

**Innovative Strategies for Higher Education in Latin America and Europe:
International Collaboration and Regional Development**

First bi-regional University Association Conference of the ALFA PUENTES project

11 – 14 November 2012

Sao Paulo, Brazil

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Over the past decades, higher education sectors have expanded and diversified, and higher education has become an important driver for social and economic innovation and development. In a period of intensifying international interconnectivity and economic transition, it is particularly important to draw attention to the role of universities in generating knowledge, driving innovation and tackling global challenges.

This conference is a unique opportunity to merge these issues in a bi-regional perspective and debate the present changes faced by higher education institutions and systems in Latin America and Europe. The event will stress the relevance of regionalisation trends, analyse the current growth in Latin American university systems, and promote collaboration with emerging countries of the region. Hosted by four globally engaged universities of São Paulo and supported by 23 national and regional university associations – partners of the ALFA PUENTES project – it will provide an excellent opportunity for Latin American and European university associations and individual institutions to meet, exchange and network.

11 Nov Arrival and pre-meetings

- **16:00-18:00: Pre-Meeting: University Association dialogue/networking meeting for Secretary Generals and Presidents of rectors' conferences** (upon registration)

- **18:00-19:45 Official conference pre-programme:**
- **18:00-18:45 Trends in Brazilian higher education, research investment and internationalisation**
Brazilian Ministry of Education (tbc)

- **18:45-19:45: Round table discussion: Trends in Latin American and European higher education**

Round table discussion on recent reforms and developments at national and regional level in Europe and LA, guided by the five European national associations that are partners of ALFA PUENTES and two additional Latin American partners (selection of countries tbc). Each partner will give a brief introduction to trends in their country (no powerpoints), followed by a moderated discussion by the chair.

- France (CPU)
- Poland (CRASP)
- Germany (HRK)

- Spain (CRUE)
- Portugal (CRUP)

- **20:00 Opening cocktail/ Welcome from Universidade Federal São Carlos and the Paulista Universities**

12 Nov: Day 1 – Modernising higher education–Institutional, national and regional strategies

9:00-9:45 Official Welcome: Brazilian authorities, European Commission, President of AUGM and EUA President

9:45-11:00 Plenary 1: Opening keynotes: The role of universities in society– local responsiveness and global engagement

The two keynotes look at how the role of institutions has changed in the past decade: in addition to their traditional role in teaching, research and knowledge development, they now become agents for knowledge transfer and circulation, motors for technical, economic and social innovation, contributors to lifelong learning, and collaborators with an increasing number of external partners ranging from local NGOs and SME to multinational enterprises. The presentations will touch on these issues, but also focus on what this means for collaboration at different levels (local, national, regional and international) and how it impacts the missions of learning and research.

one European speaker

one Latin American Speaker

11:00-11:30 Coffee

11:30-13:00 Plenary 2: Transformations in Latin American Universities

Results of the ALFA PUENTES pan-regional institutional survey and introduction to ALFA PUENTES

- Salvador Malo: General presentation
- Sub-Regional responses: Bernardo Rivera (ASCUN), Alvaro Maglia (AUGM), Francisco Alarcon (CSUCA)
- Chair: Ramon Torrent (OBREAL/ University of Barcelona)

The general presentation presents the main findings of the 'TRESAL' survey. Afterwards the chair will invite representatives of the sub-regions to comment on the results, cite further research that has been done with regard to the survey topics and assess the utility of this type of information for Latin American regional university collaboration and policy making. The chair will then address a round of questions to the panelists. Afterwards the discussion will be opened to the audience.

Finally, the chair will invite the three panelists to give a short statement on data collection and information exchange needs in Latin America

13:00-14:30 Lunch and bilateral networking

14:30-16:00 Plenary 3: Modernising and transforming higher education: a policy perspective

Speakers outline where they see their HE systems in 2020. What is to be achieved in terms of research performance, teaching and learning, and the contribution of HE to social and economic development? And what does it mean for collaboration in the region (neighbouring countries) and internationally? They will also outline how governments are investing in higher education today in order to achieve these goals and what the priorities are. How are plans, strategies and targets implemented? What is the relationship/role of university associations and other stakeholders? How do you view the ALFA PUENTES survey results, and can this information be useful in national strategising?

- two Latin American government representatives
- European Commission
- European government representative
- Chair: Lesley Wilson, EUA

16:00-16:30 Coffee

16:30-18:00 Break-outs: Building institutional capacity and enhancing international connectivity

Four break-out sessions: each provides two short case studies (LA/Europe) for discussion. Speakers will be provided with a set of discussion questions they should address. Chairs provide short introduction to sub-regional initiatives in ALFA PUENTES and how they relate to the topic at hand.

1. *Improving Quality Assurance through Internationalisation*
2. *Innovation in teaching and learning*
3. *Improving recognition of degrees/fostering mobility*
4. *Building research capacity through doctoral education (CODOC project results)*

20:00 Official dinner

13 Nov - Day 2: Local, regional and international collaboration

9:00 Plenary 4: Latin American and European responses to globalisation and higher education internationalisation

Panel with two Latin American and two European speakers: each presents a short case study before questions are addressed to the panel. Presentations will reflect dynamic institutional approaches to internationalisation and consider teaching/learning, research + innovation, human resources, demographics and policy pressures.

10:30 Coffee

11:00 Plenary 5: Strengthening LA-European collaboration amidst the changing global partnership landscape

Panel discussion with the following questions: What are the strategic priorities of EU-LA partnership and exchange in higher education? Have they changed? How do they fit into a new global partnerships landscape? What is the balance between capacity development and competitiveness? What is the role of university leadership? Of university associations?

12:30 Lunch + Latin American country information sessions/ bilateral networking sessions (upon registration)

14:00 Plenary 6: University-industry partnership for growth and innovation

Presentations from two high-level Industry representative (CEOs) – Brazil and one other Latin American country

Presentation from one European university

15:15 Concluding session: The way forward

Conference conclusions from General Rapporteur

Final panel with two representatives each from Latin American and European university associations

15:30 Official close: *Participants who have registered for university-industry round table or networking stay on*

16:00-18:00 Post event: LA-Europe University Industry Round table (upon registration)

In a round table setting, four Latin American industry representatives will engage in a discussion with European and Latin American university leaders regarding concrete collaboration and partnership. Case studies will be shared from different countries and international implications considered.

16:00-18:00 Bilateral networking meetings (upon registration)

14 Nov – Post activities

Bilateral networking meeting (upon registration)

Site visits to Sao Paulo Universities (upon registration)