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Student expelled in the aftermath of summer protests

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Police uncovers Police forged student documentation from a Nicosia college

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news of the week

higher education express**+++ AUSTRIA:**
New uniko President

Heinrich Schmidinger, former rector of the University of Salzburg, is the new president of uniko, the Austrian Rectors' Conference. He wants to improve the 'communication culture' at universities.

10-10-2011 - derstandard.at/

+++ CZECH REPUBLIC:
University reform plan envisages higher quality

A draft plan to reform the higher education system has been presented by Education Minister Josef Dobeš. Its proposals include universities being financed depending on their quality and the merging of some small schools.

10-10-2011 - praguemonitor.com/

+++ SWITZERLAND: Cash and staff shortages threaten Swiss research

Switzerland risks ceding its strong position in the research and innovation field if it doesn't tackle growing problems, a government advisory body has warned. They need a cash injection, personnel influx.

12-10-2011 - swissinfo.ch/

+++ FRANCE: Graduates allowed more work visas?

After criticism from students French officials are planning on changing their opinions on limiting visas to students. It has been increasingly hard for non-European students to gain work visas and therefore pursue job opportunities after graduating in France.

14-10-2011 - nytimes.com/

+++ FRANCE: New immigration rules for students divide ministers

Laurent Wauquiez, Minister for Higher Education and Research, believes France should be aiming to attract for talented foreign students. This is in stark contrast to the views of Claude Guéant, Interior Minister, who wants to reduce legal immigration.

15-10-2011 - universityworldnews.com/

+++ GERMANY: More international doctoral students choose Germany

An increasing number of students from across the world are choosing to study in graduate schools in Germany. In 2010 nearly 4,000 foreign students graduated from doctoral programmes in Germany – this number was double the statistic from ten years ago.

15-10-2011 - dw-world.de/

+++ POLAND: Private higher education under threat?

The private higher education system in Poland – regarded by many as one of the country's greatest achievements – is now under threat due to pressure from both the state and from demographics.

16-10-2011 - universityworldnews.com/

+++ ITALY: \$1 billion given to Southern universities

The Italian government has announced a plan to invest \$1 billion to the universities in the South of the country, in order to reduce the economic differences between the north and south of the country.

16-10-2011 - nytimes.com/

**+++ TURKEY:** Kurdish department opens despite political tension

Turkey's first undergraduate Kurdish program has been launched in Mardin's Artuklu University. This program, seen by many as a positive development, despite being opened amid a background of political dispute focused on the Kurdish debate.

16-10-2011 - hurriyetaidailynews.com/

+++ EUROPE: Universities students up by 25% in a decade

A quarter more students than ten years ago are being educated in higher education institutions according to a report published by Universities UK. The studies also showed the number of post-graduate students increased by 75%.

17-10-2011 - ft.com/

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.



Stanislav Knyazev (Photo: MITSO)

BELARUS: PURGES IN NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Thousands of students protested in silence on the main squares of Belarusian cities this summer. The protest resulted in the expulsion of many students from their universities and solidarity declarations from several European governments.

The latest example of a student being punished for exercising his democratic rights, is the 4th year student Valentine Fedyuk who studies at Belarus's International University (MITSO) in Minsk. He has been singled out and expelled for his involvement in the protests.

According to the Human Rights Centre VIASNA, the reprimand was signed on October 7 by the new rector, Stanislav Knyazev. The rector, a former KGB agent, cited Valentine's "hooliganism" as a good enough reason. His fellow student friends pointed out that hooliganism was not the intention of a silent protest. However, the rectorate justified the expulsion by three reasons: absenteeism, improper activities in halls of residence and disorderly conduct. [954]

Press release by VIASNA,
12-10-2011 (in Belarus)

spring96.org/

CYPRUS: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS POSING AS STUDENTS

Cypriot police have exposed a college network scam. 36 Sri Lankan immigrants seeking work were brought to Cyprus with counterfeit student documents from Nicosia College. 21 of the forgers were stopped at Larnaca airport.

One of the immigrants, the police discovered, had been cooperating with a 57-year-old Greek-Cypriot, who jointly owns a private college in Nicosia. Both of them are anticipated to face charges of: conspiracy to commit felony and misdemeanour, circulation of forged documents and ensuring registration under false pretences.

Student visas are generally easier to obtain for non-EU foreigners than employment visas. It has been speculated that several private Cypriot colleges are facilitating the influx of illegal immigrant workers. This incident is not unheard of. Immigrants' posing as students in order to enter Cyprus is an issue known for years.

The remaining 19 immigrants denied all knowledge but were sent back to Sri Lanka on Sunday. [961]

CZECH REPUBLIC: UNIVERSITIES BATTLE HIGH DROP OUT RATES

According to data revealed by the National Institute for Education (NUOV) 15% of undergraduate students in the Czech Republic drop out before finishing their studies.



Worst affected by dropout rates are the technical and vocational faculties. Over one third of technical students and half of vocational students withdraw. The legal, medical and arts fields, however, with their challenging entrance exams have considerably lower dropout rates. Data shows that students who are increasingly challenged in their field are more motivated to complete their degree.

"With the increase in the number of graduates entering college in the future this will increase the number of students leaving higher education prematurely," NUOV warns.

Students are also fazed by the possible introduction of tuition fees and limited graduate prospects. Graduates in January 2011 struggled to find work. [882]

The Report "Success of High
School Graduates 2011",
NUOV (in Czech)

nuov.cz/

daily news on higher education policy


www.esna.tv



Morten Østergaard
(Photo: VIAUC)

DENMARK: NEW MINISTER PUSHES AUTONOMY

Denmark has recently welcomed a new education minister, Morten Østergaard, who wants to grant more power to universities. Østergaard has no doubt that universities will become more efficient if politicians do not regulate them. Their independence, he claims, would also reduce the number of students dropping out.

"I trust people," Østergaard reveals on his website. Born in 1976 in Aarhus, he holds a Masters degree in political science and is a member of Det Radikale Venstre, the Danish Social-Liberal Party.

"By making universities autonomous, we can relieve them of governmental bureaucracy," Østergaard told the paper *Jydske Vestkysten*. Stefan Hermann, rector of the Metropolitan University College in Copenhagen, welcomes his objectives: "In recent years there has been too much uncoordinated control of education. It was always a hassle. You would constantly have to prove what you did, in order to apply for money from the government. If Østergaard makes a simplification of this, I welcome it!" [1015]

The 'Talent Strategy' of the
Social-Liberal Party (in Danish)

radikale.dk/

FRANCE: UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH BUDGET CONTINUES TO RISE

Amidst current student uprisings in Spain, Italy and Britain, France seems to understand how volatile higher education systems can be and continues to act on it. Higher education and research funding remains the government's top priority with financial support soaring for a fifth year running.

President Nicolas Sarkozy promised to invest €9 billion in French higher education and research between 2007 and 2012. The President has exceeded his budget and has so far invested €9,387 billion.

France intends to increase the budget by 2012 and accelerate 'Opération Campus' (see *Bulletin N°034 - 07-10-2009*) to €769 million. France will also supply a further €214 million towards research funding. In contrast to the education system, no job cuts will be made in higher education and research institutions for the year 2012.

Student housing remains another governmental priority. There are plans to build 180,000 apartments by 2016, which has been named 'Plan Anciaux'. [1,054]

Press release of the Science
Ministry, 28-09-2011

recherche.gouv.fr/

'Opération Campus' on Wikipedia
(both in French)

fr.wikipedia.org/



Nasser bin Gaith
(Photo: Arab Strategy Forum)

FRANCE/ABU DHABI: SORBONNE WITH A MUZZLE

The University of Sorbonne has come under fire for its silence, regarding the unfair treatment of a professor at the university's Abu Dhabi division. The international law professor, Nasser bin Gaith, is on trial for insulting the leaders of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Human Rights Watch is urging Sorbonne to condemn Nasser's mistreatment.

Sorbonne-Abu Dhabi was established in 2006 after an agreement between the French university, Paris-Sorbonne, and the UAE government. Nasser published an article this year, in which he accused the UAE authorities of "buying social peace" by generous government spending. The Sorbonne in Paris has so far not commented on his persecution.

According to Human Rights Watch, "despite the increasing pressures of human rights groups and international students at the University Paris-Sorbonne encouraging the Sorbonne to intervene on Bin Gaith's behalf, Paris-Sorbonne has refused to criticise the UAE authorities and is also distancing itself away from Bin Gaith."

Bin Gaith has pleaded not guilty. He wrote from prison that he "doesn't know" why charges have been brought against him. [1122]

Press release of Human Rights
Watch, 13-10-2011

hrw.org/

all news - all studies - all books - all events on


www.esna.tv



Press release of the VDI, 11-10-2011 (in German)

vdi.de/

GERMANY: OVER 80,000 ENGINEERING PLACES VACANT

Germany currently suffers from a major lack in engineers. According to the Association of German Engineers (VDI), over 99,000 engineering places were available in September 2011. With 19,000 unemployed engineers, four of five places remain vacant. "This is the largest gap since 2000," Hans-Peter Klös, managing director of the Cologne Institute for Economic Research (IW) explains.

The demand for engineers has steeply risen in Southern Germany over the past month. "If no measures are taken, notable negative consequences have to be expected for the German economic development," VDI director Willi Fuchs warns, as already in 2010 the loss in added value was €3.3 billion.

The machine and vehicle industry is worst affected by the crisis with a lack in 34,700 engineers. [787]

HUNGARY: PUTTING THE BRAKES ON BRAIN DRAIN

Over 1,000 students protested against the Hungarian government's new higher education draft in front of Debrecen University in eastern Hungary last week. Their reasons: higher education funding cuts coupled with the likely reduction of student rights and autonomy.

"Small colleges that form the basis of academic training outside Budapest will lose out on the general withdrawal of funds," Gergo Torok, a second-year student at Debrecen University, told Politics.hu.

The law draft foresees, among other measures, that graduates who get a job in Hungary get their degree free of charge, whereas those who head abroad will have to pay for it. Prospective undergraduates will be asked to sign a contract with the state that in exchange for free tuition they will work in Hungary after they obtain their degree. According to Education Deputy State Secretary, László Dux, if graduates secure a job abroad they will be required to pay back the cost of their studies.

Student representatives find the concept unacceptable, because the planned new student loan scheme would put the graduates in severe financial difficulty. There are better employment and financial opportunities abroad.

József Bódis, president of the Hungarian Conference of Rectors, said Hungary's higher education budget will be significantly reduced by 30 billion forints (€102.8 million) next year. Demonstrations have already taken place in Pecs in the South and Sopron in the North-West. Further protests are expected in Budapest. [1498]



Rosario Trefiletti (Photo: GC)

ITALY: THE EXPENSIVE NORTH

Northern Italian universities are the most expensive with 13.5 per cent higher tuition fees than the country's average. Compared to higher education institutions in the South, fees are nearly 30 per cent higher, a new report on the Italian Consumer Association reveals.

As fees differ in regard to the students' family income, fees for students from the prosperous class are up to 68 per cent higher in the North. The university charging most is the University of Parma, with fees reaching 1000 Euros. The cheapest institution is the University Aldo Moro in Bari.

Tuition prices have developed in two directions. For the low-income groups, prices have decreased by one to four per cent. High income groups however, went up by four to ten per cent.

"These figures are alarming," Rosario Trefiletti, president of the Consumer Association, states. Taking into consideration growing tax evasion and diminishing public investments in education, a trend of declaring a lower economic status emerges. Thus, Trefiletti says, "the sons of workers on the assembly line pay more than the sons of jewelers." [1098]

Tuition Fee Report,
Federconsumatori,
03-10-2011 (in Italian)
federconsumatori.it/



Jasper van Dijk (Photo: RefDag)

NETHERLANDS: LOSERS OF THE UNIVERSITY LOTTERY

Latest figures from the Office of Education (DUO) show a 40 percent increase in the influx of foreign students into Holland over the past year. Students choose to study in the Netherlands because of its high quality of education and relatively low tuition fees. According to political scientist Jasper van Dijk, some 65,000 foreign students currently study in the Netherlands.

The situation has infuriated those students who have missed out on university places to foreign students. A lottery system has also been put into place, in which potential students can win a place onto over-subscribed courses. This has angered Dutch students even further. They believe they should have priority over international students, however this is not the case.

Dutch students are beginning to resent foreign students and tension is mounting. They refuse to share their notes or help foreigners with the complex language. One Dutch student commented on *Radio Netherlands*: "There is no need for international students. They only serve the egos of boards of directors of universities and colleges." [1083]

SPAIN: INSUFFICIENT INTERNATIONALISATION

A report of international experts in Spain's University Strategy 2015 considers "internationalisation [of Spanish universities] insufficient ... a major weakness which requires urgent action".

The expert group, comprising of Eva Egron-Polak, Secretary General of the International Association of Universities and Jamil Salmi, Tertiary Education Coordinator of the World Bank, underlines that "a strictly central governmental policy will not be sufficient. The higher education reform must also be strongly and proactively supported by regional governments."

The report advocates a number of measures, such as higher education scholarships, stronger links between the university environment and industry and greater university autonomy.

Another central recommendation regards merging of universities and excellence centres. The University of Oviedo stated "in the frame of its Campus of Excellence project the university carried out a process of reorganization of their teaching programs resulting in the merging of 15 university schools and faculties into 6 large centres grouping similar teaching programs." [1104]



The expert report,
21-09-2011 (in English)

educacion.gob.es/



Sally Hunt (Photo: UCU)

UK: 40,000 LECTURERS BOYCOTT CLASSES

First it was students protesting against education cuts, now it's academics striking against pension reduction. Thousands of professors from over 67 universities are expected to protest against pension changes this week. Over 40,000 lecturers will only work their contracted hours, refuse to cover for colleagues and skip meetings in protest at changes which they argue will leave them with less in retirement, potentially affecting as many as one million students.

The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) is to implement changes to the scheme by putting new members on a career average as opposed to a final salary pension. The University and College Union (UCU) believes this could result in a loss of more than £100,000 during retirement per lecturer. The UCU stated that 90 per cent of those who take part in the scheme have voted against the changes.

Sally Hunt, general secretary of the UCU, says the Union is "keen to resolve the dispute as quickly as possible with minimal disruption" and will begin to "apply pressure on those refusing to talk."

Academics have threatened to keep disputing as long as the changes are kept in place. They also refuse to commit themselves to overtime, meetings and marking of student papers. [1235]

Press release of UCU,
14-10-2011

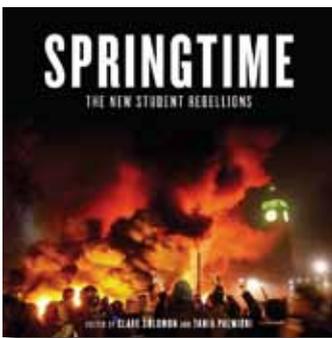
ucu.org.uk/

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 policy, management and debate.

SPRINGTIME: THE NEW STUDENT REBELLIONS

... a vivid and eclectic collection of articles, essays, letters, images and photographs that document student actions in California, France, Greece, Italy and North Africa in 2010: a comparative perspective on recent student movements by analysing the development and organisation of the protests in various national contexts. It also examines the role of social media, the nature of the students' demands and the reactions of respective authorities.

Viewing these protests as part of a broad international student movement, the book considers them against the events of 1968. It also analyses the political and economic demands of the rebelling youth as an outcome of the global economic crisis and its implications for job markets and higher education costs. With protests continuing in Europe and spreading to other continents such as Latin America, this publication is very timely and contributes to a deeper understanding of student concerns and actions in Europe and beyond.



Tania Palmieri and Clare Solomon
Verso | 2011
ISBN: 978-1-8446-7740-5
English 296 pages \$14.95

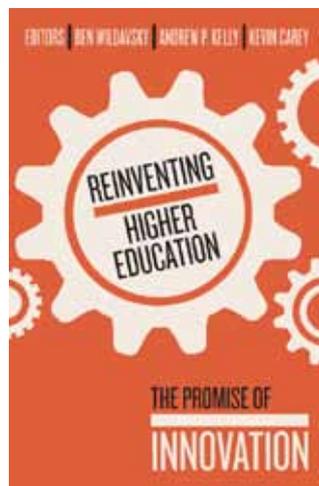
Order

REINVENTING HIGHER EDUCATION: THE PROMISE OF INNOVATION

This book is a collection of essays exploring from different angles the capacity of higher education institutions in the United States to change and innovate. The book is illustrated with specific examples of educational innovation within the US. It is therefore particularly recommendable for those who follow developments in the US higher education sector and are interested in better understanding the ongoing debate in this area.

Ben Wildavsky, Andrew P. Kelly and Kevin Carey (eds.)
Harvard Press | 2011
ISBN: 978-1-934742-87-7
English 296 pages \$29.95

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STAGED SCIENCE THE POPULARISATION OF SCIENCE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

This volume deals with the scientific breakthroughs and inventions of the 19th century in Germany. It provides new insights into the popularization of science and knowledge. Science is more than about the objective and sober observation of scientific phenomena and the understanding of historical processes. 'Inszenierte Wissenschaft' argues that science lives by and through presentations. Representatives from different professional disciplines focus on various case studies from the 'long' 19th Century. These studies include archeology, history, bacteriology, zoology and popularization strategies in the teaching of science.

Stefani Samida (ed.)
Transcript press | July 2011
ISBN 978-3-8376-1637-8
German paperback €29.80

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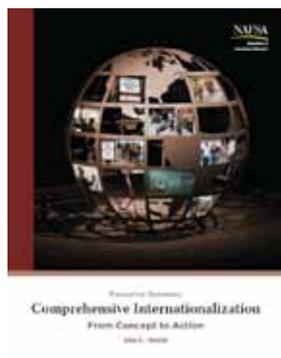
INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Trevor Kerry draws together contributions from leading academics in the field based in Europe, Canada and Australia to examine key themes in higher education. The contributors explore what might constitute effective higher education provision, drawing on innovative practice from around the world and encouraging higher education practitioners to become more analytical and critical about their institutions, about their own roles, and about the ways in which they and their work serve their client-base. In so doing the book confronts the contextual conflicts that arise from political, social and fiscal agendas for higher education.

Trevor Kelly (ed.)
Continuum | 2012
ISBN: 9781441102034
English 176 pages hardback \$130.00

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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.



John K Hudzik
NAFSA Association of
International Educators |
September 2011
English

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new studies

COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONALIZATION FROM CONCEPT TO ACTION

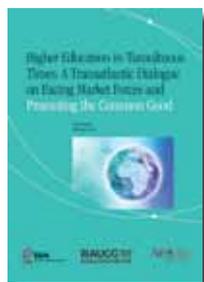
Comprehensive Internationalisation (CI) is an organising paradigm to think holistically about higher education internationalisation and how internationalisation is evolving in the early twenty-first century in the United States to involve widening sets of objectives and people on and off campus. The intent of the publication is to provide a shared foundation for discussion and dialogue, as well as an enhanced commonality of purpose and coordination among the growing and diverse types of individuals engaging with internationalisation.

THE COLLEGE PAYOFF EDUCATION, OCCUPATIONS, LIFETIME EARNINGS

The latest joint report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Lumina Foundation outlines the correlation between a university degree and potential lifetime earnings. Based on the analysis of statistical data for all education levels by occupation, age, race/ethnicity and gender, the study explains how a college degree is key to economic opportunity, conferring substantially higher earnings on those with credentials than those without.

Anthony Carnevale,
Stephen Rose, Ban Cheah
Georgetown University Center
on Education | August 2011
English

[Download](#)



Barbara Hill, Kevin Kinser
ACE American Council on
Education | September 2011
English

[Download](#)

HIGHER EDUCATION IN TUMULTUOUS TIMES A TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON FACING MARKET FORCES AND PROMOTING THE COMMON GOOD

Higher Education in Tumultuous Times is based on the discussions of 30 college and university leaders at the 12th Transatlantic Dialogue, held in June 2010. The study analyses prevalent challenges facing higher education today and finds many colleges are struggling to adapt to changing and increasing demands from governments and diverse student bodies. These demands are complicated by issues of public distrust as well as the ever-evolving climate of global politics and the economy.

ONLINE MARKETING TO A GLOBAL STUDENT AUDIENCE

This publication by the British Council belongs to a series of research reports looking into students' decision-making processes with regard to higher education. The series examines a broad range of areas, including the factors that affect students who are thinking about studying abroad and influence their country and university choice, as well as major subjects in demand. This report provides an analysis of findings on how students use the media from the 13 nations around the world with the biggest number of outbound internationally mobile students. It draws on data derived from a survey of 127 000 prospective students administered by the British Council.

E. Shepherd
British Council | August 2011
English | \$200.00

[Order](#)

DEMOCRATISING KNOWLEDGE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT THE ROLE OF EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

A common assumption is that higher education and research contribute to 'development' and ultimately to a better life for all. But are universities really the 'social institutions' we have long expected them to be? This collection of papers by leading experts explores the fundamental question of how (European) higher education can contribute to global human development, particularly in the face of rapid globalisation and a transformation of the European research university. In the process, the publication highlights some of the key areas and approaches to be considered in this context, including European higher education's commitment to engaging with partner institutions in the 'Global South'.

Han Aarts, Tor Halvorsen and
Peter Taylor (eds.)
EAIE | September 2011
English | €25.00

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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

new events



Krakow
19-21 October 2011

YOUTH AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DRIVERS OF INNOVATION

The conference will bring together entrepreneurial students with entrepreneurial role models, representatives from the EIT/KICs community, academia, businesses and policy makers to interact in an open, creative and inspirational way. Discussions will focus on various fields of importance for future entrepreneurs such as developing ideas, transforming them into a business and securing access to finance.



Coimbra
20-21 October 2011

PROMOTING CONSCIOUS AND ACTIVE LEARNING AND AGEING HOW TO FACE CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES?

This conference aim to discuss how to increase the participation of the senior population in education and training activities, how to empower them, as well as how to promote active ageing in such important areas such as health, activity, education, citizenship and finances. The target public are professionals, researchers and students of Human and Social Sciences, Psychology, Social Services, Gerontology, Sociology, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Technicians from cultural and recreational Associations, from municipalities and other professionals working with educational and ageing processes.



Berlin
17-18 November 2011

SMART EXCHANGE FOR FUTURE CITIES PROJECTS, PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATIONS

This Conference will bring together companies and research entities from different sectors interested in presenting their innovative ideas and keen to initiate new partnership projects dedicated to various topics of 'Smart Cities'. The objectives are supporting and promoting cross-sector innovation, facilitating technology transfer from science to business and vice versa, getting inspired by new ideas and bringing together new partners from different European regions.



Lund, Sweden
15-16 December 2011

42ND EUCEN CONFERENCE BRIDGING THE GAPS BETWEEN LEARNING PATHWAYS

The main aim of this conference is to contribute to the economic and cultural life of Europe through the promotion and advancement of lifelong learning within higher education institutions in Europe and elsewhere; foster universities' influence in the development of lifelong learning knowledge and policies throughout Europe. Some of the conference topics are: Learning contexts; Universities acknowledgment of acquired competences; The VAE model and experimentations in European countries; Implementing Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL); Recognizing virtual qualifications.



London
13-15 March 2012

GOING GLOBAL 2012 CONFERENCE CHANGING EDUCATION FOR A CHANGING WORLD

More than 1,000 international education policy makers and practitioners from 80+ countries are expected to attend to debate the future of universities and colleges. The central proposition is that education can change the future of the world, having the ability to shape and connect the lives of its citizens. But to do this requires a radical re-think of the nature of our universities and colleges, so how radical must that vision be?

Contributions to Bulletin N°112 - October 19, 2011: Hannah Blackstock (express), Tino Brömme (editor-in-chief), Helen Salvin (books), Luis Taboada (events), Frank Vanaerschot, Tania Woodcock (studies & proof reading)