

**“Meeting of Directors General for Higher Education”
Filoxenia Conference Centre, Lefkosia (Nicosia), Cyprus**

22-23 October, 2012

*Preliminary Programme
Last Update 16/10/2012*

Sunday, October 21, 2012

Afternoon / Arrivals (Hilton Park Nicosia)

Evening

16:30-20:00 **Sightseeing tour at Larnaka** – Departure from/arrival at the Hilton Park Nicosia

20:30-22:00 **Welcome dinner at the Hilton Park Nicosia**

Monday, October 22, 2012

08:00¹ Departure from the Hilton Park Nicosia to the “Filoxenia Conference Centre”, Lefkosia

09:00-09:30 **Registration**

09:30-10:00 **Opening Session**

Welcome speeches by:

Despina Martidou-Forcier, Director of Higher and Tertiary Education, Ministry of Education and Culture

Michalis Attalides, Chair of Rectors’ Conference, Cyprus and Rector, University of Nicosia

Xavier Prats-Monné, Deputy Director General for Education and Culture, European Commission

George Demosthenous, Minister of Education and Culture, Cyprus

10:00-13:00 **Session 1: Quality Assurance and Cross-border Higher Education**

10:00-11:00

- **“An Overview of Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)”, by Professor Andreas G. Orphanides**, President of EURASHE and Rector, European University Cyprus

- **“Quality Assurance and Cross-border Higher Education”, by Xavier Prats-Monné**, Deputy Director General for Education and Culture, European Commission

- **“Delivering education services across borders – preliminary findings from a study being prepared for the Commission” by Uwe Brandenburg**, CHE Consult (Centre for Higher Education Development), and **Andrew McCoshan**, consultant

- **Questions and answers**

11:00-11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30-13:00

- **“Quality Assurance and Cross-border Higher Education in practice”. The example of:**
 - a) **Austria**
by **Faulhammer Friedrich**, Director General for Higher Education,

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- Federal Ministry of Science and Research, Austria
- b) **Denmark**
by Jacobsen Jens Peter, General Director, Danish Agency for Universities and Internationalisation, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Denmark
- c) **United Kingdom**
by Bev Thomas, Deputy Director, Division for Higher Education and Access and Quality, Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), UK
- **Discussion**

Proposed Questions for Discussion

- What steps could be taken by countries in order to open up assessment of national degrees by foreign quality assurance agencies?
- How could the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) be developed so as to act as an effective tool to improve trust among countries and recognise the assessments of foreign quality assurance agencies?
- How should the increasing diversity across higher education (diversity of pedagogies, institutions, students, expectations and missions) and across national quality assurance settings be handled?

13:00-13:15 **Family photo**

13:15-14:30 **Lunch**

14:30-16:30 **Session 2: Excellence in Teaching in Higher Education**

- 14:30-16:30
- **“Excellence in teaching – a view from the European Commission's High Level Group on the EU Contribution to Modernising Higher Education”**
by Xavier Prats-Monné, Deputy Director General for Education and Culture, European Commission
 - **“Innovative Teaching Methods- Student-Centered Learning”**
by Hildegard Schneider, Dean of the law Faculty at Maastricht University
 - **“Excellence in Teaching in Higher Education: The students’ perspective”**,
by Karina Ufert, President of the European Student Union
 - **Good practices:**
 - a) **“Initiative in Teaching Excellence”**,
by Schüller Ulrich, Director General, Ministry of Education and Science, Germany
 - b) **“Approach to measuring employability outcomes, quality assurance and to link this to funding”**,
by Therese Ahlqvist, Deputy Director, Ministry of Education and Research, Division of Higher Education, Sweden
 - c) **“Teaching Improvement in the International Campus of Excellence Program”**,
by Delgado Martinez Luis María, International Relations, General Secretariat of Universities, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, Spain
 - **Discussion**

Proposed Questions for Discussion

- What is the concept of Excellence in Teaching and how can it be ranked/ measured?

- (a) How has teaching transformed over time?
- (b) How can we foster flexible and innovative teaching approaches that match the changing environment (a more diverse student body; an emphasis on the relevance of higher education; the potential for delivering curricula in new ways)?
- (c) How has teacher initial and continuous training developed to cater for these changes?
- What actions, at national and European level, could be most effective in encouraging and promoting Excellence in Teaching, as well as sustaining commitment to this goal?

16:30-17:00 **Coffee Break**

17:00-17:30

- **Presentation of the upcoming Irish Presidency and the next DG meeting in Dublin, by Mary Doyle**, Director General for Higher Education in the Department of Education and Skills, Ministry for Education and Skills
- **Concluding remarks by Despina Martidou Forcier**, Director of Higher and Tertiary Education, Ministry of Education and Culture
- Xavier Prats-Monné**, Deputy Director General for Education and Culture, European Commission

17:30 Departure from the “Filoxenia Conference Centre” to the Hilton Park Nicosia

18:30 Departure from the Hilton Park Nicosia to the “Thalassa” restaurant, Governor’s Beach

20:00-23:00 **Gala Dinner hosted by the Cyprus Presidency** at “Thalassa” seaside restaurant, at Governor’s Beach (with the participation of both DGHE and DGVET delegations)

Tuesday, October 23, 2012 (with the participation of both DGHE and DGVET delegations)

The first joint Meeting of Directors General for Higher Education and Directors General for Vocational Education and Training

08:00² Departure from the Hilton Park Nicosia to the “Filoxenia Conference Centre”, Lefkosia

09:00-13:10 **Session 3: “Expanding opportunities and raising skills: Opening pathways between Vocational Education and Training and Higher Education “**

09:00-09:20 **I. Opening Address by:**

- **Elias Margadjis**, Director of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education, Ministry of Education and Culture
- **Xavier Prats Monné**, Deputy Director General, Education and Culture, European Commission

09:20-10:40 **II. A keynote presentation “From jigsaw puzzle to building blocks – integrating the educational offer to meet skills needs”, by representatives of the European Round Table of Industrialists:**

- **Kimberly Lansford**, Senior Policy Adviser, European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT)
- **Doran Parson**, Global Recruitment Director, Alcatel Lucent
- **Maria Jesus Blasco Blanco**, International Director of Training, Repsol

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Good practice examples from France and the Netherlands

- 10:40-11:10 **Coffee break**
- 11:10-12:40 **I. Discussion with identification of possible follow-up actions**
- 12:40-13:10 **II. Conclusions and closing of the Meeting by**
- **Despina Martidou Forcier**, Director of Higher and Tertiary Education, Ministry of Education and Culture
 - **António Silva Mendes**, Director for Lifelong Learning: policies and programme, Education and Culture, European Commission
- 13:15 **Press Conference**
- 13:10-14:40 **Lunch**
- Afternoon **Departures**