



# Pan-European Structure

## Update Education International – BFUG 14-15 October 2008

### Mobility Conference

Education International has lately been working intensively with the Mobility Conference “Lets’ Go! –Where to now?” to be held in Lille on the 6-7 October 2008. The BFUG, as well as student and staff representatives and other actors in the higher education community has been invited to take part in the conference. The conference will focus on summarising the results of the Mobility Campaign that has been running since November 2007 and propose recommendations for improving staff and student mobility in the whole EHEA.

### Higher Education and Research Standing Committee

EI will also hold its Higher Education and Research Standing Committee meeting in Lille 8-9 October. During the meeting EI affiliates will mainly discuss the EI contribution to the Ministerial meeting in Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve. The affiliates will assess the first outcomes of the EI survey on academic staff union’s participation in the Bologna Process, the results of which will be presented for the ministerial meeting.

### Eastern European round table

EI held its Eastern European round table on 3-5 of October, issues concerning education and higher education in the Eastern European countries were discussed, among them the Bologna Process.

### Education at a Glance 2008

EI has reacted to the ‘Education at a Glance 2008’ report published by the OECD in September. EI argues that OECD has a too narrow and economic view on education, which inhibits the organisation from undertaking a more coherent and deep analysis of education and the public and private benefits of education. EI also notes that the great expansion of tertiary education is used as an argument for pressing for the use of tuition fees. EI argues that tuition fees are detrimental to the aim of most governments to get a broader recruitment to and more diverse participation in higher education. You can acquire the full statement from [Monique.fouilhoux@ei-ie.org](mailto:Monique.fouilhoux@ei-ie.org)

### IMHE OECD Conference

EI has also participated in the IMHE OECD conference on *quality, relevance and impact of higher education*, where, amongst other things, the Assessing Higher Education Learning Outcomes (AHELO) project was once more discussed. EI has repeatedly expressed its concerns regarding the AHELO project, which we believe can only lead to a reduced diversity in higher education with increased “teaching to the test”, higher education institutions becoming reluctant to grant access to students from non-traditional backgrounds, at the same time as the goal of assessing the efficiency of the higher education systems will not be fulfilled. AHELO will be an expensive undertaking with, in the best situation limited impact and in worst case, negative effects on our higher education systems. EI want to urge the Bologna Process countries to instead work with their quality assurance systems, the development of qualifications frameworks and undertakings in the field of employability. At its International Conference on Higher Education and Research held last year in Malaga a statement about the AHELO was adopted, it can be found at <http://www.ei-ie.org/highereducation/en/policy.php>

### EI OECD Affiliate Conference “Governance, Financing, Evaluation and Climate Change – Key Challenges for Public Education”

EI will hold a meeting for its affiliates from the OECD countries in December 2008. The meeting will focus on issues especially important for our OECD country affiliates such as climate change, school leadership and institutional management, OECD initiative such as PISA, TALIS and AHELO and financing of education including a discussion on public-private-partnerships.