



Education and Culture

# **The Social Dimension of the Bologna Process from a European Perspective**

Julie Fionda  
European Commission

# Overview

1. Our shared commitment
2. Barriers to Equity
3. Mobilising all actors



## The political backdrop

- Strong and longstanding commitment to improving equity in Higher Education
- *'...the student body entering, participating in and completing higher education at all levels should reflect the diversity of our populations.'* (London Communiqué)
- *'We reaffirm the importance of students being able to complete their studies without obstacles related to their social and economic background'* (London Communiqué)

# What are our aims?

- Promoting Equity and Active Citizenship
- Widening participation in (and completion of) tertiary education, including
  - promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Addressing barriers for underrepresented groups
- Horizontal and vertical action

# What are the barriers?

- Financial barriers
- Non-financial barriers



## **Non financial barriers**

- Educational disadvantage
- Aspiration
- Awareness of Opportunities (and benefits)

# Mobilising all actors

- Governments
  - Strategies to narrow educational disadvantage
  - Empower universities to be more inclusive
- Universities
  - Inclusiveness as a badge of excellence
  - Admissions procedures
- Private sector
  - Stronger role in driving inclusion

Thank you for your attention.

