

*Highlights from EURASHE since the
latest meeting of the BFUG in Luxembourg on 8-9 September 2015*

Centres of cooperation striving for excellence: professional higher education and the world of work – EURASHE 26th Annual Conference, Belgrade (Serbia), 21-22 April 2016

Our 26th Annual Conference will take place in Belgrade (Serbia) on 21-22 April 2016. Entitled ‘Centres of cooperation striving for excellence: Professional higher education and the world of work’, the Annual Conference will develop through 3 main themes seen as the biggest strengths of the cooperation built between PHE institutions and the world of work: employability, regional development, and innovation. When talking about employability, we will address different indicators and discuss modes of cooperation and engagement that support graduates’ employability. Regional development and service to society proved to be one of the biggest strengths of our sector. We will showcase good practices where cooperation between institutions, the business sector and local and regional authorities made significant contribution to local/regional development. Finally, innovation is a key for development and when stakeholders work together, great things are achieved.

Jens Nymand Christensen, Deputy Director General for Education and Culture of the European Commission will be speaking at the conference. The programme and registrations are available online. The conference will be preceded by a meeting of EURASHE’s General Assembly on Wednesday 20 April.

See also: www.eurashe.eu/belgrade

EQUIP – The ESG 2015 as a tool for change

The EQUIP project aims at Enhancing Quality through Innovative Policy & Practice in European higher education by supporting and promoting a consistent, efficient and innovative embedding of the ESG 2015 at grass-root level. The project will identify the challenges and work collaboratively with all stakeholders and policy-makers to propose, share and discuss the applicability of new solutions. The EQUIP project is an EU-funded project by EURASHE, ENQA, EUA, ESU, EI, EQAR, UiO, CCISP.

One of the first activities of the project is to propose training opportunities on the ESG 2015 through 5 webinars and workshops. The complete list as well as training material is available on the project website.

See also: www.equip-project.eu

IDEAS for equity interventions that work

The IDEAS project focuses on identifying higher education equity interventions that work, improving access to higher education in Europe. The main outcome, the IDEAS database, contains over 40 examples of equity interventions from around the world. Each intervention is defined as a specific programme, project or activity, which was designed to improve access to, participation in or completion of higher education for students from underrepresented groups. The project team has specifically

looked for interventions that were implemented by individual institutions, departments, NGOs or individuals and which show good practice by having their success proved in terms of time, measurable results, efficiency, innovation and visibility. The project will publish a white paper in the upcoming weeks based on the outcomes of the research, the quality of collected cases and the activities of the partners on the topic of the social dimension of higher education. The white paper will present policy recommendations for creating an inclusive environment in higher education.

See also: www.equityideas.eu

Statutory changes for EURASHE

At the Extraordinary General Assembly on 17 October 2015, members of EURASHE unanimously approved the proposed revision of the statutes of the association. The statutes have been revised with a view to improve clarity, increase transparency of responsibilities and decision-making processes, simplify the membership structure and enhance the members' involvement in the association.

To enable an efficient strategic and operational management, the structure of the association is now composed of 4 bodies: the General Assembly (meeting twice a year), the Board, the Committee for Strategic Advice, and the Secretariat. The Council ceases to exist. The size of the Board is larger with 10 members, members of the Board are also chairs of the Working Groups, thus making the Working Groups statutory. A consultative and advisory body is created, called Committee for Strategic Advice, composed of EURASHE members, stakeholders from the world of work, other stakeholders of professional higher education and other experts.

See also: www.eurashe.eu/eurashe-statutes-2015

Seminar on Applied Research in Heilbronn (Germany) on 3 December 2015

EURASHE and The Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (DHBW) Heilbronn organised a seminar on the role of applied RDI in regional development on Thursday 3 December in Heilbronn (Germany). The seminar presented different aspects of how regional development can be combined with and benefit from applied RDI and brought together regional and international RDI experts and representatives from the world of work. The seminar included an address from the European Commission directorate for the Innovation Union and European Research Area, as well as discussions on Europe-wide applied RDI in professional higher education, the expectations for cooperation from regional SMEs and best practices and experiences in involving students in the RDI cooperation with the world of work.

See also: www.eurashe.eu/heilbronn-rdi

Upcoming events

In 2016 EURASHE will continue to provide support to its members in areas linked to the priorities of the EHEA. This will take the form of, amongst others, the following events:

- Workshop on the access and inclusion of refugees in higher education, 4 May, Brussels
- Workshop on the permeability of HVET and higher education, 16 June, Brussels
- Seminar on student involvement in applied research and on market-based research, 26-27 September, Seville

See also: www.eurashe.eu/seminars