

BENCHMARKING IN EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

11 June 2010, 9.00 – 17.00
Résidence Palace, Brussels

The Europe 2020 strategy explicitly emphasises the need to enhance the performance and international attractiveness of Europe's higher education institutions and to raise the overall quality of educational outcomes by stepping up the modernisation agenda.¹

European HEIs need modern management tools in order to foster institutional reforms, enhance their operational efficiency and strengthen their capacity for innovative change in the face of increasing global competition. Benchmarking is a powerful instrument to identify good practices and set targets for improved performance.

On the basis of the successful EBI-I project (2006-2008), the European Benchmarking Initiative II (2008-2010) has launched benchmarking groups in the four key areas of the EU's modernisation agenda for higher education: governance, university-enterprise cooperation, curricular reform and continuing professional development (CPD) as a component of lifelong learning.

The conference *Benchmarking in European Higher Education* will disseminate the results produced by these groups to a wider audience, thereby ensuring that all interested HEIs are given the opportunity to benefit from the expertise developed in the course of the project. The agenda will include sessions on benchmarking methodologies and project outputs, benchmarking and the modernisation agenda as well as examples of good practice taken from the four benchmarking working groups. The conference is open to all interested HEIs.

For further information on the benchmarking project and to register for the conference please visit www.education-benchmarking.org.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Chair:	Dr. Christiane Gaehtgens, ESMU Senior Expert
<i>8.30 – 9.00</i>	<i>Registration</i>
9.00 – 9.15	Welcome (Dr. Christiane Gaehtgens, ESMU Senior Expert)
9.15 – 10.00	Benchmarking and the Modernisation Agenda (Barbara Nolan, Head of Unit B.3, Higher education and Erasmus, DG Education and Culture, European Commission - <i>approached</i>)
10.00 – 10.30	The EBI-II Project (Nadine Burquel, ESMU Secretary General)
<i>10.30 – 11.00</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>

¹ Europe 2020. A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (European Commission, 3 March 2010)

- 11.00 – 12.00 Results from the four Benchmarking Groups
- *Curriculum Reform*: Professor José-Ginés Mora (Institute of Education (IoE), University of London, UK)
 - *Governance*: Professor Jeroen Huisman (International Centre for Higher Education Management (ICHEM), University of Bath, UK)
 - *Lifelong Learning*: Uwe Brandenburg (CHE Consult, Centre for Higher Education Development, Germany)
 - *University-Enterprise Cooperation*: Nadine Burquel (European Centre for Strategic Management of Universities (ESMU), Belgium)
- 12.00 – 13.00 The EBI-II Benchmarking Project: Methodology, Approach and Outputs (Dr. Christiane Gaehtgens, ESMU Senior Expert)
- 13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*
- 14.00 – 15.30 Parallel Workshops on Curriculum Reform, Governance, University-Enterprise Cooperation and Lifelong Learning
- 15.30 – 16.00 *Coffee Break*
- 16.00 – 17.00 Closing Panel: The Way Forward
- Dr. Paul Benneworth (Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS), University of Twente, The Netherlands)
 - Two university representatives (n.n.)
 - David Coyne (Former Director for Coordination of the European Social Fund (ESF), DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission)