

## MODERN CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT BRUSSELS, 9 JUNE 2009

The MODERN conference on governance in higher education institutions is the first in a series of five conferences which will be organised by the **MODERN European platform in higher education modernisation**.

MODERN is a **three-year EU-funded structural project** in the **EU Lifelong Learning Programme** which is developed under the leadership of ESMU, in a consortium with 9 core partners and 26 associate partner European associations and academic providers of higher education management (HEM) training programmes. See [www.highereducationmanagement.eu](http://www.highereducationmanagement.eu)

As a highly focused and interactive event, the first MODERN conference will take place in **Brussels** on Tuesday **9 June 2009**. The conference will be based on an executive **report** on the **state of the art of governance reforms** in European higher education institutions produced by CHEPS, the Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies at the University of Twente, MODERN project partner. The report will be made available to all registered participants prior to the conference.

The report will build on existing literature, current and previous work on governance issues in higher education, including major recent reports produced for the European Commission. It will look at system level governance and its impact on institutional governance in higher education institutions, i.e. increasing institutional autonomy, the shift from “government to governance”, from State regulation to various forms of “multi-level and multi-actor governance”.

The conference will start with a **networking dinner on 8 June**. On 9 June the conference will be split into morning plenary sessions with key senior level speakers, i.e. policy makers and decision-makers from the European Commission, academia and the private sector, and afternoon highly specialised workshops on key themes linked to governance issues.

The conference will be an opportunity for the presentation of the very first results of the MODERN **mapping the field exercise** on the supply and the demand for HEM programmes.

The underlying aim is to gather decision-makers in higher education institutions and training providers for a joint debate and mutual learning on governance issues and the new skills, leadership and management needed to support modern higher education management. The target group is university leaders, decision-makers and providers of HEM programmes.

# Conference Programme

## Monday 8 June

19:30 *Networking dinner*

## Tuesday 9 June

### Conference Chair :

**Prof. Frans van Vught, ESMU President; MODERN project leader**

- 9:00 – 9:15 **Welcome address and introduction:** The MODERN platform – A key instrument for the modernisation of higher education management, Prof. Frans van Vught
- 9:15 – 9:45 **Presentation of key points from the MODERN report on governance,** Mr. Jon File, CHEPS
- 9:45 – 10:30 **The EU Modernisation Agenda: University Governance – need for new approaches,** Mr. Robin van Ijperen, Unit B3 (Higher Education), DG Education and Culture
- 10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee break*
- 11:00 – 11:45 **Reforming university governance: The key challenges in Europe,** Prof. Peter Gaetghens, Former President, Freie Universität Berlin
- 11:45 – 12:30 **Universities and business cooperating : Governance challenges,** Jan-Erik Sundgren, European Round Table of Industrialists
- 12:30 – 13:30 *Buffet Lunch*
- 13:30 – 15:00 **Workshops**
- Leading experts on governance issues from the MODERN partnership will introduce each workshop with a short presentation*
- 15:00 – 15:30 *Coffee Break*
- 15:30 – 16:00 **Closing remarks – The way forward (based on workshops' highlights and preliminary results of the MODERN "mapping the field" exercise,** Prof. Frans van Vught, ESMU President

26 March 2009