PUTIN APPOINTS NEW EDUCATION MINISTER

higher education policy
mergers
rankings
funding & fees

LIESELOTT HERFORTH
THE FIRST FEMALE RECTOR AT A GERMAN UNIVERSITY

Global regionalisms and higher education
European policy implementation and higher education
A European politics of education

Europe: The state of funding in education, teachers’ working conditions, social dialogue and trade union rights
Switzerland: Engaging politics with science
Netherlands: Scientists have their say
**PUTIN APPOINTS NEW EDUCATION MINISTER**

MOSCOW, 23.08.2016 *(pravmir)* -- Russian President Vladimir Putin has appointed renowned religious expert Olga Vasilyeva to the position of Minister for Education and Science. Vasilyeva is a professor of history and has written both a PhD thesis and doctoral dissertation on the relationship between the Soviet state and the Russian Orthodox Church.

Some are claiming that some are saying that you hear that her appointment is a sign of ‘Stalinisation’ in Putin’s Russia ... read more | here | and here

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**POLAND CREATES TWO-CLASS UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

WARSAW, 09.09.2016 *(polskie radio)* -- Polish science minister Jaroslaw Gowin has announced a new strategy for science and higher education based on three pillars: the emergence of non-teaching research institutions, partnership of business and science and the social responsibility of science ... read more

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**FINNISH UNIVERSITIES FORCED TO MARRY**

TAMPERE, 16.09.2016 *(uwn)* -- The Finnish education ministry is re-allocating 50 million euros to universities to incentivise them to merge. The largest planned merger is between three universities of Tampere. Jussi Välimaa of the Finnish Institute of Educational Research, however, asks if universities around the world are “uncritically adopting and legislating ‘transnational academic capitalism’, grounded in new public management supported by the OECD modernisation agenda”. Research Europe earlier this year reported that “restructuring Finnish universities to specialise in particular subjects risks increasing inequalities between institutions and across society” ... read more

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**DANISH HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTER TAKES THE WHEEL**

COPENHAGEN, 02.09.2016 *(forsker forum)* -- Ulla Tørnæs, Danish science and higher education ministry, may tighten the chain of command between universities and the state. A recent report proposes that university boards should act more like senior officials of an “agency” whose “owner” is the minister ... read more

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**ERDOĞAN PURGES UNIVERSITIES**

ISTANBUL, 05.09.2016 *(nzz)* -- Following July’s failed military coup, Turkish President Recep Erdogan is purging the country’s higher education institutions. 27,000 people have already been dismissed, 4225 academics have been suspended and fifteen universities have been closed altogether ... read more

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**FUSION IN PARIS**

PARIS, 08.09.2016 *(le monde)* -- Come New Year’s Day 2019, the universities Sorbonne-Nouvelle, Paris-Descartes, Paris-Diderot and Paris-XIII will have merged into one, with a student body of 100,000 people. Jean-Yves Mérimod, president the Sorbonne Paris Cité at that said the project is “difficult, promising” ... read more
RANKS FOR SALE

LONDON, 06.09.2016 (swiss info) -- Richer universities fare better in rankings. This was made clear in the publication of this year’s QS World University Rankings, whose head of research Ben Sowter said that “levels of investment are determining who progresses and who regresses. Institutions in countries that provide high levels of targeted funding are rising. On the other hand, some Western European nations making or proposing cuts to public research spending are losing ground to their US and Asian counterparts”... read more

FRENCH UNIVERSITIES INCREASINGLY PRIVATELY FUNDED

PARIS, 15.09.2016 (france info) -- Between 2008 and 2013 the share of private money invested in French higher education grew by 25 percent, an OECD report has found. The large majority of investment into education still comes from the public purse, however ... read more

LOST DECADE FOR SPANISH HIGHER EDUCATION

MADRID, 13.09.2016 (hoy) -- Cuts to education in Spain have resulted in a massive fall in student numbers and recruitment of researchers since 2009. Public universities have seen revenue fall by 18 percent, in other words receiving 1.9 billion euros a year less than since before the austerity measures ... read more

DUTCH TECH UNIS UNABLE TO TAKE MORE STUDENTS

EINDHOVEN, 05.09.2016 (dutch news) -- The Netherlands’ four universities of technology can not take any more students without extra funding, states chairman of the technical university federation Victor van der Chijs. Education minister Jet Bussemaker said the government had no more money available and did not object to limiting student numbers ... read more

GERMANY: TUITION FEES ARE THE WRONG POLICY

MAGDEBURG, 06.09.2016 (mz) -- Tuition fees are not exactly absent at German universities: students who exceed the regular length of study of four semesters must pay 500 euros per semester. In Sachsen-Anhalt, universities’ income from these fees has grown by 40 percent in eight years. “This is a clear sign,” says Hendrik Lange, spokesperson of the party Die Linke, “that fees are an inefficient instrument to motivate students” ... read more

C30 MILLION FOR SECURITY AT FRENCH UNIVERSITIES

PARIS, 01.09.2016 (le monde) -- Due to the recent spate of terrorist attacks in France, and coming a week after new safety measures at primary and secondary schools, education minister Najat Vallaud-Belkacem has announced that 30 million euros will be provided for university security. The money is available due to some budgetary acrobatics involving universities’ contributions to the Fund for the Integration of Disabled People in Public Services ... read more

COST OF STUDYING IN HUNGARY RISES

BUDAPEST, 15.09.2016 (24) -- Due to rising tuition fees and apartment prices, Hungarian first year students will spend on average 38 percent more this year than those who began their studies five years ago. Students’ families bare a large share of this burden ... read more

STUDENTS IN BARI REDUCED TO TEARS

BARI, 21.09.2016 (trmtv) -- After students of the University of Bari, Italy, invaded the rectory in tears, unable to meet the first instalment of tuition fees which were increased this year, the rector, Antonio Uricchio, has secured deadline extensions or exemptions for those families in financial difficulty ... read more
GROWING INEQUALITY IN SCIENCE

LONDON, 21.09.2016 (nature) -- Despite science’s egalitarian ideal, income inequality between the top-earning one percent of researchers and the rest, is increasing. The strong competition and relatively low reward for most scientists is dissuading people from entering the field, with 20 percent of respondents to Nature’s salary survey saying they would not recommend their career to students ... read more

DIVIDE ET IMPERA

BERLIN, 24.09.2016 (tech review) -- Often the comments are more noteworthy than the articles themselves. The news about an online platform to help educated refugees in Germany network with researchers, did not impress German researchers reading it. Commenters lamented that Germany didn’t give it’s own researchers a chance. Some described an "exodus" of researchers to other countries to escape the German system of short-term contracts, which forces scientists to undergo long hours of unpaid work ... read more

FALLOUT FROM MACCHIARINI SCANDAL SPREADS

STOCKHOLM, 08.09.2016 (div) -- A new round of resignations and firings has begun in the fallout from the scandal surrounding Paolo Macchiarini and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Chancellor of public universities, Harriet Wallberg-Henriksson has been dismissed, and all KI board members who were active during Macchiarini’s tenure will be replaced ... read more

But the Karolinska Institute has done well in repairing some of the damage done to its reputation. The university and its hospital have subsequently improved their procedures for recruitment and the handling of whistle-blowers, but there are concerns that avant-garde research will be abandoned ... read more

PORTUGUESE PROFESSORS BURNING OUT

PORTO, 18.09.2016 (activa) -- Worryingly, almost two thirds of Portuguese academics suffer symptoms of a burnout due to physical fatigue, a study shows. Smaller numbers showed signs cognitive fatigue and emotional exhaustion. The academics said that the combination of research with mentoring students and bureaucratic responsibilities were the main factors ... read more

DUTCH SCIENTISTS ARE OVERWORKED

AMSTERDAM, 06.09.2016 (ans) -- The majority of scientists at Dutch universities experience an excessive workload, a survey of the Dutch Socialist party found out. Furthermore, 75 percent of the researchers spoke out against the commercialisation of universities and only 43 percent are satisfied with the quality of science education ... read more

GERMAN STUDENTS LIKE IT SAFER

BERLIN, 28.08.2016 (n-tv) -- According to a survey of 3,500 students at 27 university towns, 32 percent of students would like to become civil servants after completing their studies. The second most popular career choice would have students working at a cultural institution ... read more

NORWEGIAN GRADUATES AFRAID OF RESEARCH

OSLO, 06.09.2016 (forskerforum) -- Grad students’ desire to enter academia as a career has declined, as the Norwegian Association of Researchers has discovered. Contrastingly, interest in the public sector has risen sharply over the past two years ... read more
Lieselott Herforth (1916-2010) was from 1965-1968 the first female university rector in Germany (TU Dresden) – and as a physicist, successful in a male-dominated area. In Berlin, Leipzig, Merseburg and Dresden she devoted herself to, amongst other things, radioactive isotopes and radiation measurement. Her foundational work, Practical applied radioactivity and radiochemistry (together with Hartwig Koch) is still being used today by teachers across Germany and constantly being updated. Later she joined the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and was a member of several high committees in the GDR. Alongside research she was very active in scientific recruitment and in equality. This first comprehensive biography in celebration of her 100th birthday traces the career of the pioneer.

Waltraud Voss
Transcript, July 2016 (in German)
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ENGAGING POLITICS WITH SCIENCE
SWISS ACADEMIES REPORT

In the past few years, scientific policy advice has opened up a field for major European academies in which much is achieved, but little is reported. Justifications for this activity are not lacking, but rather specific descriptions of what has been done in practice and an assessment of the effects. In order to facilitate and promote an exchange of experience between similar organisations, this report, from more than twenty years of practice, aims to answer the following questions: How are these forums organised and financed as interfaces between science and politics? How do they work and with what success? What can they pass on as well-established experience?

Paul Messerli, Christian Pohl, Urs Neu
Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, 2016
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SCIENTISTS HAVE THEIR SAY
UNLEASH THE INVESTIGATION

The quality and independence of science are under pressure. So concludes Dutch Socialist Party MP Jasper van Dijk, following this investigation which surveyed nearly 1,000 scientists. “Science is increasingly controlled by outside parties such as the government and industry. Independent research is at stake,” said van Dijk.

Ineke Paim, Jasper van Dijk, Erik Flentge
SP Netherlands, September 2016
in Dutch
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THE STATE OF FUNDING IN EDUCATION TEACHERS’ WORKING CONDITIONS, SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS

IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

This is a survey of ETUCE member organisations in Central and Eastern European countries; mapping public investment in education, privatisation of education systems, teachers’ working conditions, social dialogue and collective bargaining, trade union actions and future challenges to teacher unions. Through this survey, the ETUCE intends to shed light on the most recent developments in the education sector. It also aims at raising attention on the education-related challenges faced in Central and Eastern Europe.

ETUCE, February 2016
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IN WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

This ETUCE report is based on a survey of its member organisations in Western Europe. This survey combines the outcomes of eight years of economic crisis and fiscal consolidation measures on public finance of education systems, teachers’ working conditions, the role of trade unions, and the major trends in social dialogue and collective bargaining. The ETUCE also seeks to call attention to European education-related challenges. Among them, European countries are confronted with increased privatisation and commercialisation in education related to the effort to shrink public debt.

ETUCE, February 2016
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"Is there any global corporation influencing education policy, delivery of education products and schooling in your country?"
3RD EUA FUNDING FORUM
“EFFICIENT UNIVERSITIES: VALUE FOR SOCIETY”
Porto, Portugal, 6-7 October 2016

VERBINDEN, GESTALTEN, ENTWICKELN.
NATIONALE KONFERENZ ZUM EUROPÄISCHEN FORSCHUNGSRAUM
Berlin, 10 October 2016

RESEARCH STRATEGIES: PLANNING FOR EUROPE 2030
Brussels, Belgium, 12 October 2016

ACA EUROPEAN POLICY SEMINAR “CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL HE”
Brussels, 13 October 2016

UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS FORUM “UNIVERSITIES & BUSINESSES: BUILDING EUROPREGIONAL ECOSYSTEMS”
San Sebastian, Spain, 18-19 October 2016

EADTU “ENHANCING EUROPEAN HE: OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPACT OF NEW MODES OF TEACHING”
Rome, Italy, 19-21 October 2016

7TH ENQA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Gloucester, UK, 20-21 October 2016

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
Antalya, Turkey, 27-30 October 2016

EDU WORLD 2016 “EDUCATION FACING CONTEMPORARY WORLD ISSUES”
Pitesti/Arges, Romania; 4-5 November 2016

GERMAN-AFRICAN UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM
Sankt Augustin, Germany, 10-11 November 2016

ICERI2016 CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION AND NEW LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES
Seville, Spain 14-16 November 2016

11TH EUROPEAN QUALITY ASSURANCE FORUM
Ljubljana, Slovenia, 17-19 November 2016

ACA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016: UNIVERSITIES

“CHALLENGES OF THE DIGITAL ERA FOR EDUCATION, WORKING AND LEARNING”
Porto, Portugal, 22-25 October 2016

9. FORUM WISSENSCHAFTSKOMMUNIKATION
Bielefeld, 5-7 December 2016

INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION: GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IN CHANGING WORLD SCENARIOS
London, UK, 10-13 December 2016

EUROSTUDENT RESEARCHERS’ FORUM
Vilnius, Lithuania, 1-2 February 2017
calls for proposals

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STAFF EXCHANGE

The RISE scheme will promote international and inter-sector collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges, and sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa). The scheme fosters a shared culture of research and innovation that welcomes and rewards creativity and entrepreneurship and helps to turn creative ideas into innovative products, services or processes.

RISE involves organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors based in and outside Europe. Support is provided for the development of partnerships in the form of a joint research and innovation project. RISE projects can focus either on one dimension of mobility (intersectoral / international), or include a combination of both.

The expected budget is €80 million. Opening: 1 December 2016 | Closing: 5 April 2017

POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION MEASURES FOR RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

This call focuses on reinforcing European research infrastructures policy and international cooperation.

The e-infrastructures topic for 2016-2017 foresees support to the implementation and monitoring of the Open Research Data Pilot. It will provide support for coordination of European, national and/or regional policies and programmes. International co-operation will enable European communities to be linked with third countries, have access to unique research infrastructures and contribute to standardisation activities in international fora, aligning strategic developments and sharing best practices.

Budget: proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to €1.5 million for the first area and between €3 and 3.5 million for the second area (RDA). Opening: 8 December 2016 | Deadline: 29 March 2017

MSCA NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

Facilitate trans-national co-operation between National Contact Points (NCPs) for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA), with a view to identifying and sharing good practices and raising the general standard of support to applicants, taking into account the diversity of actors.

Support will be given to a consortium of formally nominated NCPs in the area of MSCA. Various mechanisms may be included, such as benchmarking, joint workshops, enhanced cross-border brokerage events, training sessions linked to MSCA as well as to Responsible Research and Innovation, twinning schemes, etc. Special attention will be given to enhancing the competence of MSCA NCPs, including helping less experienced NCPs rapidly acquire the know-how accumulated in other countries. It will also be encouraged to build up cooperation with other networks to increase visibility to potential beneficiaries, especially in the non-academic sector.

The budget is €1.5 million. Opening: 10 January 2017 | Deadline: 04 May 2017