

Louvain-la-Neuve MAY 26, 2016

UNIVERSITY LIFELONG LEARNING: WHEN UNIVERSITIES ARE STRATEGIZING...

Universities are faced with increasingly frequent pressures and adaptability requirements which induce questions on their basis missions as well as organizational and identity changes.

Among other actors, the European Commission is exerting pressure on universities concerning education provision.

Indeed, in a societal and political context where Europe wants 'to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion (European Council, 2000:2), lifelong learning appears like a 'successful transition' to this knowledge-based economy and society. (European Commission, 2000:3). 'Lifelong learning is no longer just one aspect of education and training; it must become the guiding principle for provision and participation across the full continuum of learning contexts. [...] All those living in Europe, without exception, should have equal opportunities to adjust to the demands of social and economic change and to participate actively in the shaping of Europe's future. (*Idem*)

Since 2001, in their successive Bologna declarations, the Higher Education ministers reaffirm the importance of the social dimension of the Bologna Process (Bologna, 2003), ask universities to work towards a common understanding of the role of higher education in lifelong learning (London, May 2007), affirm that lifelong learning is subject to the principle of public responsibility and widening participation shall also be achieved through lifelong learning as an integral part of our education systems (Leuven-Louvain-La-Neuve, 2009).

Lifelong learning and its social dimension are current challenges addressed by European authorities to universities. The main objectives of the **COMMIT** project (539519-LLP-1-2013-BE-ERASMUS-ESIN) are to improve and enhance the social dimension of higher education in universities in Europe and to support the development of a comprehensive strategy for promoting and monitoring increased levels of attainment in HE

The objective of the seminar is to analyse, examine and discuss these challenges and to propose some methods and tools to reflect and implement LLL and social engagement.

The **targeted audience** is threefold:

- Researchers in lifelong learning and university decision makers
- Lifelong learning field experts and practitioners: professors, program designers, concerned administrative officials, counsellors (RPL...)...
- Key stakeholders located in the Brussels area such as EUA, EAEA, EUCIS-LLL, ESN, EfVET, etc

BELGIAN NATIONAL EVENT AND COMMIT FINAL LEARNING ACTIVITY

PROGRAM

08:45-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:10 Welcome and seminar rationale (Françoise de Viron, Prof. UCL)

HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGY CONTEXT

09:10-09:40 *Learning outcomes at the crossroad of institutional logics* (Miguel Souto Lopez, Prof. UCL)

09:40-10:10 *When governments are strategizing: higher education in the French-speaking community of Belgium between international competitiveness and regional performance* (David Urban, PhD student, UCL-Mons)

10:10-10:40 *Development of the social dimension within ULLL: from concept to strategy implementation* (Pat Davies, Dr., Higher Education Consultant, UK)

10:40-11:00 *Coffee break*

COMMIT PROJECT RESULTS AND POLICY REMINDERS

11:00-11:30 *Committing to the social dimension in universities: The COMMIT project and its tools that can turn your institution into a ULLL institution* (Francesca Uras, eucen Project Officer)

11:30-11:50 *Analysis of the data collected during the project* (Lucília Santos, Prof. University of Aveiro, Portugal to be confirmed)

11:50-12:15 *COMMIT Findings and Policy paper* (Françoise de Viron, Prof. UCL)

12:15-12:30 Q&A (Chaired by Pat Davies, Dr., Higher Education Consultant, UK)

12:30-13:30 *Lunch*

LEARNING ACTIVITY AND ROUND TABLE

13:30-13h45 Erasmus+ and COMMIT (Nihal Yildirim, EACEA project officer)

13:45-15:00 *The strategizing process for LLL at university: learning activity*

- Tool 1 (Simon Enthoven, researcher UCL)
- Visit kit "How to use the COMMIT tools in your institution" (Francesca Uras, eucen Project Officer)

15:00-16:00 Round table about ULLL strategizing with 4 university representatives chaired by Pat Davies (Dr., Higher Education Consultant, UK)

16:00-16:15 Conclusion and closing (Françoise de Viron, UCL)

LOGISTICAL ASPECTS

Rooms : Socrate 20 et 21 (10, Place Cardinal Mercier, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve)

Registration required (AM and/or PM): karine.tinchon@uclouvain.be