



## EMN CONFERENCE 2012

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

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The EMN Conference in 2012 will be held in Paralimni (Protaras area), Cyprus on Monday and Tuesday 29-30 October 2012, and organised within the framework of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU (1<sup>st</sup> July 2012- 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012) according to the priorities of the Presidency. The overall theme for the Conference is 'International Students', tying in also with the EMN's main study for 2012.

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 Mobility<sup>1</sup> 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 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.

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.

The Conference Conclusions and the final Synthesis Report of the related EMN Study will incorporate the outcomes from the Conference. The Conclusions will be forwarded to all delegates as a tangible outcome from the Conference, and as a prompt to continue the engagement of a wider audience in the work of the EMN.

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

### **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 policymakers. 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 and the Cyprus Minister of Education and Culture, Dr. George Demosthenous, who will present an overview of the event, its aims and objectives, and what it is expected to achieve. The intention is then for a representative from the Commission (Ms Diane Schmitt, DG Home) to provide a general context in which to place the topic of the conference.

The first session (Theme I) will then give a presentation of the early findings from the EMN Study ("Immigration of International Students to the EU").

This session will be followed by a high-level, round-table plenary discussion. Mrs Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture and Multilingualism will join this session as part of a panel of experts comprising or representing European Universities, third-country national 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 subsequent themes for the rest of the conference will reflect the main interests of policymakers and 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, ACA, 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.

Practical Considerations are given in Annex.

## 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, Dr. George Demosthenous, Minister of Education and Culture, Cyprus and Mrs Diane Schmitt, European Commission (DG Home)

**10:00 - 11:15 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 Emilie Balbirnie - ICF GHK-COWI)
2. Presentation by Dr 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) Nordic Perspective on International Students (presentation of Nordic findings of EMN Study on International Students in the EU)
5. Presentation by Dr Antonio Ricci (IT EMN NCP) Findings of the IT EMN Study on International Students in the EU
6. Presentation by Ms Karolina Łukaszczyk (PL EMN 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)**

**11:15 Family Photo and Coffee Break**

**11:45 – 13:15 Theme II: High Level Round Table Plenary Discussion**

The aim of this Round Table Plenary Discussion will be to discuss the strategic role of international students in the EU, 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. Mr. Bernd Waechter, Director of ACA (Academic Cooperation Association)
4. Mr. Yassine Mohammed En Naem, Morocco, Representative of the International Students' Community in Cyprus
5. Professor Michalis Attalides, Rector of the University of Nicosia

**Moderator:** Mr. Kyriakos Pierides, Journalist of CYBC

**Discussion and questions (1hr 15 min)**

**13:15 – 15:15 Lunch Break****15:15 – 16:45 Theme III: 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. Mrs Ragnhild Solvi Berg, DG EAC
2. Mr Jon Simmons, Deputy Director for Migration and Border Analysis at the UK Home Office (UK NCP)
3. Professor Frank Caestecker, University of Ghent Belgium "What kind of international students does one want to attract? the Belgian experience"
4. Dr Bernd Parusel, SE EMN NCP "Measures to attract international students – the case of Sweden"

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

1. Mr Demetris Michaelides, Senior Employment Officer, Labour Department (Cyprus Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance)
2. Dr Philip O' Connell, Professor, Director of EMN Ireland "Quality as Control: Balancing Market Expansion and Regulation of International Student Migration in Ireland"
3. Mr. Arjun Sirohi (IND), University of Cyprus, MBA Student
4. Ms Karina Ufert, Vice Chairperson, European Students' Union (ESU)

**Moderator:** Professor Baitzar Gazerian, Frederick University, Cyprus

**Discussion (20 min)**

**11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break****11:30 - 13:00 Theme V: 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: Strategies of the University of New York in Berlin with emphasis on the value of internships both for students and their host countries
4. Representative from Eurocities: Mr Kieran Rose, Senior Planner, Office of International Relations and Research, Economic Development Unit, Dublin City Council

**Moderator:** Mr. Stefanos Evripidou, Journalist Cyprus Mail

**Discussion (20 min)**

**13:00 - 13:30** Closing remarks and next steps (Mr Stephen Davies, Immigration and Integration Unit, DG Home Affairs and Mrs Annie Shakalli, Director of the Civil Registry and Migration Department)

**END OF CONFERENCE**

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

## **7. PRODUCTS FOR DELEGATES' PACK:**

The following products can be prepared to support the Conference:

- a. Agenda;
- b. Background paper (up to 4 pages and based on this Concept Note); acknowledgement of CY EMN NCP in relation to organising and hosting the EMN Conference and the EMN NCPs (CZ, IE) who originally proposed the Study on Immigration of International Students to the EU.
- c. Delegates' list;
- d. Speaker presentations;
- e. Outline of EMN Study;
- f. Evaluation feedback form.

All above-mentioned material can be made available on the CY Presidency website. Other EMN outputs (e.g. publications of other Synthesis Reports, the Glossary, etc.) will also be made available to delegates.

## **8. FOLLOW UP**

Delegates' contact details will be added to the EMN external mailing list for publications. An overview of the main outcomes of the Conference and conclusions, supported by the Presidency, will be presented in the EMN Bulletin for wide circulation, as well as on the EMN website. The final EMN Study Immigration of International Students to the EU will be circulated to attendees and made available via the web site of Cyprus Presidency and EMN NCPs websites.

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