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SGroup European Universities' Network General Assembly 2015

6-7 November 2015

Connecting the world by shaping a global mindset - the impact of internationalisation strategies at SGroup's universities

Higher Education worldwide is undergoing an unprecedented transformation propelled by intensive technological development and the growing international competition. Education and research have gone way beyond national borders making internationalisation a priority for all Higher Education Institutions. There is no coincidence that these developments have occurred simultaneously with accelerating globalization, which has dramatically altered social, economic and intellectual dynamics of modern society. In order to keep abreast with these imperatives, internationalisation has emerged as a key management function within most universities.

The driving forces behind the internationalisation may differ, according to a series of six influencers such as: social and cultural advantages, political factors, economic gains, academic factors largely related to quality issues, competitive forces and issues of institutional development, (Middlehurst and Woodfield, 2007)[i], however, the individual choices of the strategies and the management practices will be determined by local circumstances, traditions and organizational culture.

The SGroup's General Assembly 2015 will investigate current trends from the global perspective and it will highlight tools and approaches to verify the validity of internationalisation strategies and to boost their efficiency. The issues of leadership and governance, benchmarking, and international partnerships will be explored in a series of keynote speeches, case studies, and workshops.

[i] Middlehurst, R and Woodfield, S, (2007), Responding to the internationalisation agenda: Implications for institutional strategy and practice, York: Higher Education Academy.





AGENDA

5th November, Thursday

20.30 Dinner for Liaison Officers and General Assembly Representatives

Pantalan Restaurant, Calle Joaquín Blanco Torrent, Muelle Deportivo, Centro Comercial Sotavento, planta alta, 35004 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

6th November, Friday

ULPGC Rectorate Building, Aula de Piedra
c/ Juan de Quesada, 30. 35001, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

08.30 Pick up at the hotel

08.45 Arrival at the Campus

9.00-9.30 **Welcome speeches**

- **José Regidor García**, Rector, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
- **Albert Corhay**, President, SGroup European Universities' Network

9.30-10.15 **Part I – Overarching themes**

Connecting the world by shaping a global mindset - the impact of internationalisation strategies at SGroup's universities - **Joseph Mifsud**, Director of London Academy of Diplomacy, University of Sterling

Q&A

10.15-10.45 ***How can rankings be used for institutional management – U-Multirank's perspective*** - **Don Westerhijden** from Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies, CHEPS

10.45-11.00 ***The role of university leadership and governance in setting the context for strategic partnerships*** – **Tayyeb Shah**, King's College London

11.00-11.15 Coffee break





11.15-11.45 ***EU funding opportunities with non-EU countries***, José Gutiérrez Fernández, Head of Sector for Erasmus+ Higher Education – International Capacity Building, Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), European Commission

11.45-12.45 **Part II – Institutional perspective**

Key factors for successful internationalisation strategies of programmes and campuses

- **University of Kent**, Anthony Manning, Dean for Internationalisation
- **University of Patras**, Nikolaos Karamanos, Vice-Rector of Academic and International Affairs
- **Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan**, Jacek Witkoś, Vice -Rector for Research and International Cooperation

12.45-13.30 ***Rethinking Higher Education for 21st century*** – Stephen Kosslyn, MINERVA Project

13.30-14.30 Networking lunch

14.30-15.45 **Part III - Workshop**

- ***Benchmarking and evaluating the impact of internationalisation strategies*** – Thijs Verbeurgt, Policy Advisor, Ghent University

15.45-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.15 **PART IV - SGroup's policy on internationalisation of universities – presentation of new collaborative models and future perspectives**

- ***AMICS Project - AcadeMIc Collaboration for Internationalisation of Studies*** – Mar Gutiérrez-Colón Plana, Vice-Rector for International Relations, Universitat Rovira i Virgili
- ***Academic collaboration at doctoral level*** – Stefan Jurga, Director of NanoBioMedical Centre, Adam Mickiewicz University
- ***How about Summer School link ups?*** – Alex Hughes, University of Westminster
- ***The SGroup's Think Tank for China*** – Arnim Heinemann, University of Bayreuth
- ***Scholars at Risk*** – promoting academic freedom by hosting threatened scholars at the University of Gothenburg - Hans Abenius, University of Gothenburg





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- 17.15-17.30 **Wrap-up session and conclusions**
- 20.30 **Gala Dinner**
Hotel Santa Catalina, León y Castillo, 227 35005 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

7th November, Saturday

Scientific and Technology Park
Muelle de Taliarte s/n, 35214 Telde

- 08.15 **Pick up from the hotel**
- 09.00 – 11.00 **Internal business meeting (Part 1)**
- Approval of minutes from General Assembly 2014
 - Report of activities 2014/2015
 - Financial report 2014
 - Appointment of auditors
 - Elections of Executive Committee Members
- 11.00 – 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15 – 13.30 **Internal business meeting (Part 2)**
- Presentation of the University of Westminster
 - Programme of activities 2015/2016
 - Budget and membership fee 2016
- 13.30 – 14.30 Lunch
- 14.30 **Social Programme**
- Sightseeing trip of the south of the Island, the Maspalomas Dunes nature reserve, the historic town quarter of Vegueta.



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PANEL SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



Prof. Joseph Mifsud is the Director of London Academy of Diplomacy, University of Stirling, London, UK; former President of EMUNI, the Euro-Mediterranean University elected by European and Mediterranean Rectors and Presidents of Universities. In November 2008, after the Paris Summit, he established EMUNI and Euro-Mediterranean higher education and research as one of the priority projects of the Union for the Mediterranean. He is a full professor at the University of Stirling and an Honorary Professor at the University of East Anglia, UK.

He completed his education in Malta, in Italy (Padova) and at the Queen's University in the UK. His PhD thesis focused on Comparative and International Management and Administration in the public/private educational sectors. He has lectured extensively throughout the world on International education, public administration and management, public and private partnerships, Diplomacy and Euro-Mediterranean studies in Europe, Russia, Africa, U.S.A. and throughout the Mediterranean region. He is also a UNESCO Chair Professor in Globalistics.

Joseph Mifsud has also served prominently in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta especially in relation to the Commonwealth and in the Mediterranean, in the Ministry of Education of Malta as Chief Advisor between 1996 and 1998 and as Malta's representative to the Council of Europe in Education and at UNESCO where he has also organised major Ministerial and institutional meetings. He was also a key person in the EU accession of Malta, being in charge of the establishment of the European Programmes Unit for Malta. He has served as Head of Department, and as a member of the Senate of the University of Malta. He was also Malta's representative to the Bologna Follow Up Group, playing a major role on the development of the external dimension of harmonisation of higher education and the main coordinator of the Berlin Communique for the BFUG.

He is considered to be the founding father of the term 'Academic Diplomacy'. His current research interests focus on the EU especially accession and enlargement, the OAS and EU relations, FDI and Diplomacy, and Diplomacy and Security, the Commonwealth, the GCC, Development, Management and Strategic Studies in the Maghreb and Mashrek regions, EU – Russia Relations, and the workings of the Organisation of American States. He is also focusing on four countries in particular out of Europe – Angola, Kazakhstan, Vietnam and Myanmar. London and Washington diplomatic journals have run features of his work in the January and February editions of 2015.



Don Westerheijden is senior research associate at the Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS) of the University of Twente (the Netherlands), where he co-ordinates research on quality management and is involved in the co-ordination and supervision of Ph.D. students. He holds master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Twente, Faculty of Public Administration.

Don's main research interests include quality and quality assurance in higher education, accreditation and university ranking. He takes part in the project team developing U-Multirank.

He worked on a large number of Tempus projects to modernise and assure quality in





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higher education in Central and Eastern Europe between 1991 and ca. 2005 at institutional, national and multi-country levels. Since 1993 he co-developed the CRE/EUA Institutional Evaluation Programme and led the independent assessment of the Bologna Process in 2009/2010.

He evaluated Dutch higher education policies since the 1990s, e.g. the degree reform following the Bologna Declaration (2008), comparative studies on employability arrangements in professional higher education (2014) and on trends in accreditation (2014). Since 2012, he has supported the Review Committee advising and monitoring performance contract funding in Dutch higher education. Currently, he is involved in a study on honours education in the Netherlands.



José Gutiérrez Fernández was born in Brussels from Spanish (Asturias) parents. He graduated in archaeology from the "Université Libre de Bruxelles" and afterwards followed a two years postgraduate training in Pre-Colombian archaeology in the "Universidad Nacional de Colombia" in Bogota.

Since 2006, he is Deputy Head of Unit of the Erasmus Mundus and External Cooperation Unit in the "Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency" (EACEA).

Within this Unit of 45 members and in addition to his Deputy functions, he acts as Programme Coordinator for Erasmus Mundus Action 1 Joint Programmes, implementing and monitoring all tasks related to the management of almost 200 joint programmes at master and doctoral level.

Before joining the Agency, he had worked for more than 15 years for the Commission, in support of different European Cooperation Programmes in the field of education, such as ERASMUS, Socrates or Grundtvig.



Tayyeb Shah is Director of International at King's College London, overseeing the implementation of the college's International Strategy plan. He is also the Head of King's Worldwide, the department responsible for the college's International and Summer Programmes plus bespoke Executive Education and Study Abroad offerings. He retains an oversight of short course activity at King's, including managing the Summer School, and sits on the International Partnerships Liaison Group and Summer Programmes Board.

Educated at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and SOAS, London, Tayyeb joined King's in 2007 after over a decade in the commercial creative industries. He has been a Voting Academy member of the BPI's annual Brit Awards (2006-08), a mentor for the Cultural Leadership Programmes Powerbrokers scheme and is presently a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts.



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Thijs Verbeurgt studied Eastern European Languages and Cultures at Ghent University where he was a student representative at different levels. In 2008-2009 he was elected member of the Board of Governors at Ghent University and of the Flemish Student Union (VVS). At the same time, he worked as educational administrative assistant at the department of Pediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of Ghent University.

In 2009, he started as a policy advisor at the International Relations Office where he was successively responsible for non-European bilateral agreements and the start-up of a branch campus in Korea. In 2011, he became project manager at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy where he was in charge of promoting part time learning. In 2012, he returned to the International Relations Office as manager of the EU funded Expanding Opportunities – ExpandO project and part-time policy advisor commissioned with drafting the integrated policy plan for internationalisation, Ghent University's strategic plan in this field for 2014-2018. After the approval of the Integrated Policy Plan for Internationalisation, he was appointed policy advisor for internationalisation responsible for the implementation, under the Policy Coordinator of Internationalisation.



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