

21 June 2011

REIMAGINING DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES: A NEW ERA OF PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY?

General outline and draft program

Oslo, June 27 – 29 2011

International conference organized by the Council of Europe; the US Steering Committee of the International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy; the University of Oslo, the European Wergeland Centre and the International Association of Universities and supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.

Context: This conference is part of the cooperation between different partners committed to promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law as well as social cohesion and intercultural dialogue, and their belief in the key role of education in furthering these goals. The conference will also be a part of the events marking the 200th anniversary of the University of Oslo.

Aims and objectives:

- To strengthen the role of higher education in furthering democratic citizenship;
- To identify concretely the role that higher education can play in reimagining democratic societies;
- To stress the importance of the involvement of the different stakeholders: academic, administrations, students, local communities etc.;
- To develop further strategies to strengthen this role.

Participants: 100 – 150 higher education leaders and representatives of public authorities from the United States and Europe with some participants also from other parts of the world as well as from NGOs. As the conference is also part of the 200th anniversary program, a separate quota of additional Norwegian participants is envisaged.

Languages: English and French with simultaneous interpretation in the plenary sessions and in one of the working groups; English only in the other working groups.

Stipulated outcomes of the conference:

- An increased commitment to the role of higher education in fostering democracy and social cohesion on behalf of public authorities as well as leaders of higher education institutions;
- Increased interest in the Consortium and broadening participation in it beyond Europe and North America;

- Possibly, a research project focusing on the main areas covered by the conference;
- A publication in the Council of Europe Higher Education Series based on the presentations.

Venues: The opening session will be held in the original University buildings downtown (Gamle Festsal). The rest of the conference will be held in the main campus of the University of Oslo, easily accessible by tram from the downtown area.

DRAFT PROGRAM

Monday, June 27

13.00 Registration
Venue: University of Oslo, Gamle Festsal (downtown)

14.30 Official opening session
Venue: University of Oslo, Gamle Festsal

Musical interlude by Charmina String Quartet

Opening addresses by:

- **Ole Petter Ottersen**, Rector of the University of Oslo, Norway
- **Tora Aasland**, Minister of Higher Education and Research, Norway
- **Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni**, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Coordinator for Intercultural Dialogue and Coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Campaign, Council of Europe
- **Ira Harkavy**, Chair of the US Steering Committee of the International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy and Founding Director and Associate Vice President, Netter Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania, USA
- **Representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway**
- **Aksel Braanen Sterri**, President of the Student Parliament, University of Oslo, Norway
- **Ana Perona-Fjeldstad**, Executive Director of The European Wergeland Centre, Norway

Musical interlude by Charmina String Quartet

17.00 Reception at Oslo City Hall, hosted by the Mayor of Oslo

Tuesday, June 28

Venue for all sessions: University of Oslo, Helga Eng's hus (Blindern)

08.00 Registration

09.00 Chair: **Virgílio Meira Soares**

Reimagining democratic societies: different perspectives

Reimagining democratic societies: challenges and opportunities

- **Jan Egeland**, Director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

Reimagining democratic societies: the response from US higher education

- **Eduardo J Padrón**, President of Miami Dade College and Chair of the American Council on Education

Reimagining democratic societies: a global higher education perspective

- **Hilligje van't Land**, Director of Membership and Programme Development, International Association of Universities

10.45 Coffee break

11.15 Chair: **Ana Perona-Fjeldstad**

Reimagining democratic societies under challenging circumstances: the role of higher education

- **Srbijanka Turajlić**, former Deputy Minister for Higher Education of Serbia and former Chair of the Alternative Academic Education Network

Reimagining democratic societies: a student perspective

- **Bert Vandenkendelaere**, Chair, European Students Union

Reimagining Democratic Societies: Challenges to European Higher Education

- **Maria Helena Nazaré**, President-elect of the European University Association (EUA)

13.00 Lunch at the University of Oslo, hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research

Afternoon

14.30-17.30

Working Groups: each participant will be asking to subscribe to one. The groups will work for 3 hours, including 30 minutes coffee break. There will be 6 groups on three topics (two groups per topic):

A. What does a democratic University look like?

The focus here will be the issue of the internal processes, policies, and governance of higher education institutions. How does your institution or agency currently cultivate active citizenship among students, faculty, staff, and others? What specific practices move everyone towards the attitudes, skills, values, and understandings that will lead to civic responsibility? Where are the levers of leadership that can affect these experiences? How might academic institutions be re-imagined differently to foster even more extensive and expansive civic knowledge, skills, and sense of agency in students and staff alike?

Group 1

Chair: **George Fallis** (York University, Canada)
 Rapporteur: **Abdullah Çavuşoğlu** (YÖK, (Higher Education Council), Turkey)

Group 2

Chair: **Evelin Lindner** (University of Oslo, Norway)
 Rapporteur: **Andy Furco**, (University of Minnesota, USA)

B. What are particularly effective ways to deepen students' education for globally responsible democratic citizenship?

The focus here is more on how the curricular designs, pedagogies, and disciplinary expectations for students can enhance their democratic dispositions and capacities. What indicates to students that such knowledge is an essential component of their academic education? Are there particular academic locations and experiences at your institution where education for democratic citizenship is especially wellgrounded? What pedagogies have the greatest impact on fostering civic skills for diverse, globally entwined democracies? What newly envisioned pathways and pedagogies to democratic knowledge and practice are needed in the future?

Group 3 (bilingual)

Chair: **Hilligje van't Land** (IAU)
 Rapporteur: **Ligia Deca** (BFUG Secretariat)

Group 4

Chair: **Georgia Nugent**, (Kenyon College, USA)
 Rapporteur: **Claudia Lenz** (the European Wergeland Centre)

C. What kind of partnerships between higher education institutions and local, national, and/or global communities promote democratic commitments and cultures?

The focus here is on the nature, purposes, and integration of the partnerships between the higher education institutions and various communities. How do partnerships at your institution or through your agency deepen the institution's and the students' capacities for civic problem solving and further empower people in the community to shape their societies? What elements within these partnerships are particularly effective in expanding civic capacities and commitments? How might these partnerships be re-imagined to have even more powerful educational and social effect on building responsible democratic communities and cultures?

Group 5

Chair: **Ira Harkavy**, (University of Pennsylvania/US Steering Group, USA)
 Rapporteur: **Friedrich Bechina** (Holy See/CDESR Bureau)

Group 6

Chair: **Vidar Haanes** (Rector, Norwegian School of Theology, Norway)
 Rapporteur: **Stephen Freedman** (Fordham University, USA/IAU)

The main questions for the first part of the group session will be:

- What are the emerging practices?
- What could be done to develop them?

For the second part:

- Who can be the actors of these changes?
- How?

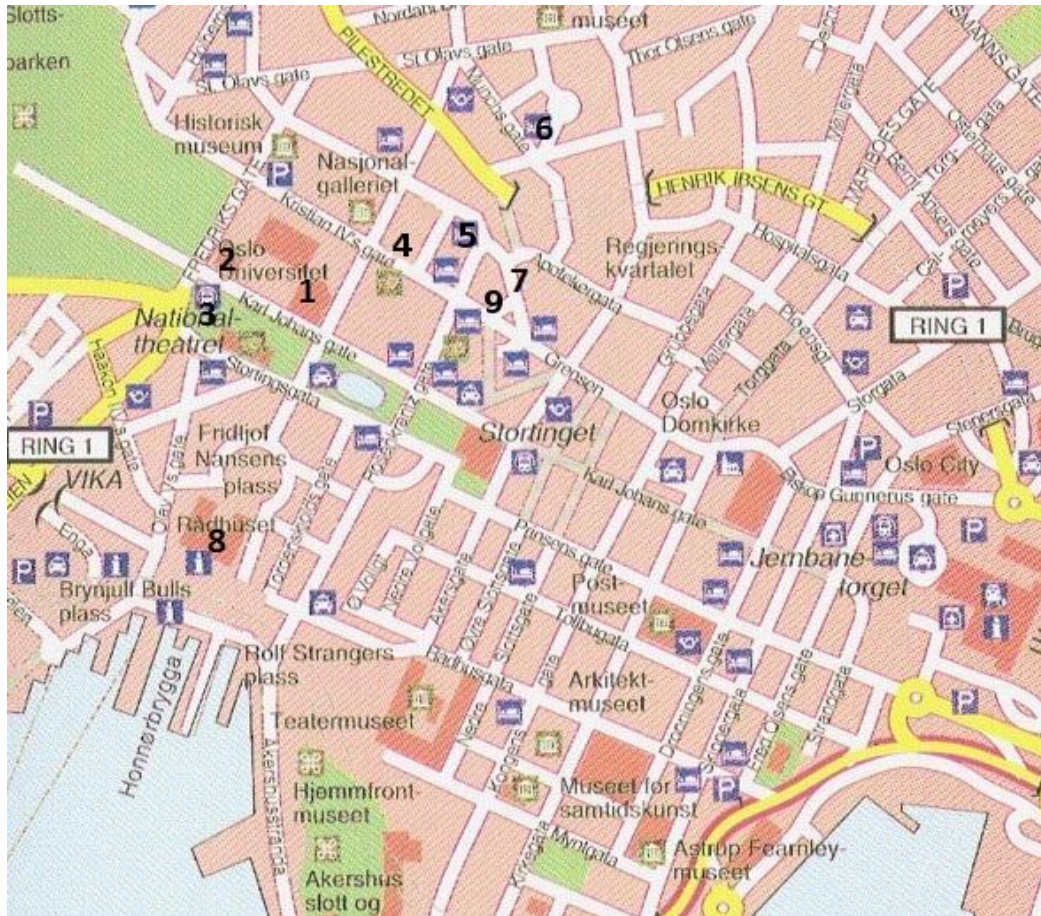
19:00-21:00 Reception at Domus Biblioteca (downtown), hosted by the University of Oslo

Wednesday, June 29

Venue for all sessions: University of Oslo, Helga Eng's hus (Blindern)

- 09.00 Panel debate **“Educating Globally Responsible Citizens: What Higher Education Needs to Do”**
Chairs: **Sjur Bergan** and **Caryn McTighe Musil**
- **Inga Bostad**, pro-rector, University of Oslo, Norway
 - **Germain Dondelinger**, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research, Luxembourg
 - **Richard Guarasci**, President Wagner College, USA
 - **Walid Moussa**, Rector, Notre Dame University Louaize, Lebanon/IAU Board Member
 - **Jens Vraa-Jensen**, Education International
- Discussion
- 10.30 Coffee break
- 11.00 Panel debate/discussion continues
- 12.00 Report by the General Rapporteur
- **Martina Vukasović**, University of Oslo, Norway and Center for Education Policy, Serbia
- 12.45 Closing of the conference
- Inga Bostad**, pro-rector, University of Oslo, Norway
Muriel A Howard, International Consortium
Sjur Bergan, Council of Europe
- 13.15 End

OSLO CITY CENTRE with main conference locations



- 1) University of Oslo, **Gamle Festsal**, venue Opening Session 27 June
- 2) **Domus Biblioteka**, venue evening reception 28 June
- 3) National Theatre metro station
- 4) Hotel Bristol
- 5) Hotel Stefan
- 6) Hotel Munch
- 7) Tinghuset tram stop
- 8) **Oslo City Hall**, venue reception 27 June
- 9) Professor Aschehougs plass (airport express bus)

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OSLO/HELGA ENG'S HOUSE, CONFERENCE VENUE 28-29 JUNE (outside the map)

Tram number 17 or 18 (direction Rikshospitalet)

From: Tinghuset

To: Universitetet Blindern (approx. 15 minutes)

There will be directions from the tram stop to **Helga Engh's House** (approximately 400 m walk)

or

Metro number 3, 4 or 5 (direction westbound)

From: National Theatre metro station

To: Blindern (approx. 7 minutes)

There will be directions from the metro station to **Helga Engh's House** (approximately 400 m walk).