

## ‘BENCHMARKING IN EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION’

Résidence Palace, Brussels  
Friday, 11 June 2010

In its recent **Europe 2020 strategy**, the European Commission emphasised the need to enhance the performance and international attractiveness of Europe's higher education institutions. HEIs need modern management tools to foster institutional reforms, improve their operational efficiency and strengthen their capacity for innovative change in the face of rising global competition. The Commission itself has explicitly underlined the crucial role of benchmarking in optimising university activities and educational outcomes.

The conference ‘**Benchmarking in European Higher Education**’ will practically demonstrate how benchmarking can be applied to identify good practices and set targets for improved performance. A highly interactive event, it will take place in **Brussels on Friday 11 June 2010**. It aims to publicise the work of the European Benchmarking Initiative II (EBI-II) (2008-2011) and the results produced by four dedicated benchmarking groups on four core areas of the EU's modernisation agenda: **governance, university-enterprise cooperation, curricular reform** and **continuing professional development (CPD)** as a component of **lifelong learning**.

EBI-II is a **two-year EU-funded project** in the **EU Lifelong Learning Programme**. It was developed under the leadership of Brussels-based ESMU (European Centre for Strategic Management of Universities) in a consortium of four partners, including CHE Consult (Centre for Higher Education Development) in Germany, the International Centre for Higher Education Management (ICHEM) at the University of Bath and the Institute of Education (IoE) at the University of London. All project partners have extensive expertise in the area of university governance and management.

A **networking dinner** will take place on the evening of 10 June. On 11 June, the conference will kick off with morning **plenary sessions**, placing benchmarking in the context of the EU's modernisation agenda and describing the objectives, methodology and outputs of the EBI-II project. Project participants from the four benchmarking groups will then present and discuss their particular experiences with the benchmarking exercise and provide examples of good practice in interactive afternoon **workshops**.

For further information on the benchmarking project and to register for the conference please visit [www.education-benchmarking.org](http://www.education-benchmarking.org).

We look forward to welcoming you in Brussels.

Frans van Vught  
ESMU President