



EMN CONFERENCE 2012

*Immigration of International Students to the EU
Monday 29th October – Tuesday 30th October 2012,
Grecian Park Hotel, Paralimni, Cyprus*

1. INTRODUCTION

The European Migration Network (EMN) is a network whose aim is to provide up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum to support policymaking in the EU. It also provides the general public with such information. The European Commission co-ordinates the EMN, assisted by two Service Providers (GHK-COWI and iLiCONN), in co-operation with National Contact Points (EMN NCPs) in each Member State, and in Norway, who in turn develop a national network consisting of a wide-range of relevant stakeholder organisations.

It is tradition for the Member State holding the EU Presidency for the 2nd semester, to host the Annual Conference. The topic of this year's Conference is "Immigration of International Students to the EU" and the goal is to bring together experts to exchange good practices, experiences and views (policy makers and practitioners, academics, NGOS etc) as well as to present the results of the main study for 2012 on the same topic.

The benefits to both sending and receiving countries of allowing third-country nationals to take up education and training opportunities in Europe are well documented, and include, for example, promoting Europe as a world centre of excellence for studies and vocational training, and allowing migrants and host Member States to benefit from mutual enrichment through intercultural exchange. The Communication on the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility¹ makes extensive reference to students under its first pillar, *Organising and Facilitating legal migration and mobility*.

International students now represent a substantial proportion of the non-EU population in many EU Member States. For example, looking at data on first-time issued Residence Permits, in 2010 almost 2.5 million first residence permits were issued to third country nationals (5% more than in the previous year). The number of permits issued for the purpose of study represented some 20.6% of the total number of permits issued, against 32.5% for remunerated activities, 30.2% for family reasons and another 17% for various other reasons, e.g. protection-related, residence without the right to work, etc. The importance of international students to the economy, the labour market and the educational systems of EU Member States, all point to the increasing relevance of this topic to policymakers at both National and EU levels, and specifically to EU policymakers in light of the review of *Council Directive 2004/114/EC* which regulates the conditions of admission of non-EU students to study in EU Member States. The variation in the conditions of admission and stay also highlight the potential for the identification and sharing of good practices across the EU.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EMN CONFERENCE 2012

The Conference will serve to inform on the development of a proposal amending the Students and Researchers Directives. It will be a high-profile event, and will aim to specifically support the policymaking process in the field of immigration and international students, notably in the development of the planned review of Council Directive 2004/114/EC. It will also respond to the priorities assigned by the Cyprus Presidency.

¹ COM(2011) 743 final, available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52011DC0743:EN:NOT>

The Conference will further raise awareness about the work of the EMN and engage with a wider audience of policy makers and practitioners at EU and national levels, and will aim to highlight and create synergies with the work of other EU and National institutions and agencies relevant to the theme.

3. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

A number of key issues will be addressed, based on the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency and those elements of the EMN study that are deemed to be of most pressing need for policy makers. These will include:

- Measures to attract International Students / identifying what the most effective triggers are for student mobility to the EU, including access to information and information sources and facilitate / International Students' admission (entry and residence);
- Rights and responsibilities of International Students in EU Member States (access to health and welfare benefits; family reunification);
- Students' access to the labour market, both during and on completion of study;
- International co-operation to facilitate mobility within the EU and with third countries;
- Maximising positive impacts of International students in the EU, and minimising negative impacts and risks

4. STRUCTURE OF CONFERENCE

The Conference will be opened by the Cyprus Minister of Interior, Mrs Eleni Mavrou, who will present an overview of the event, its aims and objectives, and what it is expected to achieve. The intention is then for Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou to provide a policy overview of key relevant issues and developments.

The opening plenary will then be followed by a high-level, round-table plenary discussion. The Commissioner will join this session as part of a panel of experts comprising or representing European Universities, third country students, plus other relevant parties. The panel will discuss, for the benefit of the audience, relevant topics, and will respond to questions from the audience.

The Conference will then allow for four key themes to be discussed in depth. These themes will draw on the emerging findings from the literature review and submitted National Reports in relation to the EMN Study: the Immigration of International Students to the EU.

The subsequent themes will reflect the main interests of policymakers but will be guided by the framework of the priorities of the CY Presidency and the CY EMN NCP, working in co-ordination with EMN NCPs.

Where possible and relevant, the Conference will aim to allow for the direct representation of International Students, to allow the audience to share the perspective and impressions of young newcomers to the EU.

A concluding session will be held on the second day, to present back to delegates the main conclusions from the Conference and to set out the next steps for the Synthesis Report.

An opportunity will be provided for delegates to exchange information about their organisations (e.g. displaying their products) during the planned lunch break.

5. PARTICIPANTS

The Conference is likely to attract the following participants: EMN members; representatives of Institutions working in the main thematic areas; (GOs, agencies, NGOs etc.); relevant EU, National, International Bodies and NGOs e.g. COM (DGs HOME, EAC, Eurostat), Eurocities, FRA, IAU, Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association, European Students Association, CEDEFOP, ACP Observatory on Migration, Migration Policy Centre and researchers in the field of international student migration. Please note that this list is not exhaustive.

The Conference will accommodate up to 130 delegates; up to three participants on average per EMN NCP envisaged. Simultaneous interpretation (speak and listen) GR-EN-FR for the Conference will be provided by the CY EMN NCP.

6. PROPOSED FORMAT AND AGENDA OF THE EMN CONFERENCE

Monday 29 October 2012

08:30 - 09:30 Registration

09:30 - 10:00 Conference Opening

Opening by Mrs Eleni Mavrou, Minister of Interior, Cyprus and Mrs Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism

10:00 - 11:15 High Level Round Table Plenary Discussion

Within the context of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, the aim of this Round Table Plenary Discussion will be to discuss the strategic role of international students in EU policy, as well as to discuss the role of international cooperation to facilitate mobility with the EU and with third countries.

Panel Participants

1. Mrs. Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism
2. Professor Konstantinos Christofides, Rector of the University of Cyprus/ Member of UNIMED (Mediterranean Universities Union)
3. Professor Michalis Attalides, Rector of the University of Nicosia
4. Mr. Yassine Mohammed En Naem, Morocco, Representative of the International Students' Community in Cyprus
5. Representative from ACA (Academics Cooperation Association)

Moderator: Mr. Kyriakos Pierides, Journalist of CYBC

Discussion and questions (1hr 15 min)

11:15 Family Photo and Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:15 Theme I: Initial findings from the EMN Study: Immigration of International Students to the EU

The early findings from the EMN's Study will be presented, including a case study on the situation in Cyprus. This presentation will provide a general overview of the similar, and contrasting, policies and practices currently existing in the Member States.

Speakers

1. EMN Study Overview (Ms Emily Balbirnie, EMN Service Provider)
2. Presentation by Professor Elmos Konis, European University of Cyprus: Findings of the CY EMN Study on International Students in the EU
3. Presentation by Mrs Ophelie Tardieu, (FR EMN NCP) Findings of the FR EMN Study on International Students in the EU
4. Presentation by Mr. Eivind Hoffmann, (NO EMN NCP) Findings of the NO EMN Study on International Students in the EU
5. Presentation by IT NCP Findings of the IT EMN Study on International Students in the EU
6. Presentation by Polish NCP Findings of the PL EMN Study on International Students in the EU

Moderator: Mr. Stephen Davies, Immigration and Integration Unit, DG Home Affairs

Discussion (20 min)

13:15 – 15:15 Lunch Break

15:15 – 16:45 Theme II: Measures to attract international students, effective student mobility to the EU and access to information/entry and residence

A specific overview of policies and practices existing for attracting international students, as well as enhancing effective student mobility will be provided. Focus will be placed not only on EU policies in place to ensure effective student mobility but also on certain national policies existing in Member States

Speakers

1. Mr Jon Simmons, Deputy Director for Migration and Border Analysis at the UK Home Office (UK NCP)
2. Professor Frank Caestecker, University of Ghent Belgium "What kind of international students does one want to attract? the Belgian experience"
3. Professor Kostas Gouliamos, Vice-Rector, European University Cyprus
4. Dr Bernd Parusel, SE EMN NCP "Measures to attract international students – the case of Sweden"
5. Mrs Ragnhild Solvi, DG EAC

Moderator: Mr Jasper Van Loo, Senior expert in Research and Policy Analysis at CEDEFOP

Discussion (20 min)

End of First Day

18:00 Excursion to the popular area of "Phoinikoudes" (Larnaka)

20:30 Dinner at Tavern "Voreas" in Oroklini Village (Larnaka)

Tuesday 30 October 2012

09:30 Opening by Dr. G. Demosthenous, Minister of Education and Culture

09:40- 11:00 Theme III: Maximizing positive impacts of International Students in the EU, including employment following study and minimising negative impacts and risks

Speakers

1. Mrs Anny Shakalli, Director of the Civil Registry and Migration Department, CY Ministry of Interior
2. Mr Thomas Böhm Head of Section within the International Department of the German Rectors' Conference: "Summary of the current development in Germany and presentation of the view of the academia on this matter" (GE NCP)
3. Dr Gabriella Etmektsoglou, Director of the University of New York in Berlin: "Place-based Learning and the Value of Internships."
4. Representative from Eurocities: Mr Kieran Rose, Senior Planner, Office of International Relations, Economic Development Unit, Dublin City Council

Moderator: Mr. Stefanos Evripidou, Journalist Cyprus Mail

Discussion (20 min)

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00 Theme IV: Rights and Responsibilities of International Students in the EU with emphasis on access to the labour market during study

Speakers

1. Mrs Agnieszka Drzewoska, Policy Officer DG Home Affairs – “The Students and Researchers Directive - the Current Legislation and possible future developments”
2. Mr Demetres Michaelides, Acting Head, Labour Department (Cyprus Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance)
3. Mr. Arjun Sirohi (IND), University of Cyprus, MBA Student
4. Dr Philip O’ Connell, Professor, Director of EMN Ireland “Quality as Control: Balancing Market Expansion and Regulation of International Student Migration in Ireland”

Moderator: Professor Baitzar Gazerian, Frederick University, Cyprus

Discussion (20 min)

13:00 - 13:30 Closing remarks and next steps (Mrs. Annie Shakalli, Director of the Civil Registry and Migration Department)

END OF CONFERENCE

13:30- 14:30 :Lunch at the Grecian Park Hotel
