation rates in higher education have increased considerably to some 70% of 18-22 year olds.

Note: At present the participation rates in European countries range from around 30% to 55% of this age group.

N=160	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	28	56	63	9	2.281 (.841)	4

N=158	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	38	62	43	8	2.044 (.862)	7

Second round:

N=83	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	6	45	30	2	2.337 (.649)	0

N=82	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	16	44	19	1	2.063 (.700)	2

6b) In my country in 2020, participation rates in higher education have increased considerably to some 70% of 18-22 year olds.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	30	49	48	26	2.410 (.994)	3

7a) In Europe 2020, research fields that are economically less relevant for business and industry are far weaker than they were in 2000.

Note: Their relative position has weakened when compared to other (economically relevant) research fields in terms of public funding levels, numbers of PhD students and career opportunities for academic staff

N=162	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	28	93	35	2	2.019 (.671)	4

N=161	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	0	24	85	49	3.099 (.666)	3

7b) In my country in 2020, research fields that are economically less relevant for business and industry are far weaker than they were in 2000.

N=157	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	18	86	44	4	2.153 (.686)	5

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8a) In Europe 2020, more than 3% of the gross domestic product (GDP) is spent on research, technological development and innovation.

Note: The European Council (Barcelona 2002) goal of Europe spending 3% of GDP on R&D (two-thirds from business and industry and one-third from public sources) has been reached.

N=160	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	28	87	36	4	2.038 (.716)	5

N=161	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	101	54	3	0	1.354 (.525)	3

Second round:

N=83	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	11	52	19	0	2.098 (.601)	1

N=82	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	48	33	1	0	1.427 (.522)	0

8b) In my country in 2020, more than 3% of the gross domestic product (GDP) is spent on research, technological development and innovation.

N=157	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	31	59	53	10	2.217 (.862)	4

9a) In Europe 2020, regional (both intra-national and cross-border) authorities are responsible for regional innovation clusters.

Note: In regional innovation clusters, companies, municipalities, universities and public research organisations successfully interact in research and innovation.

N=163	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	23	100	22	1	1.816 (.617)	14

N=162	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	41	93	12	1	1.648 (.620)	15

9b) In my country in 2020, regional authorities are responsible for regional innovation clusters.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	22	85	38	3	2.039 (.693)	8

10a) In Europe 2020, only a few 'clusters of excellence' are competitive on a global level in each (multi-)disciplinary research field.

N=160	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	34	88	29	0	1.856 (.657)	8

N=158	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	7	47	76	12	2.386 (.755)	16

10b) In my country in 2020, only a few 'clusters of excellence' are competitive on a global level in each (multi-)disciplinary research field.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	46	76	26	1	1.795 (.711)	7

11a) In Europe 2020, standardised course modules developed by leading European scholars are widely used (and available online) in many basic disciplines.

N=162	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	27	71	52	5	2.130 (.775)	7

N=162	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	15	76	49	11	2.210 (.780)	11

11b) In my country in 2020, standardised course modules developed by leading European scholars are widely used (and available online) in many basic disciplines.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	12	67	61	10	2.365 (.745)	6

12a) In Europe 2020, more than 10% of students are registered with institutions that have their seat outside Europe.

Note: Prestigious institutions from outside Europe (for example, the USA and Australia) have established a significant number of campuses within Europe.

N=159	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	17	73	57	4	2.201 (.716)	8

N=161	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	9	52	59	11	2.075 (.886)	30

12b) In my country in 2020, more than 10% of students are registered with institutions that have their seat outside Europe.

N=155	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	11	53	65	20	2.529 (.815)	6

13a) In Europe 2020, more than 25% of first-degree students study in another European country for the full duration of their programme.

N=161	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	5	37	106	10	2.714 (.612)	3

N=161	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	21	90	36	0	1.919 (.643)	14

13b) In my country in 2020, more than 25% of first-degree students study in another European country for the full duration of their programme.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	10	25	85	32	2.840 (.800)	4

II. Funding

14a) In Europe 2020, the European Research Council funds more than 50% of the research projects in higher education institutions.

N=161	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	4	22	107	16	2.689 (.635)	12

N=161	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	17	55	61	11	2.199 (.842)	17

Second round:

N=83	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	0	7	53	20	3.163 (.561)	3

N=83	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	5	28	37	6	2.579 (.735)	7

14b) In my country in 2020, the European Research Council funds more than 50% of the research projects in higher education institutions.

N=157	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	4	21	90	29	2.752 (.724)	13

15a) In Europe 2020, all national research-funding organisations have opened their competitive grants to applicants from all over Europe.

N=161	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	10	67	64	10	2.335 (.736)	10

N=162	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	30	79	37	4	1.944 (.756)	12

15b) In my country in 2020, all research-funding organisations have opened their competitive grants to applicants from all over Europe.

N=157	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	10	56	66	17	2.471 (.790)	8

16a) In Europe 2020, all higher education students pay tuition fees.

N=160	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	34	84	34	5	2.025 (.749)	3

N=161	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	23	61	39	26	2.273 (.972)	12

Second round:

N=83	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	14	56	12	0	1.976 (.566)	1

N=83	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	10	33	21	15	2.519 (.945)	4

16b) In my country in 2020, all higher education students pay tuition fees.

N=155	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	43	69	36	7	2.045 (.832)	0

17a) In Europe 2020, individual higher education institutions set their own tuition fees.

N=160	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	30	99	25	2	1.944 (.639)	4

N=161	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	24	54	58	15	2.273 (.888)	10

Second round:

N=82	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	14	61	7	0	1.915 (.502)	0

N=83	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	6	35	29	10	2.538 (.810)	3

17b) In my country in 2020, individual higher education institutions set their own tuition fees.

N=155	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	27	70	44	9	2.161 (.818)	5

18a) In Europe 2020, tuition fees are set on the basis of graduate salaries in each discipline.

N=161	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	10	41	76	15	2.360 (.822)	19

N=155	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	9	29	79	23	2.555 (.824)	15

18b) In my country in 2020, tuition fees are set on the basis of graduate salaries in each discipline.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	4	32	78	30	2.705 (.769)	12

19a) In Europe 2020, the level of publicly funded financial support for students under 21 years old is dependent on parental income.

Note: Governments have limited grants and scholarships to students under 21 as a result of the growing number of students. Equity considerations have led to parents being expected to contribute to their children's higher education in relation to their income. Mature students rely on loans and their own income.

N=160	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	21	97	29	5	2.013 (.679)	8

N=160	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	27	64	45	15	2.188 (.892)	9

Second round:

N=83	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	8	67	6	0	1.975 (.418)	2

N=84	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	7	44	20	7	2.346 (.770)	6

19b) In my country in 2020, the level of publicly funded financial support for students under 21 years old is dependent on parental income.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	27	73	41	11	2.179 (.830)	4

20a) In Europe 2020, private higher education institutions that are accredited by recognised accreditation agencies are treated the same way in all respects as accredited public higher education institutions.

Note: The differences between public and private providers have become blurred and there are no convincing arguments to treat private institutions differently from public institutions (in areas such as student financial support, the recognition of degrees, eligibility for public research grants and the public funding institutions receive per student).

N=160	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	44	75	33	3	1.906 (.762)	5

N=159	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	45	65	29	12	1.950 (.906)	8

Second round:

N=83	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	8	63	11	0	2.037 (.483)	1

N=83	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	10	54	12	5	2.148 (.709)	2

20b) In my country in 2020, accredited private higher education institutions are treated the same way in all respects as accredited public higher education institutions.

N=155	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	33	61	48	9	2.161 (.857)	4

21) In Europe 2020, the funding of the research (basic, applied and contract) undertaken by higher education institutions will come from the following sources:

	Likely share	Desirable share	Likely country
EC/ERC	22.6%	25.0%	20.8%
National government	31.5%	28.2%	40.0%
Regional government	11.1%	10.6%	10.1%
Business & industry	32.9%	35.1%	27.7%
Other, please specify:	4.2%	4.4%	5.0%
	N=124	N=122	N=123

22a) In Europe 2020, the number of government-subsidised student places in public higher education institutions is demand-driven.

Note: Student demand determines the number of funded places. Governments refrain from setting capacity limits.

N=161	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	15	85	46	7	2.180 (.715)	8

N=159	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	21	74	46	7	2.107 (.775)	11

22b) In my country in 2020, the number of government-subsidised student places in public higher education institutions is demand-driven.

N=154	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	18	69	45	12	2.201 (.821)	10

III. Quality

23a) In Europe 2020, the effective marketing of ‘quality’ rather than the genuine quality of education and research attracts the brightest students.

Note: The marketing strategies of higher education institutions determine how students are informed (or misinformed) about the places where they might study. Trustworthy, independent and ‘hard’ indicators of the quality of education are not publicly available.

N=160	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	16	78	56	4	2.225 (.696)	6
N=159	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	7	10	81	55	3.082 (.765)	6

23b) In my country in 2020, the effective marketing of ‘quality’ rather than the genuine quality of education and research attracts the brightest students.

N=154	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	14	60	61	12	2.370 (.788)	7

24a) In Europe 2020, all (national as well as European) accreditation schemes have been abandoned.

Note. Accreditation schemes have ceased to exist for a number of reasons including that they did not deliver information useful for students or employers.

N=159	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	3	22	79	42	2.843 (.761)	13
N=160	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	5	28	71	40	2.713 (.841)	16

24b) In my country in 2020, no accreditation schemes are operational.

N=154	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	4	23	70	46	2.883 (.798)	11

25a) In Europe 2020, there is a jungle of accreditation agencies, some linked to national ministries of education, others private and for-profit.

N=160	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	13	75	59	5	2.250 (.698)	8

N=158	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	4	17	77	46	2.867 (.781)	14

25b) In my country in 2020, there is a jungle of accreditation agencies, some linked to the ministry of education, others private and for-profit.

N=154	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	5	29	70	46	2.968 (.801)	4

26) In Europe 2020, the European Union has a single, centralised accreditation office for higher education, which is part of the EU apparatus.

N=160	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	9	35	91	20	2.700 (.744)	5

N=159	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	18	35	60	35	2.566 (.971)	11

Second round:

N=84	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	3	6	56	18	3.072 (.659)	1

N=82	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	3	13	46	19	3.000 (.742)	1

27a) In Europe 2020, most students collect ECTS-credits in a ‘supermarket mode’ of continuous, life-long education.

Note: The degree or study programme has come to play a less important role - in 2020 the specific courses completed are the most important elements in a graduate curriculum vitae.

N=159	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	14	71	62	3	2.226 (.691)	9

N=159	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	14	69	61	3	2.258 (.726)	9

27b) In my country in 2020, most students collect ECTS-credits in a ‘supermarket mode’ of continuous, life-long education.

N=153	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	9	59	64	13	2.425 (.756)	8

28a) In Europe 2020, there is a single European qualification structure that includes all higher education programmes.

Note: The qualification structure describes competencies and levels of educational attainment. The development of a single European qualification structure required international agreement about the structure of labour markets.

N=159	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	12	53	79	9	2.459 (.731)	6

N=158	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	19	73	47	8	2.139 (.779)	11

28b) In my country in 2020, there is a single qualification structure that includes all higher education programmes.

N=152	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	25	62	52	7	2.191 (.808)	6

29a) In Europe 2020, the employability of graduates is used as the main indicator of the quality of study programmes.

N=160	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	12	73	66	6	2.375 (.691)	3

N=159	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	10	55	75	14	2.522 (.749)	5

29b) In my country in 2020, the employability of graduates is used as the main indicator of the quality of study programmes.

N=154	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	11	69	64	8	2.422 (.709)	2

30) In Europe 2020, the quality of study programmes is fairly consistent across all countries – from North to South and from East to West.

N=158	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	6	41	84	24	2.760 (.739)	3

N=155	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	36	83	29	2	1.916 (.703)	5

31) In Europe 2020, the quality of academic research is highly skewed – research is much stronger in the North-West with Southern and Eastern countries lagging significantly behind.

N=159	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	27	87	36	0	1.943 (.658)	9

N=157	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	2	4	94	50	3.134 (.599)	7

IV. Higher Education, Society and Labour Market

32a) In Europe 2020, the most excellent academics work outside the public universities.

Note: It is much more rewarding for excellent researchers and teachers to work for private higher education institutions, consultancy firms and/or business and industry. In addition to higher salaries, they have access to better research facilities.

N=158	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	9	60	80	5	2.462 (.662)	4

N=156	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	5	11	89	39	2.885 (.729)	12

32b) In my country in 2020, the most excellent academics work outside the public universities.

N=153	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	6	36	89	18	2.725 (.701)	4

33a) In Europe 2020, the proportion of academic staff in higher education with long-term or tenured positions is significantly lower than it was in 2000.

N=157	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	24	87	38	1	2.013 (.664)	7

N=154	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	15	60	49	16	2.247 (.865)	14

Second round:

N=84	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	9	62	9	1	2.025 (.524)	3

N=82	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	7	25	44	6	2.598 (.751)	2

33b) In my country in 2020, the proportion of academic staff in higher education with long-term or tenured positions is significantly lower than it was in 2000.

N=149	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	19	62	58	7	2.315 (.771)	3

34a) In Europe 2020, the rapid growth in graduate supply far exceeds societal demand, resulting in graduate unemployment and over-schooling on a large scale.

N=157	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	12	54	73	10	2.414 (.751)	8

N=157	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	1	7	82	61	3.217 (.614)	6

Second round:

N=84	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	3	24	45	9	2.741 (.703)	1

N=82	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	0	2	29	51	3.598 (.541)	2

34b) In my country in 2020, the rapid growth in graduate supply far exceeds societal demand resulting in graduate unemployment and over-schooling on a large scale.

N=151	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	14	48	69	15	2.497 (.808)	5

35a) In Europe 2020, the academic staff structure in higher education is standardised across all countries and all higher education and research institutions.

Note: The differences in the categories of academic staff across Europe have disappeared – there is now a common classification with agreed-upon job titles (Europrofessor A, Europrofessor B, etc.), but not necessarily equal salary scales.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	4	40	86	18	2.654 (.695)	8

N=156	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	9	60	55	17	2.321 (.825)	15

Second round:

N=84	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	0	7	60	17	3.119 (.524)	0

N=83	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	5	19	50	6	2.713 (.697)	3

35b) In my country in 2020, the academic staff structure in higher education is standardised across all higher education and research institutions.

N=149	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	23	55	56	10	2.289 (.838)	5

36) In Europe 2020, vast differences in academic salaries still exist across countries.

N=158	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	49	90	16	1	1.778 (.637)	2

N=156	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	4	36	89	13	2.532 (.690)	14

37a) In Europe 2020, it is common practice in all countries for higher education institutions to select their students at both bachelors and masters levels.

N=158	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	34	76	33	2	1.854 (.740)	13

N=158	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	27	80	29	4	1.835 (.754)	18

Second round:

N=84	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	14	57	10	0	1.951 (.545)	3

N=84	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	16	53	6	5	2.000 (.729)	4

37b) In my country in 2020, it is common practice for higher education institutions to select their students at both bachelors and masters levels.

N=152	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	32	65	37	7	1.980 (.836)	11

38a) In 2020, the Lisbon-2000 agenda to make Europe the world's most dynamic knowledge economy has clearly failed. The most excellent research is still done elsewhere (e.g. United States, South East Asia, China).

N=158	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	20	79	40	5	2.013 (.745)	14

N=157	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	2	2	70	76	3.312 (.618)	7

38b) In 2020, my country has failed to make its full contribution to meeting the objectives of the Lisbon-2000 agenda to make Europe the world's most dynamic knowledge economy.

N=154	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	14	63	53	11	2.227 (.804)	13

39a) In Europe 2020, the emphasis in undergraduate studies is much more on broad education ('Bildung') than on the transmission of pragmatic job-relevant knowledge and skills.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	12	68	63	2	2.212 (.678)	11

N=155	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	15	67	55	6	2.181 (.750)	12

39b) In my country in 2020, the emphasis in undergraduate studies is much more on broad education ('Bildung') than on the transmission of pragmatic job-relevant knowledge and skills.

N=151	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	14	63	61	5	2.272 (.725)	8

40a) In Europe 2020, more than 40% of masters students hold a bachelors degree from a different institution (possibly but not necessarily in another country).

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	13	65	66	3	2.263 (.693)	9

N=154	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	34	88	13	0	1.617 (.615)	19

40b) In my country in 2020, more than 40% of masters students hold a bachelors degree from a different institution (possibly but not necessarily in another country).

N=152	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	10	55	70	13	2.513 (.750)	4

41a) In Europe 2020, technological breakthroughs have made ‘anytime, anyplace learning’ the dominant learning mode.

Note: Lecture hall complexes have become less important although institutions still use laboratories for skills training, and seminar rooms for face-to-face contact in a ‘blended learning mode’.

N=158	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	13	53	74	10	2.411 (.759)	8

N=152	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	10	51	70	9	2.355 (.750)	12

41b) In my country in 2020, technological breakthroughs have made ‘anytime, anyplace learning’ the dominant learning mode.

N=152	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	7	52	73	14	2.539 (.729)	6

42) In Europe 2020, more than 50% of academic journals are e-journals, owned and controlled by academics themselves.

Note: Academics have won the battle with the publisher – the e-journals are prestigious and subscribers pay only a modest subscription.

N=158	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	27	71	42	2	1.918 (.758)	16

N=157	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	46	70	19	2	1.599 (.750)	20

43a) In Europe 2020, only a few universities consider making an independent and critical contribution to intellectual and cultural life to be an important part of their mission.

N=157	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	6	35	86	24	2.739 (.736)	6

N=156	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	3	6	66	78	3.365 (.670)	3

Second round:

N=84	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	2	19	39	22	2.988 (.778)	2

N=83	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	2	3	26	50	3.531 (.691)	2

43b) In my country in 2020, only a few universities consider making an independent and critical contribution to intellectual and cultural life to be an important part of their mission.

N=151	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	8	32	74	36	2.901 (.816)	1

V. Institutional Governance and Management

44a) In the European university of 2020, there is a clear split between teaching, research and community service functions – this split is reflected in organisational structures, sources of revenue and staffing policies.

Note: The tasks of the university have become more complex and distinct, forcing institutions to set up different organisational structures for different tasks. This has also had consequences for salaries and other conditions of employment.

N=155	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	17	71	53	3	2.219 (.717)	11

N=157	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	9	42	67	23	2.459 (.855)	16

44b) In my country's universities in 2020, there is a clear split between teaching, research and community service functions – this split is reflected in organisational structures, sources of revenue and staffing policies.

N=150	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	9	64	57	11	2.347 (.748)	9

45a) In Europe 2020, the typical higher education institution is managed in a business-like way, stressing efficiency and productivity.

Note: Methods of strategic, financial and human resources management are by and large similar to those encountered in the for-profit sector. This does not necessarily mean that higher education is seen or run as a (for-profit) business.

N=157	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	29	97	26	1	1.943 (.625)	4

N=156	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	18	83	38	8	2.115 (.748)	9

Huisman et al.

45b) In my country in 2020, the typical higher education institution is managed in a business-like way, stressing efficiency and productivity.

N=152	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	18	85	44	5	2.237 (.698)	0

46a) In Europe 2020, control over educational courses and programmes has shifted to institutional executives and managers and to external stakeholders.

Note: In 2020, the determining influence of professionals (academics) over the content of educational courses and programmes has diminished.

N=157	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	2	54	84	7	2.484 (.617)	10

N=155	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	3	25	79	33	2.723 (.768)	15

46b) In my country in 2020, control over educational courses and programmes has shifted to institutional executives and managers and to external stakeholders.

N=152	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	3	38	89	16	2.697 (.656)	6

47a) In Europe 2020, higher education management has developed into a recognisable professional career.

Note: This 'professionalisation' is evidenced by the fact that it is common practice for institutional executives and managers to move from one institution to another over the course of their careers, that there is an extensive range of educational programmes to prepare higher education managers and to enhance their skills, and that executives and managers are well-paid.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	28	97	21	1	1.853 (.612)	9

N=156	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	42	81	14	5	1.705 (.743)	14

47b) In my country in 2020, higher education management has developed into a recognisable professional career.

N=152	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	19	82	42	1	2.059 (.661)	8

48a) In Europe 2020, well over one-third of all higher education executives are drawn from backgrounds outside higher education.

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	6	69	66	4	2.295 (.648)	11

N=155	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	7	49	58	16	2.213 (.879)	25

48b) In my country in 2020, well over one-third of all higher education executives are drawn from backgrounds outside higher education.

N=150	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	6	45	78	10	2.467 (.704)	11

Huisman et al.

49a) In Europe 2020, a majority of higher education institutions are amalgamations or federations of previously independent entities.

Note: Mergers and other forms of organisational integration – nationally or cross border– are widespread ('big is beautiful').

N=156	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	17	56	65	5	2.205 (.770)	13

N=155	Very desirable	Desirable	Not desirable	Highly undesirable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	9	56	65	6	2.194 (.754)	19

49b) In my country in 2020, a majority of higher education institutions are amalgamations or federations of previously independent entities.

N=150	Very probable	Probable	Not probable	Highly improbable	Average (standdev)	No opinion
I think this situation is	13	50	67	11	2.387 (.785)	9