

Announcement and call for papers

Higher Education Reforms: Looking Back – Looking Forward

10th International Workshop on Higher Education Reforms
October 2-4, 2013, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

The Workshop Theme

After four or five decades of far-reaching reform, Higher Education (HE) has profoundly changed. The 2013 Workshop theme gives an opportunity to look at the larger picture of these changes, the drivers of change, and their effects. At the same time, the theme invites contributions about the likely futures of HE over the next generation, suggesting (or speculating on) developments that will further change HE.

Some drivers of future change are already manifest, whereas others might still be obscure. Among those manifest are the massive growth and increasing differentiation of higher education systems and the impact of globalization and international competition. Related to this latter development are the expanding marketization and privatization of higher education, international rankings of “world class universities”, changing forms of university governance, and the changing role of students from ‘learners’ to ‘consumers’, enhanced in many countries by steep increases in tuition fees as the financial crisis and ensuing cuts of public budgets have forced HE institutions, especially universities, to look for additional resources from students and their families.

Meanwhile online learning and individual study will have a massive impact on traditional, campus and classroom based HE. Although still in its infancy, the rise of “massive open online courses” (MOOC) is already attracting much attention. In one possible future, campus-based university education would be reserved for a few students whereas the majority would learn mostly or exclusively on-line, independently or in virtual classrooms (networks). Many of these developments and trends put in question the traditional role of universities as places for independent research and teaching and thus established notions of institutional autonomy and academic freedom.

As an international workshop should do, the 2013 meeting gives an opportunity for comparative analysis and discussion, either by geography (comparing, for example, reform policies within the same region, e.g. former Communist Eastern European or Latin American countries) or by theme (e.g. the growing importance of private HE institutions in various countries and the future of public HE). Contributions should, as far as possible, consider development over time rather than at a particular point in time.

The Organization of the Workshop

The Workshop will be hosted by *the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)*. It will be organized by staff and students of the Center for Educational Policy Studies, Faculty of Education. Ljubljana has good direct flight connections with Frankfurt, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Munich, Zurich, Vienna, Prague, Moscow and some other European cities.

The Workshop is *co-sponsored* by the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Higher Education Special Interest Group; the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE); and the Centre for Policy Studies in Higher Education and Training of the University of British Columbia at Vancouver, Canada.

This is *the tenth International Workshop on University Reform* bringing together researchers and policy analysts and policy makers. Previous workshops have taken place in Vancouver (University of British Columbia), Vienna (University of Klagenfurt), Tokyo (University of Tsukuba), Dublin (Dublin City University), Shanghai (East China Normal University), Mexico City (Center for Research and Advanced Studies - Department of Educational Research), Berlin (Humboldt University) and Pittsburgh (University of Pittsburgh).

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANELS

Papers and panels are invited to address the above-mentioned and related themes. Proposals of up to 400 words (for papers) and 800 words (for panels) should be received per electronic mail (file transfer) by or before June 1, 2013 at ceps@pef.uni-lj.si. Presenters will be notified by June 14th.

Details concerning communication, registration, the program, venue, accommodation, and practical information will be found at the workshop website: <http://www.pef.uni-lj.si/index.php?id=766>.

Local Organization Committee

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International Workshop Advisory Committee

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