

Professor Maria Helena Nazaré
President of the European University Association (2012–2015)

Maria Helena Nazaré began her academic career in Mozambique, lecturing at the University Eduardo Mondlane in 1973. Before her special interest in Physics was to take her to the University of Aveiro in Portugal, where she served as Rector, she spent three years working on her PhD at King's College London, graduating in 1978. In 1986, she took up leadership of the research group in Spectroscopy of Semiconductors in the Department of Physics at the University of Aveiro, working with nationally and internationally funded research projects, and publishing over 70 articles in scientific journals.

She has participated actively in decision-making, whether as President of the departmental scientific and pedagogical commissions (positions she held on various occasions between 1978 and 1988) or as Head of Department between 1978 and 1980 and again between 1988 and 1990. In 1990 she was made Vice-President of the University of Aveiro Scientific Commission and in 1991, Vice-Rector of the University, a position she held until 1998. She was elected Rector of the University of Aveiro from 2002–2010 and became an EUA Board member in March 2009.