

Access to Higher Education: is it a right, a privilege or a necessity? (Affordability, Quality, Equity & Diversity)

EAN 21st Annual Conference, 27th-29th June 2012
University of Zagreb, Croatia

For centuries, universities and institutions of higher learning had been places where many of the rich and powerful acquired knowledge as a matter of course while the small number of very bright but poor or disadvantaged who could find their way there did it with considerable effort. That privilege was challenged and in 1948 the right to education was affirmed in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which further underlined that education is not only a human right, it is also a prerequisite for the development of society and the individual. Yet evidence has consistently shown that education remains a privilege rather than a right. Universities with a commitment to equity and diversity are still grappling with issues such as how to reconcile access and quality, and the impact on rankings; and in countries where higher education is not free, how to impose fees without reducing participation and diversity. The 'Europe 2020' strategy aims to "improving the responsiveness of education and training systems to new demands and trends, in order to better meet the skills needs of the labour market and the social and cultural challenges of a globalised world." This requires us not only to prepare students with skills and competences for the work place but also to equip them with values, attitudes, knowledge and confidence to be global citizens. By 2025 two-thirds of jobs will require some form of higher qualification, making access to higher education even more of a necessity than ever before.

How will we rise up to the challenge to achieve the goals?

Objectives

- ★ To discuss the notion of education as a basic human right, and explore ways as to how such a right can be exercised in practical terms through governmental, institutional and societal actions.
- ★ To investigate the impact of fees (or funding cuts) and identify the mechanisms or matrices of funding that will ensure the affordability of higher education for diverse groups of students.
- ★ To promote cooperation and strengthen the links between higher education and secondary schools to tackle early school leaving and prepare pupils adequately for transition to post-secondary education.
- ★ To share successful strategies on the 'in-through-out' student life-cycle: i.e. accessibility and preparation for entry; attainment and completion; employability skills for the labour market and global citizenship qualities.
- ★ To share good practices for creating institutional profiles based on three essential attributes of quality, equity and diversity.
- ★ To investigate and discuss the impact of rankings on diversity, quality and equity in higher education and to share ideas on how to improve ranking criteria.

For call for proposals, programme, booking form, and accommodation details:
www.ean-edu.org

EAN delegates are invited to the Second SiS Catalyst: Children as Change Agents Project Conference: "Putting global thinking into action" on **Tuesday 26 June**, at the University of Zagreb.

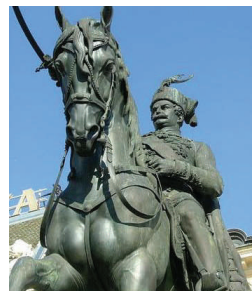


European and international proposals are invited from policy makers, practitioners, academics, researchers and students. Papers giving evidence of good practice and effective strategies, presenting research findings, are particularly welcome.

Papers should be framed in the European or international contexts. Presenters should consider Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Council of the European Union's Europe 2020 Strategy; the Bologna Process: Taking Bologna towards 2020; UNESCO's World Declaration on Higher Education in the 21st Century; Lumina Foundation for Education's Big Goal.

Proposals should focus directly on the conference theme and issues of affordability, quality, equity and diversity in higher education recognising that diversity includes groups currently under-represented, for reasons including gender, ethnicity, disability, age, socio-economic status, geographical location or earlier educational disadvantage.

For proposal guidelines and submission forms, please go to our website www.ean-edu.org



Provisional Programme

Wednesday 27th June (Faculty of Civil Engineering)

- 09:00** Pre-Conference Registration
- 09:30** **International Student Forum**
- 09:30** **Parallel Training Sessions on: Disability; Teaching & Learning**
- 12:30** Registration with light lunch
- 12:50** Newcomers Reception
- 13:25** Annual General Meeting of the EAN
- 14:30** **Opening Plenary**
Mary Tupan-Wenno, President of EAN & Director, ECHO, The Netherlands
Prof Aleksa Bjeliš, PhD, Rector, University of Zagreb, Croatia
Dr Željko Jovanović, Minister of Science, Education and Sports, Croatia (tbc)
- 15:45** **Parallel Paper Sessions 1**
- 17:00** **The 11th Maggie Woodrow Memorial Lecture**
Dr Maurits van Rooijen, Rector Magnificus, Nyenrode Universiteit, the Netherlands
- 18:00** **Welcome Reception in Botanical Gardens**
 Hosted by the University of Zagreb

Thursday 28th June (Borongay Campus)

- 09:00** **Plenary 1: Access to Higher Education: Barriers & Opportunities**
Anna Kelly, Director of Access & Lifelong Learning, University College Dublin, Ireland
- Panel Discussion: *The fulfilment of the right to education: policy, practice and reality*
 Facilitator: **Dr Kerry Ferguson**, Pro Vice-Chancellor, La Trobe University, Australia
Anna Kelly, **Prof Michael Osborne**, **James Anyan** + student
- 11:00** **Parallel Paper Sessions 2**
- 14:00** **Parallel Working Groups**

- 16:00** **Working Groups reporting back**

- 20:00** **Conference Dinner** (optional)

Friday 29th June (Borongay Campus)

- 09:00** **Plenary 2: Affordable Quality Higher Education**
Prof Malcolm Gillies, Vice-Chancellor, London Metropolitan University, UK
 Respondents: **Tom Mortenson**, Higher Education Policy Analyst, The Pell Institute, USA
2 students
- 11:00** **Parallel Paper Sessions 3**
- 14:00** **Plenary 3: University Rankings v Quality, Equity, & Diversity**
Prof Wolf Rauch, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, former Rector, Karl Franzens University, Graz, Austria
- Panel Discussion: *Top ranking, affordability, quality, equity and diversity: can we have it all?*
 Moderator: **Julie Hall**, Director, Learning & Teaching Enhancement, University of Roehampton, UK
Joseph Budu, Registrar, University of Ghana, Africa
Luka Juroš, member of the Bologna Follow-up Group, Croatia
Denise Bett, Treasurer, Equity Practitioners in Higher Education Australasia, Australia
A student
- 15:45** **International Student Forum & EAN World Congress on Access to Education**
Dr Maureen Hoyler, COE, Washington DC, USA
Prof Stuart Billingham, EAN World Congress Co-Director, UK
- 16:45** **Conference Conclusion & Summary**
Dr Michael Cooper, Special Advisor, EAN, Sweden

Saturday 30th June

- A day out to the Plitvice Lakes National Park** (optional)