



Rationale

An avalanche is coming. In the context of technological developments, digitalisation, new requirements and expectations towards a changed employability and higher education as a mass phenomenon, higher education institutions will be likely to change their role and mode of operation entirely. More and more higher education institutions are opening up, in their business models, in their leaning designs, in their access regulations and in the way they relate to the world of work. The 4th industrial revolution, or so-called industry 4.0/*industrie du futur*, will require a shift in approaches and models. “We stand on the brink of a technological revolution that will fundamentally alter the way we live, work, and relate to one another. In its scale, scope, and complexity, the transformation will be unlike anything humankind has experienced before”¹ writes Klaus Schwab head of the World Economic Forum. But what about professional higher education? Are European universities of applied sciences ready to respond to this change? Are they ready to turn the challenges and expectations of industry, the world of work in general and society at large into advantages? How can higher education stay relevant and change its learning design in the light of new digital opportunities, artificial intelligence and quantum computing? Will these changes affect the research, development and innovation agenda of universities of applied sciences? Will they affect their role and the way in which they collaborate with partners from the world of work and their regional community? These revolutionary changes will emerge across various sectors, including those in the public hand: what will be the impact on more social occupations like nursing and caring, will they be overwhelmed as well? How can future leaders and workers be prepared for contexts in perpetual evolution?

EURASHE’s 27th Annual Conference’s theme ‘Professional Higher Education 4.0: A Change for Universities of Applied Sciences’ will respond to these questions and many more. Join us in Le Havre (France) on 30-31 March 2017.

This “blurring [of] the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres” of the next industrial revolution is changing the way higher education operates. European universities of applied sciences, with their deep integration with the world of work, have to be the leaders of this change.

The conference’s keynote will lay out the frame of 2 days’ worth of breakout sessions and debates addressing the overarching theme of a changing higher education responding to a changing society.

An ‘Oxford’ style debate will oppose two views on the validity and actual impact of these changes. Each of the 20 breakout sessions (workshops, posters, good practices, leaders’ forum etc.) will all address one of the multiple facets of professional higher education 4.0.

The conference is designed to be a place of sharing, exchange and stock-taking. By attracting different target groups it will bring together the European treasure and body of experience in higher education: institutional leadership and management, head of programmes, teaching staff, researchers, quality

Navigating the next industrial revolution



Revolution	Year	Information
	1	1784 Steam, water, mechanical production equipment
	2	1870 Division of labour, electricity, mass production
	3	1969 Electronics, IT, automated production
	4	? Cyber-physical systems

¹ See <http://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/the-fourth-industrial-revolution-what-it-means-and-how-to-respond/>



assurance managers and agencies, business, public agents and more. Practitioners, the world of work, and policy-makers will be brought together to better understand their respective views, approaches and experiences. The multi-level discussions, mix of plenary and breakout sessions, but also the strong interdisciplinarity of the conference and its networking sessions aim at inspiring participants and higher education institutions alike in meeting the challenges of tomorrow head-on.