

CALL FOR PAPERS

The international conference "Higher Education in Ukraine: Internationalization, Reform, Innovation"

April 20–21, 2012

Kyiv, Ukraine

The goal of the conference is to critically assess the past, present, and future of higher education in post-Soviet Ukraine within the context of international education trends, especially within the context of European- and former Soviet- and socialist states.

Ukraine became an independent, sovereign state in 1991 following the collapse of the USSR, and immediately began to redefine its identity and path into the future. In the sphere of education, the legacy of more than 70 years as a Soviet republic was a strongly centralized system of education, firmly controlled by the Ministry of Education and Science (from 2010 the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sport - MESYS); a National Academy of Sciences that controlled a wide array of research institutes in many academic disciplines; a well-established higher education system with a degree structure common across the Soviet space, but differentiated from most Western structures; and a separation of the functions of teaching and research in higher education, with the former being the role of institutions of higher education, and the latter the function of scholars within the network of research institutes under the jurisdiction of the National Academy of Sciences. During the Soviet period the citizens of Ukraine were considered among the best educated within the USSR; Ukraine was home to much of the defense and space industry during the Cold War.

Following independence in 1991 Ukraine began the process of reforming its higher education system. The National Programme Osvita (1993), the Constitution of Ukraine (1996), Law on Education (1996), and Law on Higher Education (2002) represented attempts to codify and redirect the educational system of Ukraine to meet the new needs of the country as a sovereign, democratic, and market-oriented state. The progress of these early reforms was hindered by severe economic decline during the 1990s and a lingering Soviet mentality, but was also marked by a breakdown of the Soviet-era standards and reluctance to generate new approaches.

The Orange Revolution of 2004 signaled a dramatic turn towards the West and its democratic values by a significant portion of the population. Although Ukraine joined the Bologna Process with accession to the European Higher Education Area in 2005 (a process begun in 2003), and began to institute reforms in its system of higher education to bring it more into line with norms in other European countries, the progress of these reforms in Ukraine has been uneven at best. The new leadership of the country has once again proposed a major reform effort of higher education. In 2011 the MESYS has introduced a new Draft Law on Higher Education which has generated much controversy and debate within the educational community of Ukraine over such issues as university governance (autonomy vs. centralized control by the MESYS); development of frameworks of qualifications; assessing the quality of education; and effective implementation of the Bologna Process.

The Conference Organizing Committee welcomes proposals and abstracts for sessions and individual papers which critically address any of the topics listed below. Papers should approach these topics from a broad international perspective, but have relevance to the issues facing higher education in Ukraine and its post-Soviet and post-socialist neighbors.

- University governance and educational policy & Decentralization of Higher Education Management
- University autonomy
- From teaching universities to research universities
- The role of the university in its community

- The university as an engine of economic development and center for innovation
- The role of the National Academy of Sciences
- Inclusive education/Special education in Ukraine (both teacher training and the educational processes for people with special needs in higher education)
- The Bologna Process (in Ukraine and other post-socialist countries)
- Reform of Instructional Methods
- Standardized testing (for admissions, assessment of learning outcomes, etc.)
- National frameworks of qualifications
- Introduction of PhD programs (in Ukraine and other post-socialist countries)
- Employers™ involvement in higher education
- University ratings and rankings
- Legislative reform of higher education
- Reform of higher education and the Executive branch of government
- The role of foundations and /or NGOs in educational reform
- Attracting and integrating international students
- Contributions of exchange programs (Fulbright and others) to higher education in Ukraine/US and other host countries
- Student self-governance
- Student involvement in university governance
- Student involvement in developing educational policy
- Corruption in higher education

Conference languages: English and Ukrainian (synchronous translation will be provided in all sessions).

Timetable for submission of paper and session proposals, notification of acceptance, submission of final draft of presentation, conference registration:

- September 1, 2011 - October 15, 2011 - abstracts for individual papers and session proposals could be submitted online
- By December 15, 2011 - the Program Committee will complete selection of papers based on abstracts and notify chosen speakers— January 1, 2012 - conference registration opens
- By February 15, 2012 - final drafts of conference presentations are due for distribution to session chairs and discussants
- April 20-21, 2012 – conference

Abstracts of 300-500 words and session proposals should be submitted electronically online in English or Ukrainian between September 1 and October 15, 2011 at www.EducationConferenceUA2012.org.ua. Funding would be provided for keynote speakers and participants of plenary sessions. We kindly would ask participants of the parallel paper sessions to cover their own expenses themselves through their universities and other organizations.

More detailed information about the conference could be find here.

For a preliminary draft program you could look here.

Questions can be directed to:

Myron Stachiw

Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee

Director, Fulbright Program in Ukraine

20 Esplanadna Str., 9th floor, Kyiv 01001, Ukraine

tel.: (+38044) 287-0777

fax: (+38044) 230-2060

mobile tel.: +38-050-469-7088

e-mail: mstachiw@fulbright.com.ua

myron.stachiw@gmail.com

www.fulbright.org.ua

Oksana Tovaryanska
Conference coordinator
Fulbright Program in Ukraine
oksanat@fulbright.org.ua, otovaryanska.fulbright@gmail.com

Conference Organizers:
Fulbright Program in Ukraine " chair of the Organizing Committee
American Councils for International Education (ACTR/ACCELS)
British Council Ukraine
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Embassy of Canada in Ukraine
Embassy of France in Ukraine
Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Ukraine
Front Zmin
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Ukraine
Institute of International Education
International Renaissance Foundation, Ukraine
IREX, Ukraine
National Tempus Office in Ukraine
National University of oeKyiv-Mohyla Academy
Open Society Institute, International Center for Policy Studies
Polish Institute in Ukraine
Rinat Akhmetov Foundation for Development of Ukraine
The Kennan Institute, Ukraine Project
The Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, Kennan
Institute
Ukrainian Catholic University
U.S. Embassy in Ukraine
USETI Alliance, Ukraine
Victor Pinchuk Foundation

Mailing-Liste "JOE" (Junge Osteuropa Experten)
c/o Jörn Grävingholt

Tagesredaktion: Janina Härtel

JOE-List im Web: <http://www.joe-list.de>
Listen-Beitrag schreiben: liste@joe-list.de
Pinnwand-Beitrag schreiben: pinnwand@joe-list.de
Pinnwand im Web: www.joe-list.de -PINNWAND
Kontakt zur Redaktion: redaktion@joe-list.de
Abo-Einstellungen ändern: www.joe-list.de -ABO ÄNDERN
Endgültige(!) Abmeldung: JOE-unsubscribe-request@joe-list.de

Mit freundlicher Unterstützung des GESIS - Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften, Bonn