

22nd Annual Conference

In collaboration with the Council of Europe
3rd - 5th June 2013
Strasbourg, France



The Evolution of Access: Adapt to Survive?

New Challenges and Opportunities in Widening Participation in Higher Education

Globally, participation in higher education has risen substantially. According to the OECD (*Education at a Glance 2012*) entry rates to university level programmes in OECD countries grew on average by nearly 25 percentage points between 1995 and 2010.

This is good news, but fireworks would be premature. Despite expanding opportunities, participation and success in higher education remain skewed.

In Europe, higher education entered a new era when the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) came into being in 2010; and the Bologna reforms had 'changed the face of higher education across Europe'. Meeting in 2012 against the backdrop of the European financial crisis, the European Ministers responsible for higher education affirmed it was 'an important part of the solution to our current difficulties'.

Progress towards equitable and inclusive higher education in Europe has previously moved slowly. The resolve of the Ministers is clear, but can real progress be achieved?

Objectives

- To reach an understanding of the different uses and meanings of the terminology 'access and widening participation' to enable discussion, co-operation and collaboration to achieve greater diversity and inclusion in higher education
- To assess the linkages between widening participation and quality measures in higher education and the resources needed to support and sustain the dual values of equity and excellence
- To share with and learn from one another useful lessons in responding to stakeholders' and students' needs and demands in time of financial constraints
- To forge alliances with the international community to build on progress made in widening access for greater impact globally

World Congress on Access to Post-Secondary Education: Connecting the Unconnected

The EAN is setting out on a journey to create a new global movement to tackle the disparities in and obstacles to participation. We are planning three World Congresses: in 2013, 2015 and 2017. Our vision is that these three events will progressively build and enact an agenda for change.

We aim to bring together individuals and organisations around the world who share our vision to work together and to learn from each other. Separately, many of us are already making progress on a small scale, but by working together we can have an even greater impact.

Join us in Strasbourg to shape the first World Congress which will take place on 7-10 October in Montreal, Canada. Find out more on how you can be part of the movement: www.eanworldcongress.org

Strasbourg, France



Programme Outline

Sunday 2 June

Registration, Annual General Meeting of the EAN, and Welcome reception

Monday 3 June

Plenary 1: *The Access Evolution – is it too slow?*

Chair: **Mary Tupan-Wenno**,

EAN President and Director, ECHO, Netherlands

Keynotes:

A brief history of Access EAN & Council of Europe

Access denied? A global perspective

Eva Egron-Polak, Secretary General,
International Association of Universities

Widening Participation in HE: Africa in focus

Prof Julia Preece, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Panel discussion:

The winning recipe: ingredients for success in Access & WP

Moderator: **Jamie Merisotis**, President,
Lumina Foundation for Education, USA

Joseph Budu, Registrar, University of Ghana, Africa

Prof Les Ebdon, Director, Office for Fair Access (OFFA), UK

Florian Kaiser, European Students' Union, Belgium

Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy,
Or **Ólaf Ólafsdóttir**, Director of Democratic Citizenship and

Participation, Council of Europe

Parallel paper sessions 1

What is Access and Widening Participation? Let us hear from you!

Exchanging of views to foster better understanding across continents

The 12th Maggie Woodrow Memorial Lecture

Chair: **Fran Ferrier**, Executive Director, EAN

Quality, Excellence and the Social Dimension:

what is the connection?

Sjur Bergan, Head of Education Department, Council of Europe

Tuesday 4 June

Plenary 2: *Inclusive higher education: the state of affair in Europe*

Chair: **Dr David Goldman**, Salzburg Global Seminar, Austria

Keynotes:

Modernisation of higher education for social inclusion: an audit

David Crosier, Eurydice Network, Brussels, Belgium

Higher Education investments in crisis?

Andrée Sursock, Senior Advisor, EUA, Belgium

Roundtable: *A stimulus package for Access – the carrot, the stick and what else?*

Moderator: **Germain Dondelinger**, Luxembourg Ministry &
Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for
Education and Practice (CDPPE)

Mercy Haizel Ashia, University of Ghana, Africa

David Crosier, Eurydice Network

Prof Les Ebdon, Director, Office for Fair Affairs

Vanja Ivošević, Center for Education Policy, Beograd, Serbia

Andrée Sursock, European University Association

Presentation:

Ensuring Quality Education: Access and Quality of Education

Chair: **Steve Kendall**, Director, Widening Participation, University
of Bedfordshire

Germain Dondelinger, Luxembourg Ministry, CDPPE Vice-Chair

Vanja Ivošević, Center for Education Policy, Beograd, Serbia

Wednesday 5 June

Plenary 3: *The Access crystal ball: what does the future hold?*

Chair: **Prof Kerry Ferguson**, Pro Vice-Chancellor,

La Trobe University, Australia

Romani involvement in higher education:

a balance sheet of actual practice

Facilitator: **Aurora Ailincai**, Adviser on Education Policies
for Roma, Council of Europe

Initiator: **Dr Sarah Carmona**, Post-Doctoral Programme, Université
de la Manouba, Tunisia

Diana Kirilova, PhD, Anthropology & Philosophy of Education,
Legal Expert in Romani language at the Court of Appeal, Paris,
France

Dr Adrian Marsh, Senior Programme Manager, Roma,
Open Society Foundations, UK

Drd Ciprian Necula, President, Romano ButiQ,
Bucharest, Romania

Panel discussion:

The World Wide Access Web: co-operation for collective impact

Moderator: **Dr Maurits van Rooijen**, Rector & CEO, London
School of Business and Finance, UK

Drd Ciprian Necula, President, Romano ButiQ,
Bucharest, Romania (tbc)

Michelle Asha Cooper, President, IHEP, USA

Sjur Bergan, Council of Europe

Prof Stuart Billingham, EAN World Congress Committee, UK

Jochen Fried, Salzburg Global Seminar, Austria

Katja Urbatsch, Arbeiterkind, Germany

Student (name to be confirmed)

**Conclusions and recommendations for the 1st EAN World
Congress** (7th-10th October, Montreal, Canada)

Access to post-secondary education: Connecting the Unconnected
Diana Wickham, World Congress Committee, Canada

Looking forward to Edinburgh 2014

Kathleen Hood, Head of Widening Participation,
University of Edinburgh, Scotland