



Conference

European Integration in Higher Education and Research in the Western Balkans

3-4 May 2012

Rectorate of the University of Zagreb
Zagreb, Croatia

CALL FOR PAPERS

Basic information

The Faculty of Political Science of the University of Zagreb and the Department of Educational Research of the University of Oslo have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the conference “European Integration in Higher Education and Research in the Western Balkans”, taking place in the Rectorate of the University of Zagreb, 3-4 May 2012.

The conference is part of a 3-year project, funded by the Norwegian Research Council through its NORGLOBAL programme and is targeting the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The project seeks primarily to strengthen the basis for evidence based policy making in the area of higher education and research, by strengthening capacities for national and regional studies on higher education and research. Through close cooperation between institutions from Norway (Department of Educational Research and ARENA – Centre for European Studies from the University of Oslo and NIFU) and the region (University of Zagreb in Croatia, Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Belgrade in Serbia and Centre for Education Policy in Serbia), the project will support the development of technical and human capacity to address these issues in a comprehensive and sustainable manner.

The conference will gather researchers and policy makers from Croatia and other countries of the Western

Balkans and will focus on the current state-of-the-art with respect to data and knowledge about systems of higher education and research, data and analysis needs on the side of policy makers as well as key research topics and related theoretical and methodological approaches. The conference will also be an opportunity for researchers from the region to present their work and explore possibilities for collaboration with colleagues from the region and Norway.

More information on the project can be found here: www.herdata.org

The conference theme and information about paper submission

The conference will primarily focus on changes in the higher education systems and institutions in the Western Balkan countries, in particular changes that can be linked to European initiatives in higher education, such as the Bologna Process and the EU's Europe 2020 Strategy (incl. Lisbon Strategy and Modernization Agenda).

One session during the conference (the draft programme is provided at the end of this call) will be dedicated to researchers who have already done studies on higher education and research in the region. The session will follow in its format the similar paper sessions in international scientific conferences, with 3-4 papers presented in each session, followed by comments and suggestions by other participants in the session.

The proposals for papers should be sent in the form of an extended summary (maximum 800 words). Information of the research topic or research questions, main theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches and overview of results should be included in the proposal.

Proposals that focus on issues of governance, policy, European integration and contribution of higher education and research to regional development will be given priority. It is possible to submit proposals for papers focusing on one country or one institution, but preference is given to comparative studies.

Proposals must be sent no later than 15 March 2012 to martina.vukasovic@ped.uio.no as a .doc or .pdf file. A selection panel consisting of representatives of project partners will make the selection and inform the authors no later than 1 April 2012.

Full versions of papers should be sent no later than 25 April 2012 to the same address. Papers and the presentation at the conference must be in English.

Travel and accommodation will be covered to authors of selected papers. In case the paper has several authors, travel and accommodation will be covered for one author.

Please include the following points in your proposal:

1. Name, affiliation, qualification and contact details (e-mail) of author that would present the paper
2. Name, affiliation and qualification of other authors of the paper (if applicable)
3. Full title of the paper
4. Keywords (5 maximum)
5. Extended summary (maximum 800 words)
 - a. Abstract
 - b. Research topic and/or research questions
 - c. Theoretical framework
 - d. Empirical data and methodology used
 - e. Main/provisional results

Draft programme of the conference

2 May 2012

Arrival of participants

3 May 2012

08:00-09:00 Registration

09:00-10:30 Opening of the conference and introduction to the project

- Opening addresses – by the representative of the Ministry responsible for higher education, the Rector of the University of Zagreb, the Dean of the Faculty of Political Sciences and representative of the University of Oslo (Bjørn Stensaker)
- Presentation of the main goals of the project and the database (www.herdata.org) – by Martina Vukasović (U of Oslo) and representative of the Centre for Education Policy (CEP) from Serbia

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-13:00 – Debate: What kind of evidence for what kind of policy for higher education?

- Aim: bring together the decision-making and research community and discuss expectations from each side
- Moderated by a participant from U of Zagreb
- Max 5 participants:
 - representative of the Ministry of Science/HE in Croatia
 - representative of the academic community in Croatia
 - 1-2 policy-makers from other Western Balkan countries
 - European student union representative

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 – European Integration in Higher Education and Research in the Western Balkans: research topics, theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches

- Aim: to develop a common research programme, focusing on the postdoc project (researcher based in Oslo) and two PhD projects (researchers based in Zagreb)
- Workshop-type discussion, moderated by Bjørn Stensaker (U of Oslo) or a representative from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-18:00 – National higher education policy developments in the WBC in the context of European integration

- Aim: raise awareness of national policy developments so far and map areas for further research
- Introductory presentation by Martina Vukasović (U of Oslo)
- Discussion

20:00 Dinner

4 May 2012

09:00-10:30 – On-going research on higher education and research: paper discussion workshop

- Aim: provide an opportunity for researchers to present and receive feedback for their work and to meet possible future collaborators
- 3-4 papers in session, max 10 minutes presentation
- Depending on numbers of papers, discussion after each paper or a joint discussion at the end
- For this a special call will be issued in mid-February; priority to be given to comparative studies and studies on governance, policy, European integration or regional development
- Commentators from U of Oslo and/or WBC partners (U of Zagreb, U of Belgrade, CEP)

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30 –

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12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 – Qualitative and quantitative data for research and evidence –based policy making

- Aim: Finalize sample and questionnaire for the survey, and make a preliminary plan for study visits
- Discussion, chaired by Bjørn Stensaker and/or Martina Vukasović, U of Oslo
- Draft questionnaire for survey and survey plan to be presented by CEP representative– 30 minutes max
- Conclusions to be summarized at the end in terms of a plan for data collection and division of tasks amongst project partners

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-17:00 – Further project planning

- Aim: define tasks and responsibilities of the partners until the next meeting in Belgrade (end of 2012, early 2013)
- In particular focus on activities in 2012: courses/workshops for/with PhD students; Open conference 2 in Belgrade

Departure of some participants

20:00 Dinner

5 May 2012

Departure of remaining participants