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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.

## news



Morten Østergaard  
(Photo: VIAUG)

### DENMARK PRESENTS NEW INNOVATION STRATEGY

In early March, Higher Education Minister Morten Østergaard unveiled a strategy to stimulate technology and business innovation growth. The government is working on Denmark's first Innovation Strategy, which will determine a new innovation policy framework.

The public research budget for 2012 is approximately DKK 19.3 billion (€2.6bn) – the equivalent of approximately 1 percent of Denmark's GDP. The strategy aims to ensure a quicker turnaround from public investments in research, development, innovation and education, to growth and jobs in the labour market..

The strategy will also outline a plan for more thorough innovation partnerships between the public sector, knowledge institutions and private businesses.

A cross-ministerial coordination group has been appointed and in the coming months – with help from the EU – will invite companies, organisations, experts, public institutions and other stakeholders to participate in the debate about what the country can do to locate innovation potential.

The strategy was submitted for evaluation to the European Research Area Committee (ERAC), a strategic policy advisory body which assists the European Commission and the Council of the EU in research and technological development. The Innovation Strategy was the very first one to be submitted to ERAC, and was welcomed with great enthusiasm.

Press release of the  
Science Ministry, 06-03-2012  
[fivu.dk/](http://fivu.dk/)

### GREECE: UNIVERSITY ASSETS REDUCED TO ZERO

Greek university accounts have hit rock bottom following the national bank's recent raiding of the coffers.

Six universities have no money left and say they have no other option but to close. Out of 120 million Euros that 17 universities had deposited into the Bank of Greece to cover operating expenses, only 33 million Euros remains, according to university rectors.

The Bank of Greece raided 70 percent of public utility funds deposited in various large, interest-bearing accounts, including those held by universities and state hospitals. These assets were then converted into state bonds at the beginning of March in an imposed 'bond-swap'. The Greek 'haircut' was subsequently imposed, meaning that 50 percent of the interest banks expected to receive on current debts would be wiped, in an attempt to alleviate the current financial crisis.

Rectors have set up a legal committee in an attempt to reclaim the lost money. In a meeting with the Minister of Education, Yiorgos Babinotis, university rectors called for emergency funding for the tertiary education sector.



Evarist Bartolo (Photo: EVB)

### MALTA: EDUCATION BUDGET SEVERELY CUT

Approximately half of the 7.6 million Euro cuts in the national education budget for 2012 will hit the University of Malta, including the Junior College and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology. Their budget is being reduced by more than 3 million Euros and they are already taking steps to reduce the services they offer to students.

Students and graduates will be directly hit by cuts, as funds will be reduced for the student maintenance grant, Malta's participation in EU programmes and several public scholarship funds.

Labour Party education spokesman Evarist Bartolo accused the government of lying, after Finance Minister Tonio Fenech had in February promised to spare the education sector. The Education Ministry defended itself, pointing out that its budget for this year was 15.4 million Euros higher than last year.

The Maltese government is currently implementing 40 million Euro spending cuts in order to stay below the 3 percent ceiling for public deficits in the European Union.

Declaration of Evarist Bartolo,  
26-03-2012  
[maltatoday.com.mt/](http://maltatoday.com.mt/)



Press release of UM, 21-03-2012  
[maastrichtuniversity.nl/](http://maastrichtuniversity.nl/)  
 Maastricht Green Office:  
 Climate Action Report 2011  
[Download](#)

## NETHERLANDS: MAASTRICHT UNI WINS SUSTAINABUL 2012 AWARD

This year's Sustainabul Award was attributed to Maastricht University (UM) for presenting the most transparent and sustainable policies. The results are based on a comparison of 14 Dutch universities.

According to an independent investigation, UM not only pursues a sustainable policy, it also provides insight into its policy documents and performance. UM performs well on energy consumption, water consumption, waste volume and sustainable procurement. "We owe this award to the driving force of our students at the Green Office and we as management embrace this honour wholeheartedly," said Jeanine Gregersen, spokesperson for the university's directors.

All Dutch universities are required to draft an Energy Efficiency Plan, but only two have published these plans, namely, Eindhoven and Groningen. Furthermore, only two universities – Maastricht and Nijmegen – have made their carbon footprint publicly available.

The Sustainabul Award is an initiative of the NGO Rank a Brand and the student network Morgen. With the Sustainabul 2012 Award, they hope to encourage universities to become more transparent and make their sustainability efforts publicly available.

## SERBIA: 'STRATEGY OF EDUCATION' PUBLISHED

A proposal to improve education in Serbia has finally been made public, one month before parliamentary and local elections.

The Ministry of Education and Science has published a Strategy of Education, which details goals for improvements to be made by 2020. The government is expected to adopt this strategy within a new Law of Higher Education.

The main objectives include increasing investments in education from 4.5 to 6 percent of Serbia's gross domestic product. The strategy also wants to see more Serbians undertaking college or university education, in line with recommendations from the European Union. At present, 6.5 percent of people attend college; the strategy proposes raising this rate to 38.5 percent by 2020.

The proposal also advocates making secondary education obligatory. Serbia achieved full candidate status from the European Union on 1st March this year and as part of this application Serbia is seeking to improve the quality of its education and to increase the number of people achieving higher qualifications.

Strategy for Education  
 Development until 2020, 30-03-  
 2012 (in Serbian)  
[mpn.gov.rs/](http://mpn.gov.rs/)

## SPAIN: ART SCHOOLS CLAIM EQUALITY UNDER BOLOGNA

The Spanish higher arts schools are in legal limbo. Since the Bologna Process was implemented and the new Law on Education was adopted in 2006, art school certificates are no longer considered equal to degrees.

In 2009, the new government passed a Royal Law Decree in 2009 to correct this error, after years of complex struggle to successfully implement the Bologna Process in Spain. Now the universities are making their appearance. The University of Granada has filed a complaint in the Superior Court against this decree, claiming that the degrees belong to the university. This has sparked a debate among institutions on whether higher education must take place inside the walls of a university.

The art schools – with 17,000 students across Spain – argue that their European counterparts are able to call their titles 'degrees'. As Leopoldo García, director of the Dramatic Art School of Valencia, told ESNA, the acknowledgment is important for them to be able to join the EU's Lifelong Learning programmes.



Violence during the general strike and student protests in Barcelona  
(Photo: Indymedia)

## SPAIN: STUDENTS SUPPORT GENERAL STRIKE

Thousands of students in all major Spanish cities participated in demonstrations last Thursday in support of the general strike against the government's austerity plans.

Students of the Autonomous University of Barcelona caused havoc whilst protesting against cuts in the public university system. Around 100 students interrupted traffic for twenty minutes in both directions on the national highway AP-7, causing traffic delays. They also picketed faculty buildings, preventing students from attending lectures, distributed leaflets and overturned dumpsters at campus entrances. These actions followed overnight student occupations of various university buildings. They demand a 'quality public university'.

Spanish unions launched the general strike on Thursday 29th March because of the new labour law adopted by President Mariano Rajoy, in an attempt to combat the economic crisis and high youth unemployment. Violence during the demonstrations was concentrated in Barcelona because of the greater presence of anarchist groups there.



Michael Farthing (Photo: STEPS)

## UK: TWELVE PERCENT LESS UNIVERSITY PLACES

Universities in England will see cuts in student numbers of up to twelve percent, or one in eight students, in recently announced government reforms.

New rules will effectively penalise those universities charging more than £7,500 in student fees from September 2012, with 20,000 places being moved to institutions charging lower than average fees. 10,000 extra places, which were introduced in previous years to cope with increasing numbers of applications, will no longer be available. It means large numbers of places are being shifted towards cheap further education colleges.

Teaching funds have also been cut by more than £1 billion, to £3.2 billion, while funding for research will stay at last year's level of £1.6 billion.

Professor Michael Farthing, vice-chancellor of Sussex University and chairman of the 1994 Group representing small research institutions, said that the figures show that "many excellent students will be denied places at their first choice universities. (...) Far from giving the best universities freedom to take on more students this represents a push to a cut-price education."

Press release by HEFCE,  
07-03-2012  
[hefce.ac.uk/](http://hefce.ac.uk/)

*daily* Europe's higher education *online*



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.

## out now

### WHAT ARE UNIVERSITIES FOR?

Across the world, universities are more numerous than they have ever been, yet at the same time there is unprecedented confusion about their purpose and scepticism about their value. Stefan Collini offers a spirited and compelling argument for completely rethinking the way we see our universities, and why we need them, he challenges the common claim that universities need to show that they help to make money in order to justify getting more money.

Instead, he argues that we must reflect on the different types of institution and the distinctive roles they play. In particular we must recognize that attempting to extend human understanding, which is at the heart of disciplined intellectual enquiry, can never be wholly harnessed to immediate social purposes — particularly in the case of the humanities, which both attract and puzzle many people and are therefore the most difficult subjects to justify.

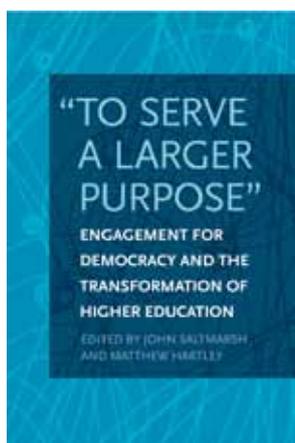
At a time when the future of higher education lies in the balance, *What Are Universities For?* offers all of us a better, deeper and more enlightened understanding of why universities matter, to everyone.

Stefan Collini  
Penguin | Feb 2012  
ISBN: 978-0-141-97037-0  
eBook £5.99 Paperback £9.99

**Order**



### "TO SERVE A LARGER PURPOSE" ENGAGEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION



John Saltmarsh, Matthew Hartley  
Temple University Press | May 2011  
ISBN: 978-1-43990-507-4  
326 pp paperback \$29.95  
hardcover and eBook available

**Order**

This volume calls for the reclamation of the original democratic purposes of civic engagement in higher education. The contributors effectively highlight the current practice of civic engagement and point to the institutional change needed to realize its democratic ideals.

Using multiple perspectives, the authors explore the democratic processes and purposes that reorient civic engagement to what the editors call "democratic engagement." The norms

of democratic engagement are determined by values such as inclusiveness, collaboration, participation, task sharing, and reciprocity in public problem solving and an equality of respect for the knowledge and experience that everyone contributes to education, knowledge generation, and community building.

### GOING GLOBAL: THE LANDSCAPE FOR POLICY MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS IN TERTIARY EDUCATION

Of particular focus in this collection of edited papers from a number of past British Council events is the importance of developing global citizens and the role of education in addressing this agenda, different models and drivers for global partnerships, the changing nature of international student mobility, and issues surrounding policy and leadership.

Mary Stiasny, Tim Gore  
Emerald | February 2012  
ISBN: 978-0-857-24783-4  
230 pages paperback €34.95

**Order**

### INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON HIGHER ED. CHALLENGING VALUES AND PRACTICE

Universities and societies around the world are involved in significant transition. International contributors to this wideranging text discuss different aspects of the phenomenon of globalisation in relation to higher education, but also in relation to moves by nation states to devolve government to regional and subregional bodies and the implications this has for educational systems.

David Bridges et al. (eds.)  
Routledge | March 2012  
ISBN: 978-0-415-33110-4  
337 pages hardback £95.00

**Order**

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.

## new studies

### THE STATE OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS COOPERATION

Conducted for the European Commission during 2010 and 2011, this study was carried out by the Science to Business Marketing Research Centre at the Münster University of Applied Sciences (S2BMRC). The first of its kind, it provides a European overview of the current status of University-Business Cooperation development across the Member States as well as identifying the different barriers and drivers to UBC in Europe.

S2BMRC  
August 2011 | English

[Download](#)



### GLOBAL CHANGES IN TUITION FEE POLICIES AND STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

This second edition of *Year in Review: Tuition Fees and Student Assistance* outlines the major changes related to higher education affordability around the world in 2011. It inquires a selection of 40 countries that collectively best represent the global situation. In addition to tracking trends in tuition fees in the Higher Education G-40, the 40 countries that make up more than 90% of the world's post-secondary enrolment and research, the report examines trends in student aid.

Pamela Marcucci, Alex Usher  
HESA | March 2012  
English

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### QUALITY OF TEACHING (AUSTRIA)

For this study, commissioned by the Austrian Students' Union, the opinions of 6,566 college and university students about their teaching have been collected. The research focused on topics such as satisfaction with teaching and knowledge transfer, as well as course structure and flexibility, places offered, opportunities for participation and student support. It detected significant problems and deficiencies regarding all the areas surveyed, showing 55 percent of students to be dissatisfied with the transmission of the syllabus.

Elke Larcher  
Institut Sora | March 2012  
German

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### GUIDELINES FOR QUALITY PROVISION IN CROSS-BORDER HIGHER EDUCATION

These guidelines were developed and adopted to support and encourage international cooperation and enhance the understanding of the importance of quality provision in cross-border higher education. Based on a survey, this report monitors the extent to which OECD countries and a few non-member partners complied with its recommendations in 2011.

Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin,  
Sebastian Pfotenhauer  
OECD | February 2012  
English and French

[Download](#)

### THE TTO, A UNIVERSITY ENGINE TRANSFORMING SCIENCE INTO INNOVATION

The paper, written by Koen Debackere, executive director of Leuven Research and Development, examines different aspects of the functioning of a technology transfer office in academia. More specifically it investigates the developing role and position of a Technology Transfer Office (TTO) and the organisation and governance that best suit its challenging task. The paper also identifies ten critical success factors for an effective TTO operation.

Koenraad Debackere  
LERU | January 2012  
English

[Download](#)

## All European Higher Ed Conferences

### upcoming events



Brussels  
13 april

#### THE ROLE OF INNOVATIVE UNIVERSITIES IN SMART SPECIALIZATION

This event is organised in order to provide workshops on the issues and challenges of the Cohesion Policy in the EU. The idea is to develop "Smart Specialization Strategies" to define regional strengths of the EU in research and innovation and to use them not only as a decisive competitive edge but also to maximize social and regional benefits.



Leuven  
20 april

#### THE DEVELOPMENT AND DAILY MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICES IN ACADEMIA

This workshop is organised by the League of European Research Universities with intend to put into practice what was set out in the document "The TTO a University engine transforming science into innovation" (see page 7). Targeted participants of this event are people from academia or other research performing organizations, managing or planning to set up technology transfer offices, policy makers and business representatives that want to increase their understanding.



Brussels  
10 may

#### EUIMA PROJECT FINAL EVENT

The EUIMA project addresses two key elements of the modernisation agenda for European universities: the sustainability of funding, financial management and development of full costing — and the development of appropriate measurement tools and indicators for the assessment of university-based and collaborative research. This final event of the project presents these main findings and recommendations.



Toulouse  
31 may - 2 june

#### ECSITE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

Ecsite Annual Conference is being organised to discuss and exchange the newest topics and researches in field of science communication. It's gathering in one place professionals from science centers, natural history museums, universities, aquariums, zoos, research institutes and private companies. In three days conference it is planned to discuss on cutting-edge developments in the field, over 70 inspiring sessions, debates, workshops, a range of warm social engagements and unparalleled networking opportunities.



Copenhagen  
5 june

#### TRACKING THE HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT LIFECYCLE

This two days event organised by the University of Aarhus will bring together 100-150 participants across Europe who are involved in the design or implementation of student and graduate tracking at national and institutional level, including policy makers, researchers and university leaders.



Porto  
9 june

#### OPEN LEARNING GENERATIONS: EDEN CONFERENCE 2012

This conference has as an aim to close the gap between new Internet generation and mature Lifelong Learners. In the European Year of Active Ageing and the Solidarity between Generations, this conference is offering methods for decreasing differences within generations and workshops for improving digital knowledge and skills.



Helsinki  
10 june

#### ACA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

The objective of ACA Annual Conference 2012 is to discuss how to tie together internationalization, excellence, funding and the social dimension in higher education. This conference will analyze current policy and practice-related issues in the area of European and international higher education and try to solve the problems with offering solutions in what could be improved in this area.

# calls for proposals

Deadlines ▶ **LINKS**

*still open*

## MARIE CURIE INTRA-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS (IEF) FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The action addresses experienced researchers at a stage of their career when they can benefit from a life-long training and career development measure. This includes researchers with a more senior profile in terms of experience as well as those who wish to resume their research career after a break.

The fellowships for one or two years are meant for individuals looking for advanced training with a view to assisting researchers in developing different/complementary scientific competencies.

Proposals from all areas of scientific and technological research of interest to the European Community are welcome. The budget is €120 million.

**16 August 2012 ▶ EC RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

## MARIE CURIE INTERNATIONAL INCOMING FELLOWSHIPS (IIF)

This action aims to reinforce the research excellence of the Member States and the associated countries through knowledge sharing with incoming top-class researchers active in another third country to work on research projects in Europe. It aims to encourage them to plan their period of international mobility within the framework of a coherent professional project and thus enhances the possibility of future collaborative research links with European researchers and organisations active in research in their future research career.

This action provides a grant for an individual mobility project presented by an experienced researcher in liaison with a host organisation.

There are no priority areas, the budget is €40 million.

**16 August 2012 ▶ EC RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

## MARIE CURIE INTERNATIONAL OUTGOING FELLOWSHIPS FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT (IOF)

This action aims to reinforce the international dimension of the career of European researchers by giving them the opportunity to be trained and acquire new knowledge in a high-level organisation active in research, established in an Other Third Country. Subsequently, these researchers will return with the acquired knowledge and experience to an organisation in a Member State or Associated Country.

The fellowships for 12 to 24 months also aim to respond to the researchers' needs in terms of complementing their training in inter/multi-disciplinary research, research management skills and inter-sectoral mobility. There are no pre-defined priority areas, the budget is €40 million.

**16 August 2012 ▶ EC RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

## ERC ADVANCED INVESTIGATOR GRANT (AdG)

The ERC's mandate is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-initiated frontier research on the basis of scientific excellence.

This funding scheme targets researchers who have already established themselves as being independent research leaders in their own right and who would like to pursue frontier research of their choice. The aim is to fund individual teams led by established, innovative and active advanced investigators regardless of nationality, age or current location. Projects in three fields are funded: Physical Sciences & Engineering, Life Sciences and Social Sciences & Humanities. The latter is currently the last one remaining open for proposals.

The maximum grant amount will be €2.5 million for a maximum period of 5 years; the budget is €680 million.

**11 April 2012 ▶ EC RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

**16 April 2012 ▶ EC ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY**

## ERASMUS MUNDUS 2009-2013

**30 April 2012 ▶ EACEA/42/11**

## INTRA-ACP MOBILITY SCHEME

**10 May 2012 ▶ EACEA/11/12**

# call for tender

## IMPLEMENTATION OF A USER-DRIVEN, MULTI-DIMENSIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RANKING FOR HEIS

Transparency in higher education is a key element in the EU strategy for modernising higher education systems. Transparency tools such as rankings thus underpin the capacity of higher education to contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy.

This call is an invitation to pilot a new user-driven, multi-dimensional information and ranking tool, to be sustainable and self supporting in the longer term, building on the results of the U-Multirank feasibility study, and responding to the issues identified in its final report.

**1 June 2012 ▶ EAC/42/2011**