



20th EURASHE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN TALLINN

14-15 October 2010

Main conference theme: A look at “ agendas” and the Bologna process

In the post-Bologna and soon the post-Lisbon era, we are looking at the links of the Bologna Reform with the Lisbon Agenda, and want to give the floor to both advocates and critics of this interlinkage and try to come to a balanced opinion, with a list of recommendations from stakeholders of professional HE.

The objective is to involve all stakeholders and try to come to a balanced opinion on this issue, with a list of recommendations from the part of professional HE.

The Lisbon Agenda initiative of the European Union, which aimed at making Europe the most competitive and dynamic economy in the world, has not given the expected results. Interim reports already in 2004 (Kok Report) pointed at failures to even reach the most modest targets.

Therefore it is important to give the floor not only to policymakers, politicians, researchers but also to stakeholders such as employers, institutions and students. It is necessary to try to come to a balanced opinion on this linkage from the part of professional HE, which comprises the for-profit sector as well as the social and welfare sector.

At the same time, an appraisal of what could be the real added value of giving a more prominent role to the vast array of HEIs, which now all claim a place in the knowledge transfer and upgrading of skills required by the labour market.

Preliminary programme (conference tracks)

1. Knowledge transfer.

What is the capacity of the universities of Applied Sciences to conduct and administer research?

The strength of the European Universities of Applied Sciences, University colleges, etc. is the link with the world of employment through work placements, stimulation of innovation and research, and a focus on employment, in direct support for the economy. The research is carried out on 3 levels: the level of companies, the level of the public authorities, and in international projects.

2. Improving the skills needed by the labour market

The tightening link of studies and applied research dominates is a constant feature of the UAS. Apart from its obvious and immediate usefulness for society, applied research is also beneficial for the professional development of lecturers, as part of the internal quality provisions, for the diploma thesis work for the students and for shaping the habits of entrepreneurship and innovation.

3. The Social dimension aspect in the higher education reform process, and in the European Union's policies, with a special focus on Fair Access to Higher Education. Dissemination and exploitation of findings from a research study (in which EURASHE is a partner) on barriers due to educational background, socio-economic conditions and structural problems in higher education.