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College presidents salaries are on the rise



—Understanding international
higher education policy—

ESNA's news section provides an easy-to-use format to learn about the latest developments in European Higher Education. The news are selected by our team from thousands of sources and drafted to provide you with the most comprehensive overview of events.



Misir Mardanov (Photo: Seninem)

Interview with Prof. Asef Hajiyev, member of the parliamentary committee of science and education on "Azerbaijan 'gradually' meeting European education commitments", *news.az*, 15-09-2010

news.az/

AZERBAIJAN: SECULAR EDUCATION

While in Turkey a rollback against secular education seems to advance (*see Bulletin N°077 – 27-10-2010*), the government of Azerbaijan insists on a strict separation of religion and school. Azerbaijan joined the Bologna Process in 2005.

"Teachers and pupils cannot attend lessons in hijabs in any school or university", education Minister Misir Mardanov confirmed, according to the Azerbaijani news portal *lent.az*.

The minister rejected the complaints of teachers, pupils and students and supports the position of the directorate of secondary schools and universities that all pupils must attend lessons in a school uniform.

The conflict about the hijab intensified in the last years when the authorities tried to forbid them on passport photographs. Heated debates in internet forums show the dilemma of many young Muslim women: on one hand the fight for equal rights, on the other, they decide to cling to tradition and 'obedience' and to a way of preserving their identity. [945]

BELGIUM: STUDENTS, PROFS AND ARTISTS FOR SOLIDARITY

The students' initiative week was inspired by a call for solidarity between regions from the socialist union and an open letter signed by many Belgian artists opposing the separatist discourse.

The initiative started with a flashmob by 400 Dutch and French speaking students in the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Later, there were pillow fights in Leuven and Ghent, with 400 and 800 participants respectively. These pillow fights were meant as a caricature of the quarrels between Flemish and Wallonian politicians. Professors, who felt the separatist discourse was dominant in the media and wanted to reflect another light on the actual political debate, held open classes on various topics.

Currently, there has not been federal government in Belgium since the last elections that took place in June due to discord over state reforms. [836]

The program of the solidarity movement "It is solidarity to make a culture great", 19-10-2010 (in Dutch)

demorgen.be/

FRANCE: THE FRENCH BERLIN WALL HAS FALLEN

"The Berlin wall in France, which separated the scientific from the economic world, will soon be nothing but a bad memory", stated a satisfied Valérie Pécresse about the assessment of three years of reforms of culture of innovation.

Some of the outstanding developments mentioned were: that the number of junior enterprises doubled in a year, the new relationship between universities and *Grandes Écoles* has been a triggering factor in the increase of PhD students, the number of innovators has been growing and new figures have appeared such as the researcher-businessmen. In addition, more projects were able to apply for patents; six new alliances between universities and research institutions were created and filed patents increased by one third from 2009 to 2010.

Science minister Pécresse resumed her efforts and achievements to enhance research and development in France with the words: "Our decline in this field has been halted, and future investments are now a unique occasion to convert the try."

Press release of the ministry, 04-11-2010 (in French)

enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/



Rózsa Hoffmann
(Photo: F. Mátyás)

The law draft, Ministry of Education,
Nov. 2010 (in Hungarian)
nefmi.gov.hu/

HUNGARY: SO LONG, BOLOGNA

In Mid-November, Education minister Rózsa Hoffmann published the draft of a new education law which will undo several changes induced by the Bologna Process.

The proposal is to be discussed and approved by Spring 2011, when it will certainly be passed by the government with its two thirds of seats in the Parliament, and come into force in 2014. It contains: Teacher training to be remodeled to a one-cycle degree of five years. The control of the ministry over the universities will be strengthened as the responsible for financial matters in the university will be nominated by the ministry and additional ministerial controllers will be appointed.

There will be a separation of academic and practical higher education and the according degrees. Finally, access to university studies will be more restricted as a second exam will be introduced to make it more difficult to access. [888]

ITALY: REFORMS AND DEMOCRACY

Pier Paolo Pasolini said 1968, resistance against fascism and the student movement have been the only democratic-revolutionary experiences of the Italian population in history to this day.

However, Italy currently has a new experience of the kind again: Demonstrations before the Senate of Rome, flying eggs against the building of the Rectors' Conference CRUI, occupation of the Colosseum, fights with the police and peaceful marches in several cities.

However, experts see small chances for the demonstrators to influence the vote's results. A part of the law package has been decided on November 24th, the remaining pieces will be presented before the Senate on the 30th. But even if it will be ratified, the destiny of the reform is unsure: neither has the budget been decided to finance it, nor is it sure that the current government will survive the no confidence vote in mid-December. [845]



The University of Pristina

KOSOVO: DIFFICULT FREEDOM OF SPEECH

A discussion organized by the Debate Club of the University of Pristina between students and politicians late October met sharp opposition from the university, raising the question of the country's freedom of speech.

The Club had invited two members of the Fryma e Re party (FER, *New Spirit*) to a debate over the problems at the university and in Kosovo's educational system. 15 minutes before the start, the event was cancelled by the vice dean of the philosophical faculty Demë Hoti. Security guards arrived and forced the 300-strong audience to leave the room.

Hoti told *Balkan Insight* that the debate club should have been aware that no political parties can promote themselves on the premises of the university. "I know there were some ministers taking part in earlier debates but they were representing the government and not the party," Hoti added. Edmir Sejdiu, executive director of the Debate Club, told the press: "I am disappointed to see how freedom of speech is violated." [984]



Doekle Terpstra
(Photo: Klaus Tummers)

NETHERLANDS: CLEANING UP INHOLLAND

Doekle Terpstra, president of the council of vocational schools HBO, has been nominated director of InHolland, a school whose former director Geert Dales had to resign because of accusations of diploma fraud (*see Bulletin N°075 - 13.10.2010*). The Dutch government hopes that Terpstra will restore confidence in the institution and safeguard institutional autonomy in general. His mission is to clean the schools' reputation and install a new board. However, there is insufficient confidence in the actual board because investigations on diploma fraud and financial mismanagement are still ongoing. Jasper van Dijk, parliamentary member for the left-wing socialist party (SP) reacted on Terpstra going to InHolland, stating that he is not fit for the job: "As a president of the HBO council he did not commit himself to lay his hands on the existing problems concerning diploma fraud. The council acted to preserve the power of the boards of these institutions." [913]

Press release by the HBO-Raad,
22-11-2010 (in Dutch)
hbo-raad.nl/

RUSSIA: NO NEED FOR AN EDUCATED WORK FORCE?

Critics see education minister Andrey Fursenko as "Education's No. 1 Enemy". Although highly qualified staff is urgently needed in Russia, the education ministry does not enhance the country's own output of the highly skilled.

The minister plans to close down universities and limit access to higher education, a purpose in harmony with the demands of the industrial association PSPP. Another is to scrap the limit to school class size of actually 27 pupils.

Fursenko, the critic Boris Kagarlitsky writes in the *Moscow Times*, "is in complete accord with the proposals made by Russia's business elite." For example, billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov, a leader of the RSPP, complained during a meeting with senior government officials that there are too many educated people in Russia." Kagarlitsky adds bitterly: "A country that makes its living by exporting raw materials evidently feels that it doesn't need an educated work force to drive and diversify its economy." [998]



Màrius Rubiralta (Photo: UB)

SPAIN: TUITION FREEZE

There are two reasons which justify the careful manner in which Spain conducts its education policy with regard to students' needs: the healthy shock from the violent student protests in 2009 and the leadership of a man of culture. However, it was not up to Ángel Gabilondo, but his secretary responsible for higher education Màrius Rubiralta to announce that until 2013 there will be no raise of tuition fees in Spain.

By this order the government wants to prevent that universities charge their need for money on students in the current time of crisis. The government is working on a new grant system which would allow higher fees for students to be ready in 2013.

The question is part of the University Strategy 2015 in which allowances and grants play such an important role that they have been excluded from cuts in the budget of 2011 (see *Bulletin N°074 - 06-10-2010*). [845]

Draft of Higher Education Funding,
April 2010 (in Spanish)
feteugt.es

UK: PRESSURE THROUGH PROTEST AGAINST FEES

As students continue to protest against the rise of tuition fees, pressure on the Liberal Democrats grows. Students have organised different types of action over the last week and the weekend: sit-ins and sleepovers, art exhibitions, debates and invitations to local people to meet and discuss. They were demonstrating in Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, as well as in Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Plymouth and London.

The protesters – who also held a sit-in in front of the constituency office of Liberal Democrat deputy leader Simon Hughes – demand the LibDems to keep their promises, and many do not deem an abstention from the vote in December sufficient.

A beautiful picture of empty election promises having a price are these findings of the Guardian: "Many privately admit they should never have signed the National Union of Students' pledge opposing tuition fees at the time of the election as they were actively encouraged to do by party headquarters. Cable himself told Channel 4 News he would never have signed the pledge if he had known he would be in government." [1083]

"Liberal Democrat
ministers under pressure"
www.guardian.co.uk/politics/
"Student occupations
expected to increase"
www.guardian.co.uk/education/
The Guardian, both 28-11-2010

USA: A ONE MILLION DOLLAR JOB

After reports on high compensations for university rectors in Europe has stirred the public, findings of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* about the United States might be of interest.

According to a study by the *Chronicle*, 30 of 448 private college presidents received more than \$1 million in total compensation in 2008. Most of the presidents (41%) had an annual income between \$200.000 and \$400.000. The report, based on a review of federal tax documents, indicates the growing number of "million-dollar college presidents" as a trend. No president earned that much in 2004. Still, analysts say bigger pay packages offer an important means of attracting and retaining top talent. Education experts questioned the fairness of such inflated salaries while so many students struggle to afford higher education. Can David Warren, president of the College Association NAICU, justify the claims that presidential salaries "have virtually no impact on tuition increases"? [974]

Study of *The Chronicle of
Higher Education*,
14-11-2010
chronicle.com/article/

PRESS REVIEW // For every copy of your Bulletin, ESNA selects the biggest headlines in the daily and specialised papers across Europe. This page - together with the extended online version - presents a selection of the most widely discussed topics in the press to keep you in touch with the media coverage of Higher Education & Science Policy.

SIGNIFICANT BRAIN DRAIN FROM LATVIA

In Latvia, "the outflow of young people searching for better prospects abroad, is gradually turning from the simple migration of low-skilled labor into a significant brain-drain," writes Alex Juhnveich in the *Baltic Times* 25-11-2010. He argues that "the declining trust of people in the state is not demonstrated through powerful riots, but is shown through the quiet but quick stream of emigration," and "the real threat is the increasing number of school and university graduates who leave the country to pursue further education and a long-term career abroad."

THE BALTIC
Times

"In the last few years," Juhnveich writes that "Latvian universities have been suffering from a drop in the number of enrolments." This, however, does not indicate a decreasing interest of young people towards higher education (HE). They simply prefer to pursue a degree abroad. (...) "According to CSB, the total number of accepted students to colleges and universities in Latvia in the academic year 2009/10 equalled 31,529 people, which is a 24% increase from 2008/9. In contrast, the number of Latvians getting higher education in the UK has soared by 58% in the same period and continues to grow rapidly."

His verdict: "Despite the evident issue of a brain leak through growing emigration, the Latvian government fails to take any visible action. The situation calls for a strong reform program that would introduce radical changes to Latvian higher education and create a better economic and social environment for high-tier workers. This should be primarily aimed at persuading people to stay, not luring back the ones who left, since the latter have already made up their minds about their home country. An effective system for monitoring emigration would also be necessary, since it is quite hard to solve the problem if you have so little knowledge about it. Unfortunately, if this does not happen in the nearest future, then once the austerity program is finished, Latvia will be no more than a thin, pale and quite dead state."

LACK OF ACADEMIC MOBILITY IN THE EU

According to Toby Vogel, commentator to the *European Voice* 18-11-2010, "the EU is not doing very well in the global competition for talent. It is held back both by traditional cultural attitudes and by ineffective policies." Vogel, a Brussels-based writer on international affairs specializing in the Balkans and EU enlargement, argues that the pressure to attract highly skilled migrants is growing because "the EU's populations are ageing rapidly (...), the working-age population will decline in several EU member states, including Germany and Italy, (and) this will produce a shortfall of workers paying into public pension schemes. That problem is compounded by the fact that millions of Europeans have acquired skills, through education or training, which are not in demand on the labour market."



The EU has responded with several measures. In May 2009 for instance, it adopted the so-called blue card. "But, implementation of the blue card, which is up to national governments has been slow and uneven," Vogel continues. "Philosophical disagreements among member states about the degree to which the EU should be able to regulate national immigration policies also persist. Highly skilled workers are among the least controversial immigrants in the EU, and no government doubts in principle the need to attract them. Nevertheless, these workers have become caught up in immigration debates currently heating up in several member states. The experience of the UK, whose new government pledged to cap immigration but now appears set to loosen restrictions, may be repeated elsewhere."

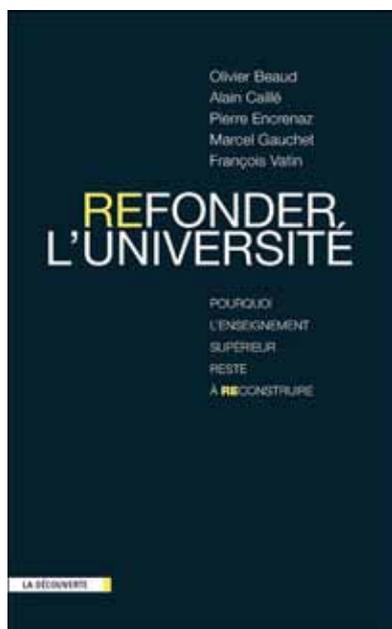


HOW THE BOLOGNA PROCESS ECHOES ON US SHORES

Europe's coordinated effort at higher education reform is seen as a model and a threat, says Kent State Professor Paul Gaston. The *Deans Digest* 08-2010 reports: "Although the education ministers have agreed to reform on paper, implementation on the institutional level has been uneven and student mobility has increased only marginally, Gaston noted. In addition, the focus on higher education as the driver of economic growth arguably neglects the general, liberal arts value of education and gives short shrift to the social dimension. Finally, the economic crisis has varied greatly in different countries. Bologna, its eminence in higher education, is seen Nonetheless, the process has numerous in the US that make it a useful model, creating an aggressive and comprehensive agenda, one braiding several reform strands into a coordinated effort, Bologna challenges the United States to consider the advantages of a more fully unified approach."



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REFONDER L'UNIVERSITÉ WHY HIGHER EDUCATION NEEDS TO BE REBUILT

After the important strikes that took place everywhere in France between February and June 2009 against the law "Liberties and Responsibilities of Universities" (LRU), the editors of Refonder l'Université see a real necessity to restructure universities. This book is the fruit of many intellectuals' efforts with varied ideological views

who think that no positive reform can be initiated without a lucid diagnosis of the current situation and a consensus among academics. They suggest easily implementable measures which can restore high standards and put universities back in the service of society.

Olivier Beaud, Alain Caillé, Pierre Encrenaz, Marcel Gauchet
La Découverte, Oct. 2010
ISBN 978-27-07166-46-3
276 pages €19.00

Order

BRITISH LABOUR AND HIGHER EDUCATION, 1945 TO 2000 IDEOLOGIES, POLICIES AND PRACTICE

Taking into account that higher education provision is an essential component of modern structures, the authors explore the historical evolution and Labour's varying policy initiatives since 1945, and question the place of higher education in the various strands of Labour ideology.

The book raises the following issues: How far, if at all, have Labour's policy stances in this area confronted the elite social reproduction functions of universities or the instrumentalist needs of corporate capitalism? Has this policy evolution given concrete evidence to support (Ralph) Miliband's pessimistic assessment of 'Labourism' as a political formation structurally unable to confront capitalist social structures, or to see a viable 'Third Way', as advocated by New Labour?

Richard Taylor, Tom Steele
Continuum Books | 14-04-2010
ISBN 97-808-26440-94-5
192 pages hardcover \$140.00

Order

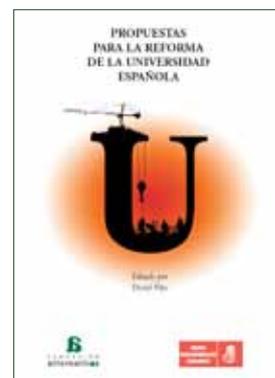
A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO USING SECOND LIFE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

In recent years there has been increasing use of virtual worlds in higher education, particularly a programme called 'Second Life'. This publication provides a guide of how to use this network in the fields of further and higher education. It shows the opportunities that this virtual environment can offer teaching, learning, assessment and research. The book has been designed to help those who are new in this field as well as those already experienced with teaching in virtual environments. The author also offers a glossary of terms, details of challenges, mistakes to avoid, examples of good practice, websites and other sources of help.

Maggi Savin-Baden
Open University Press | Oct. 2010
ISBN 978-033-5242-14-6
224 pages paperback £24.99

Order

PROPUESTAS PARA LA REFORMA DE LA UNIVERSIDAD ESPAÑOLA PROPOSALS TO REFORM THE SPANISH UNIVERSITY



The current Spanish university structure is, according to Daniel Peña, not sustainable because of its lack of specialisation. Peña, the editor of *Propuestas para la reforma de la Universidad Española*, unites seven authors to examine issues such as university management, the ability to attract students or the promotion of university research. They highlight four problems explaining the malfunction of Spanish universities: insufficient funding, an inadequate university management, the career obstacles for young academics, and finally the lack of mobility of the students, professors and researchers. This monograph, sponsored by the Socialist Parliamentary Group of the Congress, concludes with a series of recommendations.

Daniel Peña (Ed.)
Fundación Alternativas | Madrid 2010
Spanish
ISBN 978-84-92957-18-7
Available as PDF

STUDIES // Each copy of your ESNA bulletin will provide information on studies which have captured our attention as pieces that may contribute to our common understanding of higher education. Our priority is to keep ESNA readers at the forefront of the knowledge pool on higher education and provide an arena for the issues raised in these studies to be heard.



Ionna Kohler
Institut Montaigne
Nov. 2010 | French
ISSN 1771-6756

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GONE FOR GOOD? PARTIS POUR DE BON? **EXPATRIATES OF FRENCH HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES**

Who are the French researchers who decided to immigrate to the USA? Why did they leave France? Have they left for good? Is the current French research network attractive enough for those emigrants to return to France? These are the questions that the study published by the think-tank Institut Montaigne tries to answer. The author, Ionna Kohler, director of policy programmes at the French-American Foundation U.S. in New-York, carried out 83 interviews with researchers, academics and experts from France and the USA. She also offers 12 suggestions to foster the reform of universities and make them more competitive at the international level.



Cécile Hoareau
CSHE, Berkeley
Nov. 2010 | English

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FINANCING EU STUDENT MOBILITY **A PROPOSED CREDIT UNION SCHEME FOR EUROPE**

Student mobility is growing fast within the European Union; it has increased by 120% between 2000 and 2008. However, the material resources put forward to facilitate mobility and make it affordable for everyone are not sufficient.

While an agreement between all EU members to provide more financial aid for mobility would encounter insurmountable political and economic obstacles (grants paid by all members but only spent in destination countries), this research paper offers a discussion on the design of an EU-wide lending scheme for students.

Cécile Hoareau, scholar at the University of Berkeley, argues in favour of a European credit union for students, an EU-wide agency liaising with the European Investment Bank to raise the necessary funds and subcontracting other institutions for the administration of the loans. This agency would first cover all educational costs for Erasmus students and then would extend it to all European students. Graduates in every member states would pay off the amount of the loan based on their average income in each EU member state.

This idea of creating a European student loan system has first been discussed on a EIB-conference in early 2009. Later that year, a public open tender about "Feasibility study to examine the potential need for a student Lending Facility at European Level" was called for. At the moment, the London School of Economics is investigating the subject, the results will be presented in February 2011.

EIB International Policy Conference
on Student Lending,
Luxembourg Jan. 2009
www.eib.org/

EU Tender of the Feasibility Study,
Nov. 2009
ec.europa.eu/education/calls/



Ana Halbach, A. L. Lafuente,
Javier Pérez
British Council Spain
March 2010 | Spanish

[Download](#)

THE ACCREDITATION OF ENGLISH IN SPANISH UNIVERSITIES

Within the framework of the European Higher Education Area, Spanish universities are introducing new degrees which require foreign language skills. This survey focuses on the different requirements universities have imposed. It also examines if the level requested by certain institutions is higher than the Applicable Law and investigates if the universities have extended those requirements to other degrees not covered by the legislation. Moreover, the survey analyses the different criteria set by universities to assess the students' level of English, such as the diverse types of tests. Teachers of English philology of 31 Spanish universities have replied to different questionnaires between November and December 2009, the results collected have permitted the elaboration of the study.

REPORT ON THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF QUALITY IN SPANISH UNIVERSITIES

The official Bachelor and Master degrees, the teachers and the researchers of 71 Spanish Universities as well as the quality assurance systems of university education have been evaluated by the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation (ANECA) from 2008 until December 2009. This annual survey, whose conclusions have been made with the information provided by of all regional agencies of the quality assessment, shows that 95% of Bachelors and 87% of Masters presented have been approved by ANECA.

ANECA
July 2010 | Spanish

[Download](#)

EVENTS // Want to get involved? ESNA presents a selection of events in higher education that form the active core of the higher education community. Subscribers can consult our complete list of events as well as submit their own on the ESNA website.



RGGU
6 Miuskaya Square
Moscow, Russia
November 25-26, 2010
rggu.com/

3RD INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE "ORIENTAL LANGUAGES AND CULTURE"

The Department of Oriental Studies of the Russian State University for the Humanities is organizing the 3rd International scientific conference "Oriental languages and cultures" for academic researchers, teachers and PhD students.

The conference will serve as a platform to activate oriental language and culture studies, and to share the experience on language teaching and learning in different countries. It will as well offer scientists a perfect opportunity to meet on an international level and discuss on the actual problems they are involved in.



ICEEPS
Dome Hotel
Kyrenia, Cyprus
December 2-5, 2010
www.iceepsy.org/

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

The ICEEPSY 2010 is designed to foster a close collaboration between academicians, practitioners, and professionals from education and psychology fields. The conference will give them a chance to bridge the knowledge gap, to promote research esteem and the evolution of pedagogy. It will also include added features such as preconference training sessions, workshops and poster presentations.

The conference is aimed at researchers, academicians, teachers, trainers, parents, and leaders from non-governmental organizations throughout the world.



SCIENCES PO
RESUP and Centre for
Organisation Sociology
Paris
January 27-29, 2011
www.resup.u-bordeaux2.fr/

3RD INTERNATIONAL RESUP CONFERENCE

The RESUP is a network of research units created in October 2001 by the French government, which aims at federating and promoting research on higher education.

Higher education and research have been for many years at the centre of reforms aimed at deeply transforming university practices and governance that are considered poorly adapted to contemporary settings and to the new missions, universities and research institutions are expected to fulfil.

The objective of this third international conference is not only to sort out these reforms, in France and in other countries, but also to look at them through renewed perspectives.



IATED
Hotel SH Valencia Palace
Paseo Alameda, 32
Valencia, Spain
March 7-9, 2011
www.iated.org/inted2011/

INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (INTED) 2011

The conference will act as an International Forum for among other actors, academics, researchers, lifelong learning educators and student unions who wish to present their projects and innovations, having also the opportunity to discuss the main aspects and the latest results in the field of Education and Research.

Two ISBN publications will be produced with all the accepted abstracts and papers that will serve as a database of innovation projects in Education and Research.

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER SUPPORTED EDUCATION

CSEDU aims at becoming a yearly meeting place for presenting and discussing new educational environments, best practices and case studies on innovative technology-based learning strategies, institutional policies on computer supported education including open and distance education, using computers.

This year conference will give an overview of the state of the art as well as upcoming trends, and promote discussion about the pedagogical potential of new learning and educational technologies in the academic and corporate world.

INSTICC
NH Hotel Leeuwenhorst
Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands
May 6-9, 2011
www.csedu.org/

Please send us alerts of important events for ESNA's [online calendar](#) of European conferences, workshops and seminars on Higher Education to esna@esna.tv