

FUNDING, EQUITY AND EFFICIENCY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

November 21-24, 2007

Congress Centre Bernardin
Portorož, Slovenia

Call for Papers

Organisers

Institute for Economic Research Ljubljana
University of Primorska, Faculty of Management Koper

Conference Aims

The main aim of the conference is to acquire an overview of the situation, trends, reforms (and their difficulties) and required changes in both parts of the system of funding higher education (funding of educational institutions, state financial support to students) in Europe, especially in former socialist countries (and among them, those in Southern and Eastern Europe). Arrangements regarding both parts of the funding system can have great impact on cost sharing among different bearers, accessibility to higher education and other dimensions related to equity issues, as well as on both internal (such as study) efficiency and external efficiency (such as return to education). These impacts of the system of funding higher education and policy reforms for increasing positive impacts are of special interest to the conference.

Many countries have implemented partial or complete reform of their systems of funding higher education in order to achieve fairer cost sharing among different bearers and a greater degree of both equity and efficiency. For this reason, it is not surprising that the system of funding higher education is an important topic for policy decision-makers and experts around the world.

The knowledge and experience of the world's top experts in the field, together with other experts (participants from various countries) can aid in determining optimal solutions for changes to the system of funding higher education in particular European countries, especially those in former socialist countries – and most especially those in Southern and Eastern Europe. Conference participants are expected to enhance the sharing of new knowledge in order to help better understand the system of funding higher education and forces that influence its efficiency, accessibility, other aspects of equity and cost sharing. Discussions among scholars and policy decision-makers will be of special value for both; for the latter to enable them successfully implement the required reforms in the system of funding higher education.

Conference Subject Areas

- Funding of higher education (educational institutions – tuition fees, state financial support to students: loans, etc.);
- Impacts of funding higher education on sharing the costs among different bearers, equity (accessibility and other dimensions) and efficiency (internal and external).

Levels: European countries, particularly former socialist ones and among them specifically those in Southern and Eastern Europe; international/subnational levels or perspectives.

Two types of papers are particularly desired. The first type is papers that cover to the greatest possible degree the following aspects of higher education in a particular country (*complex papers*): the current system of funding and sharing the costs among different bearers, the consequences of restrictions on public spending in the 1990s and the present decade, previous attempts at increasing private funding, equity in access, internal economic efficiency (study efficiency, etc.), external economic efficiency (rates of return: social and private) and planned and required changes in the system of funding (for higher efficiency and equity).

The second type of particularly desired papers are *case studies* of implementing particular reforms (introduction of tuition fees, etc), where different levels can be observed (national, university, higher education institution, and students).

Proceedings

Full papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings.

Conference Committees

Conference chair: Dr. Milena Bevc
Program chairs: Dr. Bruce Johnstone and Dr. Hans Vossensteyn
Program chairs consultant: Dr. Milan Vodopivec
Conference directors: Dr. Nada Trunk Širca and Dr. Boris Majcen
Program chairs assistant: Sonja Uršič, M.A.
Conference directors assistants: Marijana Pregarac, Borut Kodrič

Important Dates

E-registration through Conference website open:	April 25, 2007
Extended abstract (3-5 pages) or full paper submission:	May 31, 2007
Notification of acceptance:	June 30, 2007
Final submission:	August 15, 2007
Conference duration:	November 21 – 24, 2007

Registration Deadlines

Early registration August 15, 2007
Late registration October 15, 2007

Fees

Early registration: EUR 290 (accompanying persons: EUR 174)
Late registration: EUR 340 (accompanying persons: EUR 204)

Students have a 40% discount.

Dinners and lunches during the conference are included in the fee. Participants are also welcome on a sponsored full-day trip.

Excursions and Social Events

Several excursions and other social events are planned to even further stimulate the lively exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Contacts

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