



### **Call for proposals: 26<sup>th</sup> EAN Conference**

**'Sharing stories of empowerment: Creating new strategies for diversity and inclusion in higher education'**

**September 20-22, 2017 in Giessen, Germany**

**Deadline for proposal submission: May 31, 2017**

The 26th annual conference of the European Access Network (EAN) will take place September 20-22, 2017 at the Justus-Liebig-University in Giessen, Germany. It is hosted by ArbeiterKind.de, Germany's largest network for first generation students.

The overall conference theme is 'Sharing stories of empowerment: Creating new strategies for diversity and inclusion in higher education'. Practitioners, researchers and policy makers are invited to submit proposals addressing the following conference strands/thematic areas:

#### *Strand 1: Diversity in higher education: Problem or solution?*

*A deficit-focused perspective prevails in stories of so-called 'non-traditional' students. Diversity is often seen as a source of problems rather than an untapped resource and strength. This conference strand aims to share and evaluate diversity strategies in higher education: How can we change the perception of diversity from a problem to a solution? How can we change our perspective and share stories that value different backgrounds and emphasize strengths of non-traditional students? Which teaching and learning methods are best suited to a strength-based approach?*

#### *Strand 2: Equal access to higher education in immigrant societies*

*Integrating migrants and refugees in higher education systems is an urgent task in Europe. Refugees and migrants face several barriers to accessing higher education, including a lack of information and of individual guidance and support, inadequate provision of language courses for academic purposes, and restricted access to student finance schemes. How are practitioners, policy makers and civil society responding to the challenge? This conference strand presents inspiring practices, research results and examples of policy change.*

### *Strand 3: Student finance systems and their impact on access and success*

*Family wealth still plays a major role in pursuing higher education. The doors of higher education institutions are open to all – but you need the necessary financial means to stay inside. Financing not only access, but also success in higher education has turned out to be a major hurdle for talented youth from underrepresented groups. This conference strand aims to discuss affordability and evaluate the role of grants, stipends, scholarships, loans and other student finance strategies.*

### *Strand 4: Diversity in higher education: Who needs to join the conversation?*

*Higher education institutions, policy-makers and students seem to be the most obvious contributors to strength-based strategies for diversity and inclusion in higher education. However, other groups and communities like families, religious and social organisations, businesses and the media might be important stakeholders too. Which voices are missing or overheard in the present conversation? This conference strand aims to identify change makers and advocates and discuss the impact on power relations on diversity policies.*

## **Terms and Conditions**

- All proposals must relate to the conference themes.
- All presenters must register for the conference within two weeks of notice of acceptance, using the online form and the special conference fee for speakers.
- It is the responsibility of the presenters to ensure they have the rights of use for all content and logos/images.
- Presentations must be non-commercial. For-profit entities need to be sponsors to present. Interest in commercial sponsorship or presentations should be directed to Anne Stalfort at [stalfort@arbeiterkind.de](mailto:stalfort@arbeiterkind.de)

## **Submission procedure**

- Send your proposal in pdf format in English language to [eangiessen2017@arbeiterkind.de](mailto:eangiessen2017@arbeiterkind.de) until May 31, 2017. The final confirmation will be sent to you by July 15, 2017.
- Proposals must be designed for 30 to 45 minute lecture or workshop and must include 15 minutes of Q&A
- Please follow these guidelines for your proposal:
  - Title: less than 20 words
  - Thematic area: Please indicate which of the five thematic areas outlined above you will be presenting under.
  - Author(s) and affiliation: First name, last name, institutional affiliation
  - Position: Please include your staff or volunteer position in the institution/organisation
  - Text: no more than 2 pages, 1000-2000 characters

**Thank you!**

This conference would not be possible without the support of our partners, donors and volunteers. We are grateful for the support of Justus Liebig University and for a United Way Worldwide grant on behalf of the generosity of FedEx.

If you have any questions concerning the conference please email Julia Dolscheid at [eangiessen2017@arbeiterkind.de](mailto:eangiessen2017@arbeiterkind.de)

**More information about the 26th EAN Conference is available [HERE](#).**