



## 24<sup>th</sup> EAN Annual Conference

*In collaboration with the National Union of Students in Norway*

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
Hotel Bristol Conference Centre, Oslo, Norway

### Advocating for access, equity, inclusion and diversity in higher education Politics, Policies, Power and Persuasion

#### *Conference theme*

All of us seeking to change the ideas, policies, practices, systems and other factors that support and perpetuate education inequalities are 'advocates for change' – whether we are students, academics, administrators, policy makers, teachers, support workers, or have some other role within or outside higher education.

Being an advocate for change in higher education, particularly an 'equity champion', is a challenging, and at times thankless role. It can be isolating and difficult, especially when there are strong forces supporting the status quo. Many of us can tell stories about being 'a lone voice' in a disinterested – perhaps hostile – crowd or environment or of the difficulties of trying to persuade others to adopt new practices that are very different from 'what they have always done'.

Now, in the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, 'equity champions' are needed as much as ever in higher education. Despite considerable progress, some education inequalities persist throughout the world, while some new forms of inequality are emerging as the world changes.

Fortunately, those taking on this challenging role now have an advantage. The work of previous years has bequeathed a legacy of knowledge, expertise and experience that we can use to make our task easier and help us to change 'what is' into 'what should be' more quickly.

#### *In this conference we will focus on:*

- What forms of education inequalities are the most difficult to overcome? Why are they so challenging and what strategies should we use?
- What are the factors that make change difficult to achieve? What strategies should we use to overcome them?
- What competing interests within higher education affect our chances of success? How do we counter them?
- What are the roles of student organisations, networks, such as the EAN, trade unions and organisations representing groups within and outside higher education?



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