



EUROPEAN UNION  
European Social Fund



GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA  
Ministry of Regional Development



Innovation in Administration  
Operational Programme  
and Public Administration  
"Administrative Capacity Development"

Project co-financed by the European Social Fund through the 2007 – 2013 Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity Development"

## Internationalization and Equity in the Romanian Higher Education System

### International Conference Agenda<sup>1</sup>

14 – 15 November, 2013

Central Library, University Politehnica of Bucharest

Co-organizer UNESCO Chair on Science and Innovation Policies from  
National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)

<b>13 November</b>	<b>Welcome Cocktail (location: Intercontinental Hotel, 21<sup>st</sup> floor, Room Fortuna)</b>
--------------------	---

**20:00 – Arrival of guests**

**20:30 – Welcome speech** by Adrian Curaj, General Director of the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

<b>14 November</b>	<b>Day 1 - Equity in Higher Education</b>
--------------------	---

**08:00 – 09:00 Registration - (Amphitheater „Radu Voinea”, University Politehnica of Bucharest)**

**09:00 – 10:00 Opening statements:**

**Moderator: Cezar Haj**

- **Adrian Curaj, General Director UEFISCDI**
- **Remus Pricopie, Minister of Education, Ministry of National Education**
- **Mihnea Costoiu, Minister Delegate for Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Development**
- **Graham Wilkie, European Commission, DG EAC**
- **Eva Egron-Polak, Secretary General International Association of Universities (IAU)**
- **Ligia Deca, Policy Expert UEFISCDI**

*The panelists will welcome the audience and explain the aims and importance of the conference from their institutional viewpoint and according to their role within the UEFISCDI project/ national framework.*

**10:00 – 11:30 Panel presentations:**

**Moderator: Ligia Deca**

- **Jamil Salmi, Global Tertiary Education** - The importance of equity in Higher Education: impact and benefits

*The presentation aims to raise awareness about the importance of developing an equitable higher education system from a social and economic viewpoint. It will try to answer the main questions such as: "equity in what?", "equity for whom?" and "what are the determinants?". The presentation will also include the benefits of equity policies for society, for universities and for the individual level.*

<sup>1</sup> Estimated number of participants: approx. 200 persons (Rectors, Vice-rectors for Academic Affairs, Experts, Government representatives, HEI's representatives, Stakeholders)



THE EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR  
HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
INNOVATION FUNDING



Higher Education Evidence  
Based Policy Making



EUROPEAN UNION  
European Social Fund



GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA  
Ministry of Regional Development



Innovation in Administration  
Operational Programme  
and Public Administration  
"Administrative Capacity Development"

Project co-financed by the European Social Fund through the 2007 – 2013 Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity Development"

- **Cezar Haj, Policy Expert UEFISCDI** - Equity in the Romanian higher education system – from data to policies. Main findings from the *"Higher Education Evidence Based Policy Making: a necessary premise for progress in Romania"* project

*The presentation will include the main findings from the project implemented by UEFISCDI. The presenter will rely on existing data regarding equity and access and introduce the main conclusions regarding policy implementation at the national level, as well as the main general recommendations formulated by the national and international experts involved in the project and working on equity in higher education.*

**Q&A for all panelists**

**11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break - (Central Library, University Politehnica of Bucharest)**

**12:00 – 13:30 Parallel Sessions I - (Central Library, University Politehnica of Bucharest)**

**Parallel session 1: Strategic approach to equity**

**Main topics:** Strategic development, equity plans and targets, measures, resources and evaluation, good practice examples

**Chair: Valeriu Frunzaru, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)** (*Short overview of the main findings in the PODCA project<sup>2</sup>*)

**Speakers:**

- **Orla Christle, Higher Education Authority, Ireland** - Ireland's governmental strategy for developing policies regarding social cohesion and equity

*The aim of the presentation is to show a good practice example regarding the development of a national strategy on equity and access in higher education. The presentation will outline how the strategy was designed, what were the objectives, the policies and measures proposed. The presenter will also introduce how the evaluation of the strategy was foreseen and carried out in the specific national context.*

- **Liliana Bujor, "Stefan cel Mare" University of Suceava** – Institutional case study

*The presentation will highlight the university's approach to equity issues in the Suceava context. It will feature the regional socio-economic characteristics and their reflection in the student's body. Against this background, the presenter will explain the institutional behavior in terms of setting objectives and developing instruments for integrating different types of students in higher education.*

**Q&A for all panelists**

**Parallel session 2: Community outreach**

**Main topics:** Community outreach, social role of higher education, evolution of the number of students

**Chair: Claudio Dondi, Scienter** (*Short overview of the main findings in the PODCA project*)

**Speakers:**

- **Adrian Miroiu, The National Council for Higher Education Funding (CNFIS)** - Who gets the money and who's paying?

*Starting from the social role of higher education and the challenges related to the evolution of the number of students, the presentation will provide an analysis on the distribution of public money to different groups*

<sup>2</sup> Higher Education Evidence Based Policy Making: a necessary premise for progress in Romania, Co-financed by the European Social Fund through the Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity Development" (PODCA)



EUROPEAN UNION  
European Social Fund



GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA  
Ministry of Regional Development



Innovation in Administration  
Operational Programme  
and Public Administration  
"Administrative Capacity Development"

Project co-financed by the European Social Fund through the 2007 – 2013 Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity Development"

of students. In this regard, the presenter will talk about the merit-based distribution of grants, subsidies and scholarships versus social criteria and their role in higher education.

- **Ioana Panc, Titu Maiorescu University of Bucharest** – Institutional case study

The presentation will propose a case study regarding how a university can contribute to the community to which it belongs through bridges with secondary schools, outreach programs, partnerships and other interventions for reducing the academic, aspirational, informational, and personal barriers that restrict access among students currently underrepresented in tertiary education.

**Q&A for all panelists**

### Parallel session 3: Access in higher education

**Main topics:** Access of under-represented groups in higher education, Roma students, students with disabilities

**Chair: Mary Tupan Wenno, European Access Network (EAN)** (Short overview of the main findings in the PODCA project)

**Speakers:**

- **Ciprian Fartusnic, Institute of Educational Sciences (ISE) – Under-represented groups in education – from secondary to tertiary education**

The presentation will focus on key questions as "why certain groups of youth do not have access in higher education?", "what kind of issues do they face in secondary education?" and "how should the Romanian policy makers address this issue?".

- **Costel Bercus, Roma Education Fund (REF)** - The access and integration of Roma people in higher education

The presentation will include the status-quo regarding the access and retention of Roma people in higher education, as well as an overview on the barriers that they face in accessing tertiary education. It will also analyze the current national policies regarding Roma integration.

**Q&A for all panelists**

### Parallel session 4: Retention in higher education

**Main topics:** retention and success in higher education, inclusion, equitable participation and student support services

**Chair: Nicoleta Corbu, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)** (Short overview of the main findings in the PODCA project)

**Speakers:**

- **Costel Istrate, National Council for Higher Education Funding (CNFIS)** – National policies regarding student support services

The presentation will provide a description of the national policies, instruments and procedures currently in place for a better retention of different groups of students. The contribution will also include the provisions for financing, quality and distribution of different student support services as, for example, the scholarship system, dorms and canteens, transportation, career counseling services and others.

- **Radu Damian, Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)** - Enhancing equity through quality assurance procedures





EUROPEAN UNION  
European Social Fund



GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA  
Ministry of Regional Development



Innovation in Administration  
Operational Programme  
and Public Administration  
"Administrative Capacity Development"

Project co-financed by the European Social Fund through the 2007 – 2013 Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity Development"

*In the context of enhancing equity in higher education, the presentation will provide a description of the current quality assurance procedures related to equity and access and will introduce the draft QA methodology and its potential impact on equity. The presentation will address the following questions: "do quality assurance procedures currently in place have impact on the number of students?", "do they enhance the quality of student services?" and "do they represent incentives for universities to be inclusive?"*

#### **Q&A for all panelists**

#### **13:30 – 14:30 Buffet lunch**

#### **14:30 – 16:00 Parallel Sessions II**

*The participants will remain in the same parallel session division. The aim of this round of the parallel sessions is to provide concrete suggestions to all recommendations on equity, regardless of the initial topic of the parallel session.*

#### **Parallel session 1 - Chair: Valeriu Frunzaru, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)**

- **Dominic Orr, Eurostudent, European policies regarding equity in higher education**

*The aim of the presentation is to detail the international policies regarding equity in higher education and the strategies and instruments already in place or planned for the next period. The presenter will refer to the role of Eurostudent in enhancing access and equity in higher education.*

- Debates on the institutional and national recommendations from the policy document (Part C)

#### **Parallel session 2 - Chair: Claudio Dondi, ScienTer**

- **Jamil Salmi, Global Tertiary Education** – Does the loan system respond to the need of enhancing equity?

*The presentation will highlight the impact of loan systems on equity and access in higher education. It will also introduce different examples of loan systems and their impact on equity.*

- Debates on the institutional and national recommendations from the policy document (Part C)

#### **Parallel session 3 - Chair: Mary Tupan Wenno, European Access Network (EAN)**

- **Anna Rutz, Student representative from Poland** - Polish strategy for integrating students with disabilities

*The objective of the presentation is to show a good practice example on how a national strategy regarding the integration of students with disabilities could be developed. The presenter will also refer to the instruments put in place in Poland in order to better integrate students with disabilities and the impact of the concrete measures taken.*

- Debates on the institutional and national recommendations from the policy document (Part C)

#### **Parallel session 4 - Chair: Nicoleta Corbu, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)**

- **Mihai Dragos, National Alliance of Student Organizations in Romania (ANOSR)** – Equity in Romanian higher education with students' eyes

*The presentation will explain the students' point of view on the current policies, instruments and measures implemented in Romania regarding the student support services.*

- Debates on the institutional and national recommendations from the policy document (Part C)



THE EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR  
HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
INNOVATION FUNDING



Higher Education Evidence  
Based Policy Making



EUROPEAN UNION  
European Social Fund



GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA  
Ministry of Regional Development



Innovation in Administration  
Operational Programme  
and Public Administration  
"Administrative Capacity Development"

Project co-financed by the European Social Fund through the 2007 – 2013 Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity Development"

**16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break**

**16:30 – 18:00 Panel session focused on the final recommendations - (Amphitheater „Radu Voinea”)**

**Chair: Eva Egron-Polak, International Association of Universities (IAU)**

**Speakers:**

- **Jamil Salmi, Global Tertiary Education** – Summary of parallel session conclusions (20 min)
- Response from National Council of Rectors (10 min)
- Response from the students (10min)
- Discussions with the audience - (30 min)

**Eva Egron-Polak, IAU – Conclusions and way forward (10 min)**

**19:00 – Dinner (location: University Politehnica of Bucharest)**

<b>Day 2 – 15 November</b>	<b>Internationalization of education</b>
----------------------------	--

**08:00 – 09:00 Registration - (Amphitheater „Radu Voinea”)**

**09:00 – 09:15 Opening speeches:**

**Moderator: Ligia Deca**

- **Adrian Curaj, General Director UEFISCDI**
- **Tiberiu Apostol, General Director, General Division International Relations, Ministry of National Education (MEN )**
- **Eva Egron-Polak, Secretary General International Association of Universities (IAU)**

**09:15 – 10:00 Keynote speech**

- **Graham Wilkie, European Commission, DG EAC** - The importance of linking internationalization of higher education and equity, as key dimensions for Europe 2020

*The keynote address aims to raise awareness on the importance of linking internationalization of higher education and equity as key dimensions for the Europe 2020 Strategy. This presentation will propose an answer to questions such as: Why are internationalization and equity in higher education important for Europe 2020? Are these two concepts complementary? How are these dimensions linked to the broader goals of the EU and how do they specifically benefit academic communities and societies? How does Erasmus+ contribute to advancing internationalization and equity in higher education?*

**10:00 – 11:00 Panel presentations:**

**Moderator: Cezar Haj**

- **Eva Egron-Polak, Secretary General IAU** - Overview of the developments on the internationalization of education and internationalization as a comprehensive concept

*The contribution will provide a general overview on internationalization as a concept, as well as a snapshot of the current developments and challenges in this field. The contributor will also link the general context to the Romanian needs for developing internationalization as a key priority for higher education.*

- **Ligia Deca, Policy Expert UEFISCDI** – Finding from the project at the national level



EUROPEAN UNION  
European Social Fund



GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA  
Ministry of Regional Development



Innovation in Administration  
Operational Programme  
and Public Administration  
"Administrative Capacity Development"

Project co-financed by the European Social Fund through the 2007 – 2013 Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity Development"

*This presentation will make a short overview of the main findings of the structural funds project regarding internationalization of education at the national level, with an emphasis on the status quo of the policies both at national and international level, student and staff mobility, partnerships and cooperation, as well as challenges and obstacles.*

- **Ross Hudson, IAU** - Findings from the project at the institutional level

*This presentation will make a short overview of the main findings of the structural funds project regarding internationalization of education at the institutional level in the Romanian context, with an emphasis on the status quo of the policies, student and staff mobility, partnerships and cooperation, challenges and obstacles, as well as unique selling points of Romanian HEIs.*

#### Q&A for all panelists

#### 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break - (Amphitheater „Radu Voinea”)

11:30 – 12:00

Moderator: **Ligia Deca**

- **Liviu Matei, Chief Operating Officer, Central European University** - National examples of strategies concerning internationalization of higher education. Possible case studies: Germany, Estonia, Poland and Romania

*The aim of the presentation is to introduce, in a comparative manner, good practice examples of national strategies concerning internationalization of higher education, based on the examples of Germany, Estonia, Poland and Romania.*

#### Q&A

#### 12:00 – 13:30 Parallel Sessions III - (Central Library, University Politehnica of Bucharest)

*These parallel sessions will address key themes such as the concept of internationalization in the world, the status quo of the Romanian policies to support internationalization, students and staff mobility, internationalization of teaching and learning. A special focus will be given to the recommendations already proposed by experts, which will be further discussed with the conference participants in parallel sessions and also in a joint panel.*

#### Parallel session 1: Strategic approach to promotion of Romania's higher education abroad

**Main topics:** institutional partnerships and cooperation, communication, academic marketing, strategy

**Chair: Laura Engel, George Washington University** (short overview of the main findings in the PODCA project and debates on three key questions addressed to the representative of the West University of Timisoara - WUT).

*The aim of this session will be to provide answers to questions such as "Is Romania promoting Romanian HE abroad? What should Romania do in order have a strategic approach?". The discussion will begin with a short overview of the institutional partnerships and cooperation of Romania, as well as other project findings. The session will also propose a case study (West University of Timisoara) in order to briefly highlight the status quo of how communication, academic marketing and strategy related to internationalization are conducted at the institutional level.*

- **Andra-Miruna Dragotesc, West University of Timisoara** – Institutional case study



THE EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR  
HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
INNOVATION FUNDING



Higher Education Evidence  
Based Policy Making





EUROPEAN UNION  
European Social Fund



GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA  
Ministry of Regional Development



Innovation in Administration  
Operational Programme  
and Public Administration  
"Administrative Capacity Development"

Project co-financed by the European Social Fund through the 2007 – 2013 Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity Development"

## Parallel session 2: Defining and monitoring institutional policy to support internationalization (including cross-border provision)

**Main topics:** internationalization dimensions

**Chair: Hans de Wit, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences** (*short overview of the main findings in the PODCA project and debates on three key questions addressed to the representatives of the "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba-Iulia – UAB and Titu Maiorescu University - Bucharest*)

*This session will focus on the main institutional policies implemented by HEIs to support internationalization in Romania. The chair will have a short overview of the main findings in the PODCA project in regard with policies and practices at the institutional level. Representatives of the University of Alba-Iulia – UAB and Titu Maiorescu University – Bucharest will explain their institutional policy to support internationalization of education. The presentation will focus on their main objectives when talking about internationalization and on their specific targets/ strategies to achieve them.*

- **Teodora Popescu, "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba-Iulia** – Institutional case study
- **Iulia Alecu, Titu Maiorescu University of Bucharest** – Institutional case study

## Parallel session 3: Mobility in the Romanian context. Outward vs. inward mobility

**Main topics:** the evolution of incoming vs. outgoing students and staff in numbers, institutional approach on incoming vs. outgoing mobility, challenges and obstacles

**Chair: Dan Lazea, West University of Timisoara** (*short overview of the main findings in the PODCA project and debates on three key questions addressed to the representative of "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu - ULBS*)

*This session will address the subject of mobility in the Romanian context with a short review of the evolution of incoming vs. outgoing students and staff numbers. Which are the main objectives when looking at increasing academically meaningful mobility numbers? What are the challenges and obstacles to mobility? These questions will be answered by the representative of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu. The ULBS representative will also detail the specific objectives of university's internationalization and mobility strategy.*

- **Nicoleta Burdusel, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu** – Institutional case study

## Parallel session 4: Internationalization of teaching and learning within university campuses

**Main topics:** trends, curricula adaptation, joint programmes, languages, use of e-learning, internationalization of campuses

**Chair: Mihai Korka, Bucharest University of Economic Studies** (*short overview of the main findings in the PODCA project and debates on three key questions addressed to the representative of the Constanta Maritime University - UMC*)

*Session four will look at internationalization of teaching and learning, addressing topics such as curricula reform, academic recognition and the use of tools such as ECTS, language provision in support of internationalization, integrating foreign and returning teachers and students, challenges and obstacles to joint programmes and activities related to internationalization of campuses. The representative of the Constanta Maritime University (UMC) will explain how internationalization of curriculum is addressed in a niche specialization.*

- **Cornel Panait, Constanta Maritime University** – Institutional case study

**13:30 – 14:30 Buffet lunch**



EUROPEAN UNION  
European Social Fund



GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA  
Ministry of Regional Development



Innovation in Administration  
Operational Programme  
and Public Administration  
"Administrative Capacity Development"

Project co-financed by the European Social Fund through the 2007 – 2013 Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity Development"

#### **14:30 – 15:30 Parallel Sessions IV**

*The participants will remain in the same parallel session division. The aim of this round of the parallel sessions is to provide concrete suggestions to all recommendations on internationalization of higher education, regardless on the initial topic of the parallel session.*

#### **15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break**

#### **16:00 – 17:30 Panel sessions focused on feedback from the parallel sessions and agreeing on the final recommendations - (Amphitheater „Radu Voinea”)**

**Chair: Eva Egron-Polak, IAU**

Feedback from the parallel sessions – Patricia Pol, University of Paris-East, IAU board member (20 min);

Response from Tiberiu Apostol, General Director, General Division International Relations, Ministry of National Education (10 min)

Response from National Council of Rectors (10 min)

Response from the students (10 min)

Discussions with the audience (30 min)

**Eva Egron-Polak, IAU – Conclusions and way forward (10 min)**

#### **19:00 Dinner (location: Hotel Yesterday)**



THE EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR  
HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
INNOVATION FUNDING



Higher Education Evidence  
Based Policy Making