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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.

# “European universities in the world”

## short news of the week

### HUNGARY: MOST HUNGARIANS EYEING JOBS ABROAD SPEAK LANGUAGES

Only those with qualifications, 45% in HE, and foreign language skills leave Hungary to look for opportunities abroad, a new survey from a yearly international job fair reveals.

20-06-2011 - [realdeal.hu/](http://realdeal.hu/)

### BELGIUM: €4.5M GRANTS FOR BURUNDI HE

## Afrique en ligne

A cooperation programme worth €4.5m over the next ten years has been launched between the State University of Burundi and the Belgian Flemish Universities to support research and community health.

07-06-2011  
- [afriquejet.com/](http://afriquejet.com/)

### EU: RECORD NUMBER OF EU STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

An increase of 7.4% in Erasmus grants have made 2009/10 the record year for the programme and with 213,000 grants last academic year, the EU will reach the target of supporting 3 million EU students by 2012/13.

08-06-2011  
- [expatforum.com/](http://expatforum.com/)

### ESTONIA: HIGHEST PORTION OF WORKING STUDENTS IN EU



A new report reveals that 66% of Estonian university students work next to their studies, 51% full time, which makes them the students who “spend the least amount of time on studies” in Europe.

27-05-11 - [news.err.ee/](http://news.err.ee/)

### TURKEY & POLAND SIGN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

The signing of a mutual science agreement was an opportunity for Turkey's President Gül to reiterate the values of admitting Turkey into the Union.

07-06-2011  
- [worldbulletin.net/](http://worldbulletin.net/)

### INT: EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES BEGIN



### COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AMERICA

University leaders of South America have begun the academic development of their HE through close collaboration with the EU, which partly finances the venture, in agreement with the European Bologna Process.

16-06-2011 - [universita.it/](http://universita.it/)

### SCANDINAVIA: DANISH SCIENTISTS LEAD NORDIC PEERS

Danish universities and university hospitals lead



their Nordic counterparts in international ranking, publishing patterns, research profiles and citation impact in natural sciences, medical and technological research.

19-06-2011  
- [universityworldnews.com/](http://universityworldnews.com/)

### EU: EUROPEAN NETWORKS READY FOR IPv6 FUTURE

The phenomenal global growth of the internet has prompted the deployment of the latests European research network, the IPv6 protocol, which will tackle the future expansion of internet addresses.

110602  
- [thehostingnews.com/](http://thehostingnews.com/)

### AUSTRIA: UNIVERSITY DEMANDS FUNDING FOR STUDENT SPOTS

The University of Vienna is underfunded. It demands a

## DER STANDARD

general solution for student spot funding instead of “exceptional agreements”.

21-06-2011  
- [derstandard.com/](http://derstandard.com/)

### UKRAINE: PLANS TO CREATE REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES



The education ministry proposes to optimize HE establishments in two stages. During the second stage, universities would be enlarged through their unification into regional universities.

14-06-2011  
- [kyivpost.com/](http://kyivpost.com/)

### UK: PRIVATE UNIVERSITY BPP LAUNCHES BID TO RUN 10 PUBLICLY FUNDED COUNTERPARTS



Company also plans to increase its own student intake tenfold by undercutting fees at public universities from next year

22-06-2011  
- [theguardian.co.uk/](http://theguardian.co.uk/)

### UK: UNIVERSITY COMPLAINTS RISE BY A THIRD

Student complaints against universities have risen by record proportions according to the higher education ombudsman's annual report.

14-06-2011  
- [thenationalstudent.com/](http://thenationalstudent.com/)

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## EUROPE: STUDENTS EU INVOLVEMENT NOT A FACEBOOK EVENT

When representatives of Europe's youth were invited to Estonia, they hoped that a so-called 'youth forum' would enlighten policymakers about the challenges students face today. Instead, attendees found the event purposeless and confusing - more an awkward call for more participation in the European parliamentary elections than a serious talk about how to engage young Europeans.

Europe is facing a great challenge as more people retire while youth unemployment is soaring. One conference participant argued that the money spent on accommodating student representatives in Estonia for a weekend could have been better used in the hands of national student-led initiatives. She stressed that the event was superficial and a waste of time and argued that parliamentarians should reconsider their view of young people if they want a serious debate in the future. [861]

Website of the forum  
[ec.ut.ee/](http://ec.ut.ee/)

Article in *University Post*,  
25-05-2011 (in Danish)  
[universitetsavisen.dk/](http://universitetsavisen.dk/)

## BELGIUM: STUDENT HOUSING PRICES SPIKE

The hunt for next year's student rooms has begun, and Flemish students or their parents have to dig ever deeper into their pockets to get hold of one. According to a report by the paper *Nieuwsblad*, student housing, students' most important fixed cost, has increased by a third in a five-year span. The average price of a student room – sanitary fittings excluded – for the upcoming academic year is 270 euro, compared to 252 euro last year and 200 euro 5 years ago.

The reasons for this price spike are said to be higher energy costs, more luxury and increasing student population. Jan De Vriendt from the social services department of the Catholic University of Leuven, Flanders' largest university, fears 'scarcity in the student housing market due to the sharp increase of student numbers last years.' In Brussels the demographic thrust is being felt, too. "The list of people interested in a room is twice as long as last year", stated Lieven Boelaert from the housing service Quartier Latin. [995]

## CZECH REPUBLIC: CHARLES UNIVERSITY REJECTS EDUCATION LAW

The Academic Senate at the Charles University in Prague fears destabilisation of the higher education due to the new Higher Education Act which will be applied from 2013.

The Charles University, one of Europe's oldest universities, has prepared comments to the proposal, which will conclude in a rejection on grounds that the Act is not solid enough. The university declares its readiness to cooperate with the Ministry of Education, but feels it is necessary to start the broad and deep discussion which everyone has been expecting since 2007.

The realisation of the reform is seen as too rushed and radical, with the tendency to limit the independence of universities, without improving the quality of teaching and simultaneously losing the basic values that make the university a university. [793]



Press release  
of the Charles University,  
07-06-2011 (in Czech)  
[cuni.cz/](http://cuni.cz/)

## DENMARK: STUDENTS TAKE THE MONEY - NOT THE DEGREE

"We've heard about the problem but we have no idea how big it actually is since it's impossible to check," says Anne Marie Thorsen, office leader of the State Education Grant and Loan Scheme (SU) at the University of Copenhagen (KU). The rules on Danish SU state that an enrolled student should have their status as an active student checked after seven months but at KU, the check-up can take up to a year. This way, young people are able to cheat themselves to a year's worth of grants without any consequences. And apparently many do. 26-year-old Kristine is one of those who used the SU system for money. "I was going on a long travel abroad and had no money for it. I didn't have any moral scruples about it because no one really says you have to attend classes." The SU office at the University of Southern Denmark is proposing more control at the universities to catch those who cheat. [887]



Alar Karis (Photo: T. Volmer)

Discussion paper on the  
HE reform, Education Ministry,  
08-06-2011 (in Estonian)  
[hm.ee/](http://hm.ee/)

## ESTONIA: NO TUITION FEES FOR EFFICIENT STUDENTS

Estonia's new education minister Jaak Aaviksoo, who stepped into office in April, announced at a conference in Tallinn that he will change the system of tuition fees. He replaced the campaign promises of his party IRL, "fee-free studies for all", at least partly: All those who "meet 100 percent of their study commitments each semester," will be exempt from paying the fees, he said.

This approach has been criticized by Alar Karis, the Rector of the University of Tartu. He said the project was too "rigid", because students who change their study direction would be affected, too: "For some, like the minister, [if a person leaves school] that person is a dropout. But for many, it is lifelong learning, which has been made a priority in Estonia and Europe."

There are 70,000 students in Estonia, 10,000 annually graduate. Aaviksoo is however dissatisfied with the training performance of universities with an annual budget of 1.5 billion Estonian Crowns (about 96 million Euros). [982]

## NORWAY: MAJORITY OF MASTERS STUDENTS HAND IN LATE

Numbers from the University of Bergen (UiB) show that masters students only finish 45 out of 60 possible points of their degree a year. At the Faculty of Social Science (SV), only 57 out of 151 master students (or 37,7%) finish within the designated timeframe.

Despite only one third of her grad students finishing in time, the head of SV, Ingrid Christensen, sees this as a positive development compared to earlier years. In 2007, only 25,8% managed to hand in their thesis in time. "It's something we're focusing on but we're seeing improvement and I feel there has been a change in attitudes among students. Today they are late by a semester. Before they could be up to eight or nine semesters late," she told studvest.no.

However, students still feel the pressure. Ole Hallvard Dyrbekk handed in his thesis a year after deadline. "It eats away on your self-confidence when you hand in late," he explains. "In addition, it's difficult to do so financially. You owe more money to the Loan Fund." [1008]

## RUSSIA: GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO BOOST SCIENCE

For the first time Russian authorities have awarded grants to the best Russian researchers abroad in an attempt to make them return home. The government has allocated more than 400m Rubbles (9.8m Euros) to this campaign in order to boost universities and domestic research.

The first sign of this new direction was the reception of 33 scientists who were awarded grants to conduct research at Russian universities by President Dmitry Medvedev at the end of May. The scientists come from American, Japanese, British, German, Italian and Swiss universities, among other countries.

Whilst praising the pioneering grant offer, Medvedev criticised the higher education system in Russia and the bureaucracy that cripples scientists. He urged the closure of several universities to make room for the best institutions. The support of young scientists in Russia has been of particular focus recently as demonstrated by the Russian-German plans to establish a 'Youth Academy', announced at the opening of German-Russian Year of Education, Science and Innovation 2011/12. [1061]



Announcement of the Education  
Ministry, 15-04-2011 (in English)  
[mon.gov.ru/](http://mon.gov.ru/)



**Higher education news worth reading**



Zarko Obradović (Photo: Min)

## SERBIA: AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST OF EDUCATED EUROPEANS

The most developed countries have the highest proportion of highly educated population between the age of 25-34. In the US for instance, 40% of people in this age group attain a degree while in Japan, 50% do so.

In 2010, the best Serbian graduates with math scholarships went to Cambridge and MIT which echoes the Students Unions Research from 2009 that nearly two-thirds of students when starting to study have in mind the possibility of employment abroad. "One in three Finnish and one in four Germans have university diplomas, while in Serbia, only every 16th resident has one" Danilo Vujadinovic wrote for *Blic*. The National Employment Service (NES) acknowledged the need to change policy toward higher education and provide better collaboration between universities and industry. A new strategy should "attract foreign investors who [...] [can create] new jobs in the field of high technology."

The eventual strategy is still a major issue and despite being marked as a priority of Education Minister Zarko Obradović, the government is still hesitant on how to achieve the 40% increase in educated people in accordance with the EU 2020 goals. [1103]



Ján Mikolaj (Photo: Casopis)

## SLOVAKIA: NEW PROPOSALS FOR HE ACCESS

According to the minister of education, Eugene Jurzyca, state examinations are unnecessary, and the rectors of Slovak universities share this opinion with him.

More important than the soon forgotten state exam curriculum, Jurzyca said, is to write a good thesis. To obtain the title, it should be enough to take interim tests at the end of each semester.

This simplification has been criticised by his predecessor Ján Mikolaj, who believes that this change improves neither the quality of the thesis, nor universities. Closely related to the quality is the ease with which degree can be obtained. Three years ago the education ministry had to cope with complaints from Polish universities about 'title tourism'. [694]

## UK: THINK TANK PROPOSES LIBERALISATION OF DEGREE SYSTEM

Dr. Matt Grist, senior researcher at Demos, and the think tank's deputy director Julia Margo are behind a collection of essays which argue that the future of British academia is linked to an overhaul of the university system which would allow people who may not be attracted to traditional degrees to still benefit from excellent teaching. The current system is allegedly failing to serve social mobility.

"The very idea of what it means to participate in higher education has become a middle-class shibboleth [...] a rite of passage" for self-exploration, say the researchers from Demos. The British universities and science minister, who himself is under some pressure following the HE reforms, agrees that there is a need to end the fixed relationship between degree-awarding powers and teaching. Meanwhile, Sir Alan Langlands, chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, has made calls for the UK government to return to the issue of public investment in HE soon. [993]



*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.*

## **EUROSTUDENT IV 2011** **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF STUDENT LIFE IN EUROPE**

The current focus on economic and knowledge-economy objectives has been complemented by a concern with the social agenda which focuses on social justice and ideals of democratization. It is evident that all national governments are under great pressure to enable them to meet the growing expectations which citizens have for their educational systems. It is in this context that comparative research has assumed a growing importance and the EUROSTUDENT project represents an important contribution to this research effort.

The present EUROSTUDENT Synopsis of Indicators report presents data from 25 countries focussing on the social and economic conditions of student life in Europe. It covers a broad range of data on: the demographic characteristics of the student body; modes of access and attendance and types of higher education; social make-up of the student body; types of accommodation; funding and state assistance; living expenses and student spending; student employment and time budgets; and internationalisation and mobility.

This publication on indicators is complemented by a series of National Profiles on each participating country which are published separately and can be downloaded from the website. The EUROSTUDENT is an evolving project and this planned continuity is an important feature as looking to the future each new round will allow to monitor changes over time within individual countries as well as between countries.



Dominic Orr et al.  
Eurostudent  
May 2011 | English

[Download](#)

## **GRADUATE SALARY & RECRUITMENT TRENDS SURVEY 2011**

This is an annual snapshot of graduate recruitment in Ireland and Northern Ireland and encompasses employers of all sizes, across all major sectors of work and across all regions.

This Survey helps the graduates to develop an understanding of their career prospects and of recruitment trends and potential earnings – all fundamental elements when making informed employment or postgraduate choices. It also shows graduates and policy makers the importance of developing employability skills as well as the strategic role that work-based learning plays in graduate recruitment. Today more than ever our graduates are not just competing for jobs with each other, but also with graduates from other countries and continents. The Irish higher education system must develop a strong policy base that recognises the need to provide our students with significant opportunities to develop employability skills.



GradIreland  
May 2011 | English

[Download](#)

## **EUROPEAN PEER REVIEW GUIDE. INTEGRATING POLICIES AND PRACTICES INTO COHERENT PROCEDURES**

This Guide illustrates practices currently in use across the Heads of the European Research Councils and the experiences of the European Commission in its Framework Programmes. It describes good practices by setting a minimum core of basic principles on peer review processes commonly accepted at a European level. In addition to the quality of the basic procedures, peer reviewers and organisations face other challenges such as assessing multidisciplinary proposals and defining the appropriate level of risk inherent in frontier research. The management of peer review of proposals by large international consortia poses yet another challenge, and this is why the Guide has been designed to address the assessment procedures of large scale programmes such as Joint Programming. This Guide should serve to benchmark national peer review processes and to support their harmonisation, as well as to promote international peer review and sharing of resources.



European Science Foundation  
March 2011 | English

[Download](#)

An diesem Bulletin N°103 - 22. Juni 2011 haben mitgewirkt:

Tino Brömme (V.i.S.d.P.), Lenka Jakoubkova, Morgan Rothwell, Claudia Søndergaard, Tijana Topalovic-Best, Frank Vanaerschot

## Books //

BOOKS // Books, books and more books! In the book review section of your Bulletin, the ESNA newsroom will share with you its reviews and announcements of the latest publications on higher education. Our subscribers are also invited to contribute requests or reviews on our website to build an information pool for the community.

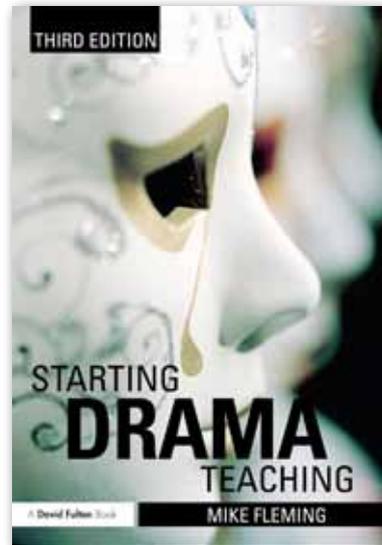


## RECONCEPTUALISING EVALUATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION THE PRACTICE TURN

A considerable amount of time and effort is invested in attempts to control, change and improve the higher education sector. These attempts involve evaluative practice, but we have not yet conceptualised the evaluations that take place so therefore the opportunity to understand the value and nature of different types of intervention is frequently missed. This book seeks to dismantle traditional boundaries in approaches to evaluation, assessing how value and worth is attributed to activities in higher education. It looks at evaluative practice in Higher Education rather than the evaluation of Higher Education. This book aims to aid understanding, drawing on a set of evaluative practices from the UK and internationally.

Murray Saunders, Paul Trowler, Veronica Bamber (eds.)  
Open University Press | June 2011  
ISBN: 9780335241613  
English 256 pages paperback £29.99

**Order**

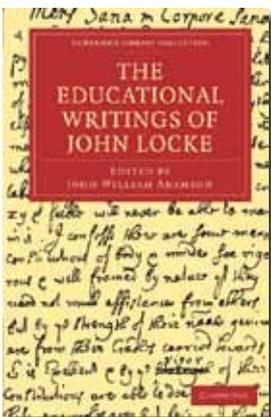


## STARTING DRAMA TEACHING

A comprehensive guide to the teaching of drama schools. It looks at the aims and purposes of drama and provides an insight into the theoretical perspectives that underpin practice alongside practical activities, examples of lessons and approaches to planning. Written in an accessible style, the book addresses such practical issues as setting up role play, how to inject depth into group drama, working with text, teaching playwriting, as well as common problems that arise in the drama classroom and how to avoid them. The third edition of this popular text has been fully updated to take account of recent developments in policy and educational thinking.

Mike Fleming  
Routledge | May 2011  
ISBN 978-0-415-60134-4  
English 190 pages  
paperback (hardback available) £21.99

**Order**



## THE EDUCATIONAL WRITINGS OF JOHN LOCKE

John Locke (1632-1704) is widely regarded as one of the most influential of the Enlightenment philosophers. This volume contains two of John Locke's essays concerning education: *Some Thoughts Concerning Education* (1693) and *Of the Conduct of the Understanding* (1706). The first expands on Locke's pioneering theory of mind by explaining how to educate a child using three complementary methods: the development of a healthy body; the formation of a virtuous mind; and the pursuit of an academic curriculum including the emerging sciences, mathematics and languages. The latter continues the theme of the earlier essay by describing how to develop rational thought.

John William Adamson (ed.)  
Cambridge University Press | Jan 2011  
ISBN: 9781108010177  
English 288 pages paperback £ 15.99

**Order**

## SUPPORTING LEARNING AND TEACHING

This book brings together theoretical perspectives, practical educational ideas and current academic debates to help students develop their knowledge and understanding of core educational issues. It explores the professional relationships necessary for quality learning and encourages the reader to reflect critically on their values, beliefs and assumptions about learning and teaching.

Covering a broad range of topics, themes and age ranges, each chapter contains a statement of the author's values and beliefs and concludes with discussion starters, ideas for reflecting on practice and a list of useful resources.

Christine Bold (ed.)  
Routledge | June 2011  
ISBN 978-0-415-58356-5  
English 224 pages  
paperback (hardback available) £21.99

**Order**

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.

## All European Higher Ed Conferences



### SIRUS

SHAPING INCLUSIVE AND RESPONSIVE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIES

Southampton  
31 August - 2 September 2011



Yerevan, Armenia  
8-9 September 2011

### SIRUS

#### - SHAPING INCLUSIVE AND RESPONSIVE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIES

EUA, in a Consortium with the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU), the European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN) and the European Access Network (EAN), launched a project SIRUS to support Europe's universities in implementing the commitments made in the European Universities Charter on Long Life Learning. This project offers universities with different profiles and interests in lifelong learning and which are at different stages of LLL implementation, an opportunity to develop and enhance their strategic LLL approaches, in interactive discussion with colleagues from all over Europe. At the same time, it will allow them to contribute to the development of policy recommendations for the European Higher Education Area.

### FUNDING OF HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE

International conference organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia in the framework of the Bologna Process towards the formation of a shared vision on EHEA to ensure more comparable, compatible and coherent systems of higher education in Europe and responding to the challenges of globalization. The conference is a part of the events in the framework of Polish and Armenian co presidency of the Bologna Process during the period 1 July-31 December, 2011.

### ICEUTE 2011

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION



Salamanca  
20-21 September 2011

ICEUTE will provide a forum for presenting and discussing the latest works and advances on transnational higher education within European countries. The main themes of the conference are (but not limited to): Learning and information processing; Data mining and information management; Bioinformatics and neuroinformatics; Agents and distributed systems; Financial engineering and modelling.

### NEW/NOW FESTIVAL



Tallinn, Estonia  
12-18 November 2011

The European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA) is pleased to announce the third edition of the NEU/NOW festival presenting the most exciting and creative artistic talent emerging across Europe and beyond. The NEU/NOW Festival has established itself as an innovative platform for talented graduating or recent graduate artists – coming out of Higher Arts Education Institutions and Universities across Europe and beyond – to present themselves to a wider international audience within professional contexts.

### ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF MEASURING DIVERSITY MONITORING AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



Berlin  
28-29 November 2011

During the conference, "Alternative Forms of Measuring – Diversity Monitoring at Higher Education Institutions", international experts from Germany and abroad will present their theories and projects, and an interactive discussion will be held with the participants about the opportunities and the risks of data mining. Institutions of higher education aiming to make use of the opportunities attributed to a diverse student body require information: as a basis for the development of strategies, to monitor the outcomes of diversity and to evaluate the effects and implementation of measures.