



International
Further & Higher Education
& Research Conference

Ghana
14-16 November 2016

**10th International Further & Higher
Education &
Research Conference
14-16 November, 2016
Fiesta Royale Hotel
Accra, Ghana
*Draft Programme***

Monday, 14 November

08:00 - 09:00 **Registration**

08:00 – 08.30 **Orientation for Participants from African Affiliates**

09:00 – 10:30 **Welcome and opening ceremony**

Keynote Address:

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:30 **Plenary 1**

Africa in Focus: The State of Further, Higher Education and Research in the Region

Further, Higher education and research staff and their institutions in Africa face enormous difficulties. Public funding remains inadequate, student participation rates are low, salaries are inadequate, brain drain remains a serious problem, precarious employment contracts are common, academic freedom in many countries is routinely violated, and the proliferation of private universities and colleges is undermining quality. This session will consist of introductory statements and participants are invited to actively contribute to the discussion focusing on the following topics: What can unions do to reverse these trends? How can solidarity partnerships between EI affiliates help build capacity in Africa? How can further, higher education, and research staff in Africa be organised and mobilised?

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch**



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14:00 – 15:30 **Plenary 2**

Stronger Together - Review of the EI Work Programme since 2014

This interactive session will present a brief overview of EI's work in further, higher education and research since the last conference, including recent developments involving initiatives of the OECD and UNESCO, and international trade negotiations. In addition, it will bring particular attention to the importance of solidarity and cooperation among affiliates. Participants will be asked to comment on the work programme, identify new priorities, and suggest ways that affiliates can more effectively work together to achieve identified goals adopted by the EI World Congress in 2015.

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:30 **Parallel Group Sessions**

Group 1: The Global Response Campaign: What role for FHER?

Group 2: Advancing gender equality

Group 3: The Assessment of Teaching – by whom and how?

19:00 **Conference Reception and Dinner**

Tuesday, November 15

9:00 – 10:30 **Plenary 3**

Countering Privatisation



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The growth of private further, higher education institutions, the increasing reliance of many institutions, colleges and universities on private fees for financing, the influence of private donors, and the increase in industry-sponsored research funding represent serious threats to the quality, accessibility and integrity of higher education and research. This session will explore how the various facets of privatization in the sector affect the working conditions of staff, from the increasing casualization of employment to growing demands for teachers and researchers to secure private sector funding. How is privatization affecting our work in different parts of the world? Who are the key for-profit players and what do we know about them? What are the implications of privatisation for academic freedom, and for the quality and integrity of teaching and research?

10:30 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – 12.30 **Plenary 4**
Building a Knowledge Commons

The public good is served by the widest and most accessible dissemination of scholarly work. However, overly restrictive copyright rules and publishing industry practices can threaten the availability of this work. This session will explore ways that EI and its member unions can ensure balanced copyright rules, and promote the use of open access venues to make scholarly material more widely available.

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 15:30 **Plenary 5**
Making Further, Higher Education and Research a Priority in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This session will explore how further, higher education, and research staff can be mobilized to press for the sector to be a priority in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. In particular, the discussion will focus on the development of indicators to assess progress towards realising the UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel, on Adult Learning and Education, and on Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:30 **Parallel Group Sessions**

Group 1: Quality terms of employment in Further, Higher Education & Research

Group 2: FHER and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Group 3: Copyright and OER



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Wednesday, November 16

09:00 – 10:30 **Plenary 6**

Reports from parallel group discussions

10:30 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – 11:30 **Adoption of conference report and recommendations**

11:30 – 12:00 **Closing Ceremony**

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 – 15:00 **Meeting of African Affiliates**

15:00 – 15:30 **Coffee Break**

15:30 – 17:00 **Roundtable**



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