

REPORT:

EURASHE – 22. ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 10-11. MAY 2012, RIGA , LATVIA

CONFERENCE TITLE: RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES IN EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION: LIFELONG LEARNING AND THE WELFARE SOCIETY

Conclusions of the conference

EURASHE organised a really theme-bound conference which produced a conference rich in subject specific content.

A successful cooperation with the FLLEX project (on the impact of Lifelong learning in Higher Education institutions) that was initiated by EURASHE's working group for Lifelong Learning and further executed by one of our member institutions, a Flemish University college (KHLeuven) helped to achieve this outcome.

Keynote speakers provided the wider background for the two themes.

The Latvian Minister's presentation showed clearly that they see a role for education in 'social innovation in their country, expecting concrete outcomes from Higher Education institutions.

Lifelong learning, social innovation and the welfare society was discussed by Joeri van den Steenhoven, Young Foundation (UK), member of the Lisbon Council think tank.

He reflected on the modernisation of the welfare society and the role of (higher) education in this. Noticing the trends in Lifelong Learning, action-oriented learning, transformational learning, trends of e-learning and distance-learning. These are exactly areas where professional Higher education especially should play an important part. Societal challenges can be solved by stimulating innovation. Europe is considered an example of good practice, but what are Higher education Institutions doing to stimulate innovation, also in the field of societal welfare? Are we educating people for innovative jobs in changing societies? If not, we may lose our competitive advantage as an innovative society, when the world of education does not follow.

A normative theory of the welfare state and its inherent dilemmas was the title of Jørn Henrik Petersen's keynote speech, Centre for Welfare State Research, University of Southern Denmark (DK).

Social Welfare is not a luxury discussion, as it touches at the heart of our society: take care of those who cannot take care of themselves. A dilemma embedded in all European societies is the weakening of individual responsibility as the State has taken over. We are all brought up in the

belief that we can achieve something with little effort. Where is the education link? Education should teach (societal, moral) values next to skills. Attitude of the State so far are to remain neutral towards moral views of citizens. It can be concluded that we are looking into the wrong places. Our education is too much focused on technical achievements, using economic arguments. We have to look into the behaviour of the individual people. This is also the role of education.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday, 10 May 2012

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel Latvija

EURASHE ANNUAL CONFERENCE Day 1

08.30 - 09.30 Registration of Conference participants

09.30 – 10.15 Opening of the conference

☒ **Welcome by Andris Sarnovics, Rector, BA School of Business and Finance,
(LV) host of the Conference**

☒ **Andreas G. Orphanides, EURASHE President, Rector of European
University Cyprus (CY)**

☒ **Lauma Sīka, Deputy State Secretary of Ministry of Education (LV)**

Keynote speakers' session

10.15 – 11.00 Lifelong learning, social innovation and the welfare society

Joeri van den Steenhoven, Young Foundation (UK), member Lisbon Council

11.00– 11.30 COFFEE BREAK

11.30 – 12.45 A normative theory of the welfare state and its inherent dilemmas

**Jørn Henrik Petersen, Centre for Welfare State Research, University of
Southern Denmark (DK)**

- Couch discussion with both keynote speakers

**Interviewer: Michal Karpíšek, Executive officer of the Czech Association of
Schools of Professional Higher Education (CZ)**

12.45 - 14.15 LUNCH

14.15 - 18.00 4 sessions on 2 tracks:

14.15 - 15.45 Session 1a: Lifelong Learning and National and EU policy

- FLLLEX: introduction and results of a project on Lifelong Learning

Klaas Vansteenuyse, Head of the International Office at KHLeuven,

Project coordinator FLLLEX (BE)

- From Policy to Practise – Higher Education Institutions and Lifelong

**Richard Thorn, Director, Flexible Learning and Research at Institutes of
Technology (IE)**

- View on policy proposals from a country perspective,

Lauma Sīka, Deputy State Secretary of Ministry of Education (LV) and

**Patrick Leushuis, Sr. Policy Advisor Higher Education & Labour Market,
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (NL)**

- Discussion with participants and panel

14.15 – 15.45 Session 1b: Healthy ageing

**- Demographic change and Healthy Ageing: one of the grand societal
challenges of Europe and an opportunity for Universities of Applied
Sciences**

**Joost Degenaar, programme Director Healthy Ageing, Hanze UAS,
Groningen (NL)**

15.45 – 16.15 COFFEE BREAK

16.15 – 17.30 Session 2a: A self-evaluation tool for Lifelong Learning

**- Assessing institutional strategies for life-long learning: a self-assessment
with stakeholders' views.**

**Josep Grifoll, Technical Director for Quality Assurance at the Catalan
University Quality Assurance Agency (ES) , Board Member ENQA**

- How to use the FLLLEX tool in your institution

Margriet de Jong, Project coordinator FLLLEX, KHLeuven (BE)

- Developing Lifelong Learning Strategies, Business Plans and Actions

George Ubachs , Managing Director of EADTU (NL)

16.15 – 17.30 Session 2b: Welfare technology – use of technology in developing and defending welfare society in Europe

- Anthony Lewis Brooks (Aalborg University), Leading researcher/innovator on Welfare Technology (DK)

- Towards a creative society: ludic engagement designs for all

Eva Petersson Brooks (Aalborg University), Leading researcher in the field of Non-formal Learning (DK)

MORE ABOUT CONFERENCE :

<http://www.eurashe.eu/conferences-and-events/eurashe-annual-conferences/22-annual-conference-riga/#dl>