

Media Invitation

THE ENGAGED UNIVERSITY - Shaping Inclusive and Responsive University Strategies (SIRUS)
hosted by the University of Southampton, United Kingdom on 31 August - 1 September 2011.

Including the presentation of a new project report

Lifelong learning has been on the European agenda for more than a decade, but the recent economic and financial crisis and demographic changes in Europe have made it a priority for European universities. Therefore, from a niche activity, lifelong learning has developed into a core strategic issue for today's higher education institutions and has become of vital importance for European society.

This two-day conference follows up the 2008 European Universities' Charter on Lifelong Learning. It is based on the results of the EC-funded "SIRUS" project that brought together 29 universities from 18 European countries, over the last two years, to develop, enhance and compare institutional lifelong learning strategies. In this context, the conference will present and discuss the new strategic orientation of Europe's higher education via the concept of an engaged university: a university that does not only respond to societal needs, but positions itself to build cooperation and partnerships in a proactive and agenda-setting manner.

The event is organised by EUA, in cooperation with the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU), the European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN) and the European Access Network (EAN).

The final report from the SIRUS project is currently being finalized and will be launched and presented at this conference. Through the experiences and feedback of the participating universities, this report addresses the specific challenges faced by European universities in developing successful lifelong learning strategies, providing educational opportunities for a widening circle of learners (during their whole lifetime) while paying close attention to successful attainment.

To find out more please visit the event website:

<http://www.eua.be/sirus-conference.aspx>

Please note that prior registration is necessary for journalists as the number of places is limited. To register, please send an email to andrew.miller@eua.be

Please note that unfortunately EUA cannot pay accommodation and travel costs for this event.

For more information, please contact:
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