EAN

European Access Network

23rd EAN Annual Conference

2nd - 4th June 2014

John McIntyre Conference Centre, University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, Scotland

Hidden Potential or Hollow Promise?

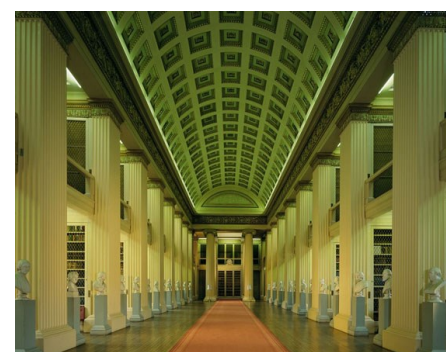Can Technologies Deliver Wider Access and Success in Higher Education?

Higher education is changing, with the development and application of new technologies driving much of this change. For those of us concerned with achieving wider access and success a key concern is whether these changes can help or hinder our efforts. Can innovation accelerate progress, or will it have no effect or even worse, negative impacts?

New forms of provision and delivery are creating opportunities to participate in higher education such as through the development and growth of on-line courses and programmes and new on-line institutions. These have the potential to open up access to those who might otherwise miss out. But who is able to take up these opportunities? Does access favour the already advantaged? Technologies are also increasingly being used by higher education institutions to support their outreach and recruitment activities, e.g. through the use of social media to connect with potential students, both near and beyond their immediate region. What can we learn from these experiences? Where and how are technologies being used most effectively to widen access? Are these institutions managing to reach people beyond their 'traditional catchments' or do the technologies reinforce existing advantage? We are also seeing growing instances of technologies being used to support students academically, socially and personally during their study, as well as before they arrive at the institution to beyond their graduation. What are the most effective uses? What more could be done? At what point in the student life cycle?

Finally, technologies are changing teaching, learning and assessment. For instance, new teaching rooms look very different from those of the past with live internet connections for research and participation by external individuals or groups and advanced technical facilities to support collaborative group work. Teachers are using technologies to track student engagement more closely. New forms of assessment are being trialled, such as the submission of podcasts. But do these types of changes support or inhibit inclusive practices?

At this conference we will learn about the technologies that are changing higher education now and will do in the near future. We will share what we know already about the effects and impacts of these changes and the best and most effective ways to use technological innovations to widen access and success. We will also look at the development of institutional and government policies to support the kind of changes we seek.

Download provisional programme here

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

EUROPEAN ACCESS NETWORK

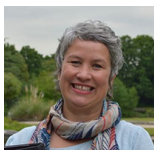**University of Roehampton**
London

Speakers include

Rt. Hon. Michael Russell MSP
Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Education
Scottish Parliament
Scotland

Prof Sir Timothy O'Shea
Principal
University of Edinburgh
Scotland

Julie Hall
Director
Academic Enhancement
University of Roehampton, UK

Prof Maria Slowey
Director
Higher Education Research & Development
Dublin City University, Ireland

Albin Wallace
Director
IT & School Development
The Education Fellowship, UK

Mike Feerick
Founder & CEO
ALISON
Ireland

Prof. Blaženka Divjak
Vice-Rector for Students and
Study Programmes
University of Zagreb
Croatia

Katja Urbatsch
Founder & CEO
ArbeiterKind.de

Michael Gaebel
Head of Higher Education Policy Unit
European Universities Association
Belgium

Aengus Ó Maoláin
Political Consultant
Norsk Studentorganisasjon (NUS)
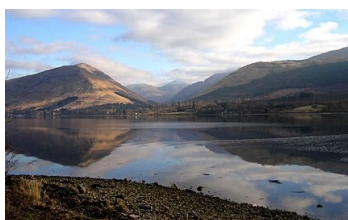Norway

University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh has widening participation at the heart of its agenda and is at the forefront in the design and implementation of a wide range of WP projects and activities. The University is committed to creating and maintaining a diverse community of students and staff, thereby enriching the learning, working and social experience for all and demonstrating its commitment to social justice.

Call for Proposals

Submissions focusing on the impact of new technologies are sought in the following areas:

- Higher education provision and delivery
- Outreach and recruitment
- Student support
- Teaching, learning and assessment
- Policies to support effective change

Deadline for proposals: April 15th 2014. Find out how to apply on www.ean-edu.org

Registration is now open
To find out more information please visit the EAN website:
www.ean-edu.org