



**CONFERENCES AND OTHER
EVENTS IN THE FIELD OF
EDUCATION AND YOUTH DURING
THE DANISH PRESIDENCY OF
THE COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

First semester 2012



Ministry of Science, Innovation
and Higher Education



**THE MINISTRY OF
CHILDREN
AND EDUCATION**

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DANISH PRESIDENCY
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION 2012

PREFACE



Christine Antorini



Morten Østergaard

Denmark's Presidency will be marked by the fact that Europe continues to have to work hard to come through the economic and financial crisis. In the area of education and youth, the great challenge is to get more young people started on an education programme that leads to relevant employment. By investing in youth and education, we will get more skilled, active fellow citizens who can make a contribution to innovation and growth in society. This can be instrumental in a positive outcome of the crisis. We regard it as our task during the Danish Presidency to give this development yet another push in the right direction.

The trio of Poland, Cyprus and Denmark have compiled an ambitious agenda for our three Presidencies in order to implement the EU agendas for education and youth as contributions to the overarching Europe 2020 strategy for intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth for Europe. In this context, a better link between education and training and the labour market constitutes a special theme for the Danish Presidency.

A main task in the field of education and youth will be to commence negotiations in the Council of the European Union concerning a new European education and youth programme that supports mobility and international education co-operation. The programme is inter alia to contribute to strengthening learning mobility among students, teachers and young people. This is an important instrument for implementing EU objectives in the education and youth field, as it appears from the Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training – ET2020 and the Renewed Framework for European Cooperation in the Youth Field 2010-2018.

Better connection between education and the labour market can be supported by improved access to recognition of qualifications gained outside of the formal education system. We will promote this agenda with a view to strengthening the recognition of formal and informal learning. Finally, we will work towards having a benchmark adopted concerning employability with the aim of obtaining further knowledge about the transition between education and employment.

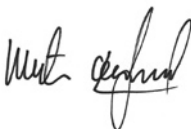
Work in the youth field will focus on furthering young people's creativity, capacity for innovation and talent as a means of increasing their participatory citizenship and the transition to employment in close dialogue with youth organisations ("the structured dialogue").

We will hold two Council meetings in Brussels and a number of other meetings, conferences and network activities, inter alia on entrepreneurship training, young people's active participation in social life and transition to employment, and vocational education and training focusing on cooperation with business and stakeholders in Europe. Lastly, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Erasmus Programme with a large-scale conference.

Finally, we should like to assure you that we are looking forward to good discussions and close cooperation with all. We will do our best to ensure a successful Danish Presidency for the benefit of our common future and the individual European citizen.



Christine Antorini
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**Conferences and other Events in the Field of
Education and Youth during the Danish
Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

First semester 2012

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- 7. Meeting of the Bologna Follow-Up Group**
18-19 January 2012, Copenhagen
- 8. Conference on Transition from School to Work**
6 February 2012, Roskilde
- 9. Conference on Early School Leaving**
1-2 March 2012, Brussels
- 10. Youth Conference**
18-21 March 2012, Sorø
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19-20 March 2012, Copenhagen
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20-21 March 2012, Sorø
- 13. Meeting of Directors General for Higher Education**
2-3 April 2012, Copenhagen
- 14. Meeting of Directors General for Vocational Education and Training**
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- 15. Conference: VET-Business Co-operation**
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- 16. Plenary meeting in The European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN)**
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- 17. Bologna Ministerial Conference and Bologna Policy Forum**
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- 18. Celebrating 25 years of the Erasmus Programme**
8-9 May 2012, Copenhagen
- 19. Conference on new qualifications for new jobs**
9-11 May 2012, Copenhagen
- 20. EU's Standing Group of Benchmarks and Indicators (SGIB)**
24-25 May 2012, Copenhagen
- 21. Conference on Raising Achievements for All Learners – Quality in Inclusive Education**
14-15 June 2012, Odense
- 22. Conference on Entrepreneurship in Education and Training**
18-19 June 2012, Horsens
- 23. Meeting of the Education Committee**
28-29 June 2012, Copenhagen

HIGH LEVEL GROUP – EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1-2 December 2011, Copenhagen

Objectives and content

The meeting of the informal High Level Group on Education and Training will have a discussion on some of the topics during the Danish Presidency including the joint report and the priority areas for the next cycle of ET 2020. The future framework of the EU Programme on Education and Training will also be on the agenda.

Participants

High level officials from EU Member States' ministries of education and representatives of the European Commission.

Organiser

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Registration

Participation by special invitation only.

MEETING OF THE BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP GROUP

18-19 January 2012, Copenhagen

Objectives and content

During the Danish Presidency Denmark will host the meeting of the Bologna Follow-Up Group. The aim of the meeting is to take stock of the implementation of EHEA priority areas, support joint new actions and negotiate the 2012 Bucharest Ministerial Communiqué.

Participants

Government officials responsible for higher education from 47 countries and EHEA consultative members from Council of Europe, EUA, EURASHE, ESU, ENQA, Education International, BUSINESSEUROPE and the European Commission.

Organiser

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CONFERENCE ON TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO WORK

6 February 2012, Roskilde

Objectives and content

The conference takes place at the company ThermoFisher Scientific and has the aim of focusing on building up an education system that can give young people qualifications that may lead to employment. Among other things, it will be discussed how the EU Member States can reform their education programmes towards more use of dual training adjusted to local conditions. Before the conference starts a visit for some of the participants will be arranged at the company.

Participants

Members of Labour Market Observatory, representatives of the European Trade Union Confederation, Business Europe, the European Commission and Danish members of the European Parliament.

Organiser

European Economic and Social Committee, Danish Confederation of Trade Unions and Confederation of Danish Employers

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CONFERENCE ON EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING

1-2 March 2012, Brussels

Objectives and content

The conference focuses on the need for reducing early drop-out of the education system. Initiatives on European and national level aiming at reducing drop-out of youth education will be presented in the conference. There will be an opportunity to exchange experience from successful projects in workshops and as a part of an exhibition.

Participants

Decision makers from EU Member States, EEA Member States and candidate countries, European organisations of interest, EU Institutions, experts in policies of education, social affairs and youth and national, regional and local practitioners.

Organiser

European Commission in co-operation with the Danish Presidency

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YOUTH CONFERENCE

18-21 March 2012, Sorø

Objectives and content

The subject of the conference is how to foster young people's creativity, innovative capabilities and talents as a tool for their active participation in society and increased employability on the labour market.

Participants

Representatives of youth organisations, government officials and European organisations.

Organiser

Ministry of Children and Education in co-operation with the Danish Youth Council

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MEETING OF THE BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP GROUP

19-20 March 2012, Copenhagen

Objectives and content

During the Danish Presidency Denmark will host the meeting of the Bologna Follow-Up Group. The aim of the meeting is to take stock of the implementation of EHEA priority areas, support joint new actions and negotiate the 2012 Bucharest Ministerial Communiqué.

Participants

Government officials responsible for higher education from 47 countries and EHEA consultative members from Council of Europe, EUA, EURASHE, ESU, ENQA, Education International, BUSINESS-EUROPE and the European Commission.

Organiser

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Registration

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MEETING OF DIRECTORS GENERAL FOR YOUTH

20-21 March 2012, Sorø

Objectives and content

In continuation of the youth conference 18-21 March 2012 the Directors General for Youth will meet and discuss issues of common interest of European co-operation in the youth field and share examples of good practice.

Participants

Directors General, government officials and the European Commission.

Organiser

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Registration

Participation by special invitation only.

MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS GENERAL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

2-3 April 2012, Copenhagen

Objectives and content

During the Danish Presidency Denmark will host the meeting of Directors General for Higher Education. The aim of the meeting is to give Directors General of higher education from all EU Member States an opportunity to debate current topics on the European education agenda and share best practices.

Participants

Directors General responsible for higher education, representatives of rectors' conferences and the European Commission.

Organiser

Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education

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Participation by special invitation only.

MEETING OF DIRECTORS GENERAL FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

23-24 April 2012, Copenhagen

Objectives and content

The meeting of Directors General for Vocational Education and Training deals with European cooperation in vocational education and training within the framework of the Copenhagen process. The main themes of the meeting during the Danish Presidency are the development of VET-business cooperation and implementation of systems for validation of non-formal and informal learning including how cooperation and partnerships between VET-institutions, business and stakeholders can contribute to new skills, innovation and growth.

Participants

Directors General for Vocational Education and Training, European Commission, Cedefop, ETF, European social partners, experts and researchers.

Organiser

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CONFERENCE: VET-BUSINESS CO-OPERATION

24-25 April 2012, Copenhagen

Objectives and content

The overall theme of the conference is VET-business cooperation in Europe and how closer cooperation and partnerships between VET-institutions, business and stakeholders as such contribute to new skills, innovation and growth. The conference will address the themes from a policy as well as a practice perspective, including key issues within initial vocational education and training and continuing vocational training. A major theme of the conference is how VET-business cooperation can promote attractiveness and employability in VET and new skills and innovation. The conference will combine plenary sessions and workshops.

Participants

Directors General, European Commission, Cedefop, ETF, European social partners, experts, researchers, representatives for VET institutions and organisations.

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Registration

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PLENARY MEETING IN THE EUROPEAN LIFELONG GUIDANCE POLICY NETWORK (ELGPN)

24-25 April 2012, Copenhagen

Objectives and content

The network meets every half year to discuss the development of the work programme. At this meeting decisions about the form and content of the final report for the period 2011-12 are to be taken, as well as the appointment of a new co-ordinator of the network for the term 2013-14.

Participants

EU Member States, EEA Member States and candidate countries are participating in the network with up to three participants per country. The participants are government officials from the relevant ministries, representatives of guidance fora and guidance organisations and experts.

Organiser

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Participation by special invitation only.

BOLOGNA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AND BOLOGNA POLICY FORUM

26-27 April 2012, Bucharest

Objectives and content

During the Danish Presidency Romania is organising the Bologna Ministerial Conference to take stock of the achievements of the Bologna Process and to establish the priorities and objectives for further consolidating the EHEA for the future. The third Bologna Policy Forum is organised with the aim of increasing cooperation and policy dialogue in higher education between the countries participating in this event.

Participants

Ministers and government officials responsible for higher education from 47 countries and EHEA, consultative members from Council of Europe, EUA, EURASHE, ESU, ENQA, Educational International, BUSINESSEUROPE and the European Commission.

Organiser

Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport in Romania

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE ERASMUS PROGRAMME

8-9 May 2012, Copenhagen

Objectives and content

The Erasmus Programme started in 1987 with 3,000 students from 11 different countries. Today more than 33 countries participate in the Erasmus Programme, and more than 200,000 students go on an Erasmus study exchange or internship annually. The Erasmus Programme is well known throughout Europe, and it has been a generator for internationalisation and reforms in higher education. The Danish Presidency and the European Commission plan to celebrate the Erasmus Programme with an anniversary conference, which will focus on the significant impact the programme has had in higher education and examine future perspectives for the Erasmus Programme.

Participants

Representatives of higher education institutions, student representatives, government officials from ministries of higher education, officials of the European Commission and the Erasmus national agencies, members of the European Parliament and other stakeholders in higher education and the Erasmus Programme.

Organiser

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Registration

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CONFERENCE ON NEW QUALIFICATIONS FOR NEW JOBS

9-11 May 2012, Copenhagen

Objectives and content

The event will be held over two days with different focuses and content. The first part of the event is a high-level conference, bringing together decision makers within education and the social partners and project co-ordinators. The conference aims to highlight and encourage debate on the current political agenda dealing with creating better skills for the future labour market. The second part of the event is a closing conference of the European New Skills Network, which is initiated within the Lifelong Learning Programme. It is also the objective of the conference to gather experience and present results from more than two years of work in the New Skills Network. Conference output will be recommendations on several levels: the application level, the project level, as well as the political level.

Participants

Representatives of ministries of education and labour, representatives of the European Commission and Cedefop, representatives of educational institutions, public and private organisations, project coordinators and representatives of national agencies that manage the Lifelong Learning Programme and additional stakeholders.

Organiser

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EU'S STANDING GROUP OF INDICATORS AND BENCHMARKS (SGIB)

24-25 May 2012, Copenhagen

Objectives and content

The expert group with experts from all the 27 EU Member States gives advice to the European Commission on issues relating to new indicators and benchmarks for the follow up of the European educational co-operation (Lisbon Process).

Participants

Representatives of the European Commission, Eurostat and educational experts (government officials) from education ministries of the EU Member States.

Organiser

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CONFERENCE ON RAISING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR ALL LEARNERS – QUALITY IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

14-15 June, Odense

Objectives and content

The purpose of the conference is to explore the factors that will support raising achievements for all learners. What does it mean to policy makers and practitioners? What are the implications, challenges and opportunities in relation to raising achievements in inclusive education settings? How are judgements made about quality and how can progress and achievements of learners be meaningfully measured?

Participants

Policy makers of general education, policy makers of inclusive education and researchers in inclusive education.

Organiser

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CONFERENCE ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

18-19 June, Horsens

Objectives and content

Focus of the conference is the frames and the tools that teachers have to ensure good learning outcomes, develop pupils' and students' entrepreneurial skills and competences.

Participants

Representatives of national authorities and school leaders from various educational levels.

Organiser

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Registration

Participation by special invitation only.

MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

28-29 June 2012, Copenhagen

Objectives and content

The final meeting in the Education Committee during the Danish Presidency aims to provide discussions about relevant topics of the future European co-operation of Education and Training.

Participants

Representatives of EU Member States' ministries of education and the European Commission.

Organiser

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