



High Level International Policy Forum

Higher Education and Employability: Current Policies and Future Trends

PROGRAMME

In collaboration with the  European
Commission
Education and Culture

Brussels, 22 November 2012

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

Higher education policy has become increasingly important on national agendas. The widespread recognition that tertiary education is a major driver of economic competitiveness in an increasingly knowledge-driven global economy has made high-quality and relevant tertiary education more important than ever before. The imperative for countries is to raise higher-level employment skills, to sustain a globally competitive research base and to improve knowledge dissemination to the benefit of society¹.

Throughout the world, technological change, globalisation, the shift to a low-carbon economy, demographic pressures and the evolution of social structures all mean that both labour markets – and the skills people need – change ever faster². Therefore, many policy makers are now looking for methodologies and instruments in order to anticipate future needs and define effective policies to enable people to develop the right set of skills.

This demand for clear concepts and tools has grown considerably during the last two decades, in order to enable policy makers to assess the current state of play in higher education reforms and to plan future steps^{3,4}. Both policy makers and higher education managers have a key role in developing appropriate strategies. It is their responsibility to prepare students, in a lifelong learning perspective, not only for a productive career but also for responsible citizenship.

High Level International Policy Forum

In order to support informed decision-making in EU and partner countries' higher education policies, provide evidence-based timely research on degree profiles of social relevance and quality, and discuss the current strategies and future trends in higher education modernisation in Europe and the world, the International Tuning Academy, under the patronage of the European Commission, is organising a High Level International Policy Forum "Higher Education and Employability – Current Policies and Future Trends" on 22 November 2012, in Brussels.

One of the major contributions of Tuning in different regions and countries has been the development of Degree Profiles with three main characteristics: social relevance, quality and transparency. The Policy Forum is organised within the framework of the upcoming International Conference entitled "Tuning in the World - New Degree Profiles for New Societies" at the European Commission in Brussels, which will take place on 21 November 2012. This Conference focuses on key elements of Degree Profiling and analyses how new profiles are developed in Europe and other regions of the world to respond to specific social and economic demands. The event is expected to attract more than 500 academics, employers, higher education experts, governmental authorities and decision makers from Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, European Union, Latin America, Russian Federation, USA, and many other countries. The High Level International Forum is meant to be a platform for gathering, analysing and sharing information between and among government authorities, policy makers, and managers in higher education. It includes representatives of European Commission, National Ministries of Education from EU Member States and partner countries, Rectors' Associations, Conferences and Networks, Associations of Deans, other national and international governmental and non-governmental organisations working in the area of higher education.

The Forum aims at identifying driving forces, taking stock and examining the potential for national governments and higher education institutions (in both the developed and developing world) to modernise their higher education systems, institutions and programmes.

The 2012 Policy Forum is also intended to benefit employers and academics in charge of programme design and implementation as it facilitates discussions on existing experiences and their functioning in employability of graduates, programme profiles, new skills for new jobs, and related higher education policy objectives. International agencies and donor agencies committed to the development of higher education systems and employability of graduates, including OECD, CEDEFOP, EUA will also be involved in this dialogue.

The International Tuning Academy

The International Tuning Academy⁵, is an initiative that emerged from more than ten years of successful Tuning projects implemented throughout the world. The Academy provides a unique forum for information, research, training, networking and debate on innovation and best practices in the development, modernization and implementation of competence-based teaching and learning and evidence-based policy making on higher education.

¹ Tertiary Education for the Knowledge Society, OECD, 2008 (These all could go at the end.

² "New Skills for New Jobs. Anticipating and matching labour market and skills needs" Communication from the Commission, COM(2008) 868, 16 December 2008

³ Trends 2010: a decade of change in European Higher Education, EUA, 2010.

⁴ Bucharest Communiqué - EHEA Ministerial Conference 2012 and Third Bologna Policy Forum, Bucharest, 27 April 2012

⁵ The International Tuning Academy, <http://www.unideusto.org/tuningeu/tuning-academy.html>

AGENDA

Start	End	22 November 2012 <i>Hotel Bedford Brussels, Rue du Midi 135-137, 1000 Brussels, Belgium</i>
-	09:00	Arrival at Hotel Bedford
09:00	09:30	Registration
09:30	13:30	Plenary Session
09:30	10:00	Opening - <i>Xavier Prats Monné</i>, Deputy-Director General of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture
10:00	11:00	Panel I - “Linking Education and Employability. Challenges and Approaches” Chair - <i>Pascal Hoba</i>, Director of Knowledge Management, Information and Communication, Association of African Universities Presentations: <i>Martin Le Vrang</i>, Policy Officer for Labour Market and Employment, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission <i>Christian Tauch</i>, Head of the Education Department, German Rector’s Conference <i>Manuel Souto-Otero</i>, Senior Lecturer, Department of Education, University of Bath Respondent – <i>Karina Ufert</i>, Chairperson of European Students’ Union
11:00	11:30	Coffee Break
11:30	12:30	Panel II - “Approaches for Implementation of Competence-based Programmes. Need for Evidence-based Policy in Higher Education” Chair - <i>Alexander Sobolev</i>, Director of the Department for State Policy in Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Science of Russian Federation Presentations: <i>Julie Fionda</i>, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Education and Culture, European Commission <i>Nadine Burquel</i>, Secretary General, European Centre for the Strategic Management of Universities (ESMU) <i>Mike Campbell</i>, Skills and Labour Market Expert Respondent – <i>Volker Gehmlich</i>, Professor of Business Management, University of Applied Sciences in Osnabrück, Germany
12:30	13:30	Panel III - “Higher Education: Future Policies and Trends” Chair - <i>Sonia Reynaga Obregón</i>, Head, Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education of Mexico Presentations: <i>Claire Morel</i>, Deputy Head of Unit, International Cooperation and Programmes, Directorate General for Education and Culture, European Commission <i>Antonio Ranieri</i>, Senior Expert in Research and Policy Analysis, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) <i>Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin</i>, Senior Analyst, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Respondent – <i>Lesley Wilson</i>, Secretary General of The European University Association (EUA)
	13:30	Closing
13:30	14:30	Lunch
14:30	17:30	Partner Countries’ Policy Forums