

# Mainstreaming Social Dimension in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA): Strategies, Tools, Raising Awareness

International Peer Learning Activity for up to 45 stakeholders

Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2017

Johannes Kepler Universität Linz (JKU), Altenbergerstraße 69, 4040 Linz

*Making our systems more inclusive is an essential aim for the EHEA as our populations become more and more diversified, also due to immigration and demographic changes. We undertake to widen participation in higher education and support institutions that provide relevant learning activities in appropriate contexts for different types of learners, including lifelong learning. We will improve permeability and articulation between different education sectors. We will enhance the social dimension of higher education and improve opportunities for access and completion, including international mobility, for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.*

*Bologna Yerevan Communiqué 2015*

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy is going to launch the "National Strategy for the Social Dimension in Higher Education" at the beginning of 2017 as a direct result of commitment as expressed above. The draft of the strategy is based on a one-year process (most of 2016) during which over 800 HEI representatives as well as stakeholders took part in 9 events and workshops in order to exchange experiences, chances and obstacles regarding the core idea of widening HE access and fostering guidance within the student life cycle. The draft was sent out to HEIs and stakeholders for consultation on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and the ministry is currently amending the draft strategy with feedback received.

How about national strategies on Social Dimension in other EHEA countries? We would like to provide an international platform, and invite to discuss experiences in designing, launching, implementing and adapting strategies. This peer learning activity discusses questions such as:

- 1) Which EHEA-countries are in the process of, or have prepared, a strategy on the Social Dimension?
- 2) How do we gather information on national initiatives already existing?
- 3) Approaches: the search for target groups, student life cycle and/ or mainstreaming Social Dimension?
- 4) Which benchmarks and tools on Social Dimension and diversity of the student body exist?
- 5) How do we support raising awareness on the relevance of Social Dimension?
- 6) How do we involve stakeholders and the labour market?
- 7) Follow-up of a national Strategy on Social Dimension: practical models of sustainability and evaluation.

This seminar targets members of the European BFUG, ministerial officials dedicated to a national Strategy on Social Dimension, Experts on Access and Social Mobility, and national HE as well as student representatives. Next to our attendees from Austria, we also warmly welcome participants from other countries of the European Higher Education Area who have developed, or are in the process of setting up, a national Strategy on Social Dimension.

**This seminar is free of charge, but participants must cover their travel and accommodation cost.** It will be co-funded by the Austrian Ministry for Science, Research, and Economy, as well as by the Project „Pro.Mo.Austria – Promoting Mobility. Addressing the Challenges in Austria“-a KA3-activity of the European Commission. We thank the University of Linz for their friendly support.

The whole event will be held in **English**. Please note that places are **limited**. Please register under this [website](#) until **9<sup>th</sup> of March 2017**. With your registration you agree – when required – to fill in and send a **short questionnaire** to the organisers regarding the implementation level and the contact points in relation to social dimension in your country until March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The questionnaire will be used to prepare the peer learning activity and will be sent to you in February 2017.

## Programme

- 09:30 – 10:00 Registration & Coffee
- 10:00 – 10:20 Welcome by the University of Linz  
**ANDREAS JANKO**, Johannes Kepler University (JKU)  
Setting the scene: task and scope of this peer-learning activity in relation to the Bologna Yerevan Communiqué 2015  
**MARIA KEPLINGER**, Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWF), Austria
- 10:20 – 11:15 National Strategies on Social Dimension: **United Kingdom** (on social mobility and teaching excellence framework – [TEF](#)) and **Croatia** (on the activities of the National Committee for Social Dimension)  
**ANCA GREERE**, The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, UK  
**ANA TECILAZIĆ GORŠIĆ**, Ministry of Science and Education, Croatia  
Comment: **LEA MEISTER**, ESU (European Students Network)
- 11:15 – 11:45 Tea & Coffee Break
- 11:45 – 12:15 National Strategies on Social Dimension: **Iceland**  
**MARÍA KRISTIN GYLFADÓTTIR**, Icelandic Centre for Research – RANNÍS  
Comment: **MARTIN UNGER**, IHS (Institute for Advanced Studies), Austria
- 12:15 – 12:40 Effective Approaches to Enhancing the Social Dimension of Higher Education I: [IDEAS tool kit](#)  
**MARY TUPAN-WENNO**, EAN (European Access Network)
- 12:40 – 14:10 Lunch Break
- 14:10 – 15:00 National Strategy on Social Dimension: **Austria** and **Ireland** (National Strategy including activities of [HEA](#))  
**HELGA POSSET**, Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWF), Austria  
**TONY GAYNOR**, Higher Education – Equity of Access and Qualifications, Ireland  
Comment: **MARY TUPAN-WENNO**, EAN (European Access Network)
- 15:00 – 15:20 Effective Approaches to Enhancing the Social Dimension of Higher Education II: Experiences from Malmö University and the national network on Widening Participation ([INCLUDE](#))  
**PATRICIA STAAF**, Malmö University, Sweden
- 15:20 – 15:35 Tea & Coffee Break
- 15:35 – 17:00 **Harvesting Impressions from the previous sessions – round table with all PLA participants**  
Tackling a national strategy with daily academic life – models and concepts:  
  - 1) How do we gather information on national initiatives already existing?
  - 2) Approaches: the search for target groups, student life cycle and/ or mainstreaming SD?
  - 3) Which benchmarks and tools on Social Dimension and diversity of the student body exist?
  - 4) How do we support raising awareness on the relevance of Social Dimension?
  - 5) How do we involve stakeholders and the labour market?
  - 6) Follow-up of a national Strategy on SD: practical models of sustainability and evaluation
- 17:30 Ars Electronica Center (AEC): Guided Tour
- 19:00 Dinner at [cubus](#), Sky restaurant of the Ars electronica Center Linz