EADTU-EU Summit 2019

"European university networks and virtual mobility"

Date: 30 April 2019 (09:30h – 13:30h)

PROGRAMME

Location: House of the Dutch Provinces

59-61 Rue de Trèves, B-1040 Brussels

PROGRAMME

09.30-09.40h   **Welcome and opening panel**
Liz Marr, President EADTU, Pro-Vice Chancellor Open University UK
Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, Head of Unit Higher Education EAC, European Commission

09.40-10.00h   **European report on Virtual Mobility**
Results of EADTU's Task Force and Peer Learning Activity on Virtual Mobility
George Ubachs, Managing Director EADTU

With the venue of blended and online education, innovative modes for mobility are created as a complement to physical mobility enhancing the learning experience and opening new opportunities for intensive collaboration between universities.

The European Commission is supporting this innovation. In the Erasmus+ 2019 call, virtual mobility is defined as "a set of activities supported by Information and Communication Technologies, including e-learning, that realise or facilitate international, collaborative experiences in a context of teaching, training or learning".

Blended and virtual mobility is stimulated in many Erasmus+ actions, in particular in the "European universities" initiative, "strategic partnerships", "knowledge alliances", "sector skills" and "capacity building".

In 2018, EADTU has organised a Task Force collecting best practices and creating a framework for blended/virtual mobility. Based on the results, a Peer Learning Activity   brought together high-level experts from universities and networks in the field and formulated policy recommendations at the institutional and governmental level.

10.00-10.40h   **The recognition and qualification of short learning and MOOC-based programmes**
Introduction and panel by the European MOOC Consortium partners

Increasingly, (international) micro-credentials are awarded to MOOC-based programs (Micro-Masters, nano-degrees,…) organised by all MOOC platforms. Also, short learning programs for continuous education / continuous professional development deliver awards (certificates,

diplomas, ….), irrespective of the level and size of the program. As a consequence, it is almost impossible for academics and employers to estimate their value and learners can't valorise them appropriately.

As the trend of universities organising new kinds of MOOC-based programs is growing, the European MOOC platforms in EMC are confronted with an urgency to harmonise these qualifications/micro-credentials, aligned with the European Qualification Framework for Lifelong Learning and the Europass requirements.

These issues are also discussed in European projects concerning online and flexible short leaning programs and MOOCs for the labour market. Solutions are to be found in a rather short notice in view of the needs on the labour market and in academia.

10.40-11.10h   **Coffee break**

11.10-11.35h   **European university networking and the role of the "eU.University hub"**
Maria Gravari-Barbas, Vice-President Panthéon Sorbonne Paris 1

The European Commission launched a call to build the eU.University hub for "online learning, blended/virtual mobility, virtual campuses and collaborative exchange of best practices". The call was won by the OpenU consortium with 21 partners, led by Panthéon Sorbonne and in which EADTU will participate with content based on projects on blended on campus education, online short learning programs, MOOCs, international networked programs and mobility. OpenU will connect European universities to facilitate ubiquitous access and free movement by students and learners. It will also empower European university networks for online education and virtual mobility.

OpenU will support the activities of European University networks.

11.35-12.00h   **The European University initiative. UNA Europa: mission and main actions. Katrien Vanelven** International Institutional Relations KU-Leuven

After President Macron had launched the idea, the European Commission has foreseen support for the European University initiative, massively applauded by universities and university networks. European universities are meant to "significantly enhance mobility and foster high quality and excellence in education and research, by strengthening the link between teaching, research and innovation and knowledge transfer, by demonstrating the benefits of multilingual learning, the recognition of qualifications and by developing joint education and research programmes and projects."

The UNA Europa alliance represents 7 universities: KU Leuven, Panthéon Sorbonne Paris1, Bologna, Jagellonian Cracow, Freie Universität Berlin, University of Edinburgh, Computense Madrid.

12.00-12.30h   **CLOSING Panel**
Chair:
Liz Marr, President EADTU, Pro-Vice-Chancelor the Open University UK

Panel members reflect:
Vanessa Debiais, Head of Unit Higher Education, DG Education and Culture, European Commission
Michael Gaebel, Director of the Higher Education Policy Unit, European University Association (EUA)
Catherine Mongenet, President MOOC platform France Université Numérique (FUN)
Robert Napier, Vice President European Student Union (ESU)

12.30-13.30h   **Networking lunch**