

Teacher Education Policy in Europe (TEPE) Conference 2010

Tallinn University, Estonia

Thursday 30th September- Saturday 2nd October 2010

Call for papers on the theme:

Developing Quality Cultures in Teacher Education: Expanding horizons in relation to quality assurance

The Joint Declaration of European Ministers of Education – the Bologna Declaration of June 1999 – called for the promotion of European co-operation in Quality Assurance (QA) with a view to developing comparable criteria and methodologies. During the past decade, Higher Education Institutions have participated in the development and implementation of procedures for QA at institutional and national levels. Accountability systems and structures have been developed in response to the need for self-evaluation systems and processes within higher education but also in response to demands from external stakeholders, such as professional bodies and national government agencies. At the same time, essential academic values and understandings have been challenged by the deepened impact of market forces and new forms of management within higher education institutions. In some instances this has led to the development of cultures of compliance and instrumental approaches to QA. At the Bergen Ministerial Conference in 2005, common European standards and guidelines for QA were approved and have been implemented in almost all national systems. Today, QA is mainly carried out at university level encompassing all disciplines and study areas. On the other hand, in some disciplines and study areas, we witness specific approaches to developing quality cultures at the European level with respect to the specific nature of a discipline. Teacher education faces particular challenges in the promotion of co-operation in QA due to the very diverse approaches towards its organisation at the national level and its resulting fragmentation at the European level.

Against this background, the Board of the TEPE Network considers it to be timely to elaborate responses based on collegial collaboration, research and a pro-active approach from within the education community in Europe. Accordingly you are invited to participate in the 4th Annual Conference of the Teacher Education Policy in Europe (TEPE) Network to be held at Tallinn University between 30th September and 2nd October 2010. In particular, you are invited to submit a proposal to present a research paper which addresses these issues in relation to the goals of the network which are outlined below.

The quality of teacher education is a matter for debate at national level throughout Europe at this time. The crucial questions proposed here are:

- What do teacher educators understand as high quality in teacher education and how can it be assured, enhanced and researched?
- What kinds of measures are required to develop quality cultures within initial teacher education, induction and continuous professional development?
- What activities already exist in developing quality cultures between teacher education institutions or can be launched at national, regional and European level?
- What are the obstacles preventing such collaboration and how can they be overcome?

The central goals of the Teacher Education Policy in Europe (TEPE) Network are to:

- Advance research in and on teacher education
- Increase mobility and extend the European Dimension in teacher education
- Enhance quality through the renewal of evaluation cultures in teacher education

For further detail see the TEPE web site at: <http://tepe.wordpress.com/>

Important Dates

1 st May 2010	Submission of abstracts
30 th May 2010	Decisions on proposals
1 st September 2010	Submission of papers

Details of Key Note speakers will be announced later.

Submission of abstracts

Abstracts should consist of up to 300 words including key words and title.

You can submit your abstract here:

<https://www.easychair.org/login.cgi?conf=tepe2010>

If you are a new user, you will need to sign up an EasyChair account first of all by following the guidelines available on the web site.

Criteria for the evaluation of papers

Reviewers will evaluate papers according to the following criteria:

1. Does the paper clearly address at least one of the central goals of the TEPE Network?
2. Does the paper present innovative ideas and new knowledge on the subject under examination?
3. Does the paper present clear policy recommendations related to teacher education?
4. Does the paper fit with the technical requirements e.g. the length (4000-6000 words), references and quality of language?

Further information

Further information including details of registration and accommodation will be available on the conference website web site shortly:

<http://eduko.archimedes.ee/tepe2010>

Contact person in Estonia:

Direct enquiries about the conference may be made through the following contact:

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Co-organiser

The conference is being co-organised and financed by Eduko programme.

The aim of Eduko programme is to support the development of educational sciences and teacher training in Estonia. Eduko programme is funded by the European Social Fund.

Dr Björn Åstrand Chair of TEPE Board School of Education Umeå University Sweden	Prof Brian Hudson TEPE Network Co-ordinator School of Education, Social Work and Community Education, University of Dundee Scotland	Dr Eve Eisenschmidt Chair of Local Organising Committee Tallinn University Estonia
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