UNICA Student Conference 2017

Topics for the 10 discussion Fora

(selected together with student representatives from the European Students’ Union and Erasmus Student Network)

1 - Quality of Higher Education

- How to improve the quality of the learning experience?
- Evaluation of learning instruments (Quality Committee)
- High quality universities with low fees: Is it possible?

Example of reference documents/Suggested reading:
- European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA
- EQUIP project: Enhancing Quality through Innovative Policy & Practice in European higher education
- Application of learning outcomes approaches across Europe

2 – Student-Centred Learning

- Concept of “Student-Centred Learning”
- Benefits of innovative learning for teachers and students
- Challenges of innovative learning for teachers and students

Example of reference documents/Suggested reading:
- Overview of student-centred learning in Higher Education in Europe
- Student-Centred Learning Toolkit

3 - New ways of teaching and learning

- Learning in the digital era: E-learning and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
- Innovation and Education: Can universities nurture the creativity of students?

Example of reference documents/Suggested reading:
- New modes of learning and teaching in Higher Education (report of high-level group on modernisation in higher education)
- 21st Century Learning: Research, Innovation and Policy (OECD)
4 – Fostering access to Higher Education

- Importance of diverse classrooms
- Student services
- National/Institutional policies/strategies for access to Higher Education

Example of reference documents/Suggested reading:
- Adult Education and Training in Europe: Widening Access to Learning Opportunities
- Thematic report: Modernisation of Higher Education in Europe: Access, retention, employability
- Access to Higher Education: Council of Europe

5 - Student Mobility

- Barriers for student mobility: Visas and socio-economic issues
- How to choose the university to study at: Are the international rankings used by students?
- HousErasmus+: What are the challenges international students and trainees face when looking for accommodation abroad and how to improve the situation
- European and international mobility for study or traineeships under the Erasmus+ programme: Benefits and challenges

Example of reference documents/Suggested reading:
- Erasmus facts, figures, and trends
- Erasmus impact study (2016)
- HousErasmus project
- ExchangeAbility
- MappED project
- U-Multirank

6 – Recognition in HE

- Recognition of credits and conversion of the grades for exchange students
- Recognition of titles for degree seeking students (Lisbon Convention)

Example of reference documents/Suggested reading:
- Lisbon Recognition Convention
- EGRACONS: European GRAde CONversion System
- PRIME: Problems of Recognition In Making Erasmus

7 - Employability of students

- Cooperation with enterprises for the continuous improvement of education and employability of Students
- Impact of students' international mobility on their employability
- Hard and soft skills: Are European universities helping students to develop both?
- Formal and non-formal education
Example of reference documents/Suggested reading:

- New Skills Agenda for Europe
- Supporting growth and jobs – an agenda for the modernisation of Europe’s higher education systems
- Thematic report: Modernisation of Higher Education in Europe: Access, retention, employability
- Erasmus impact study (2016)

8 – Greener Universities

- Greener universities: The role of students

Example of reference documents/Suggested reading:

- COPERNICUS CHARTA 2.0/2011 European Commitment to Higher Education for Sustainable Development
- UNICA GREEN
- SAVES project: Putting students at the heart of an energy-efficient Europe
- WE ARE PARIS project

9 – Integration of refugees: What can universities do?

- How to overcome language barriers as an international student?
- Refugee crisis: Can universities and European institutions do more?
- The importance of cross-cultural understanding

Example of reference documents/Suggested reading:

- Refugees Welcome Map by European University Association
- European higher education for refugees
- Academic Refuge project
- Students at Risk (pilot)
- Scholars at Risk

10 - The Future of Europe

- Unity and diversity in Europe: The challenge of multiculturalism
- Student mobility and the enlargement of the European Union
- Europe’s political future

Example of reference documents/Suggested reading:

- White Paper on the Future of Europe
- Europe 2020 strategy
- The Rome Declaration 2017 (60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome)