

**11 October 2007**

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## News Items & Articles

### INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

**Education reforms urgently needed to boost Europe's competitiveness (CORDIS, 10 Oct)** – “The slow pace of reform in Europe's education and training systems is threatening Europe's long-term competitiveness, according to the Commission's latest report on progress towards the Lisbon objectives in the education field.” [more](#)

**New study to reveal impact of universities (Education Guardian, 08 Oct)** – “The value of higher education in the UK will come under scrutiny this week when a £3m, three-year study into the social and economic impact of British universities is launched at Strathclyde University.” [more](#)

**Public consultation raises ambition for the European Research Area (FEAST, 08 Oct 07)** – “Universities and research institutions, companies, non-governmental organisations and individuals from across Europe and beyond have sent in more than 800 contributions to a public consultation on the future of the European Research Area. While in-depth analysis of the responses is on-going, the main trend is clearly widespread support for the concept of a European Research Area (ERA) and its priorities, as outlined by the Commission in its Green Paper”. [more](#)

### AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

**Unis need to work at handling change (Australian, 10 Oct: 25)** – “Universities do not handle change well and are poor top-down communicators, but academics generally like their jobs, a survey of organisational structure has found”.

**A ride on the funding seesaw (Australian, 10 Oct: 29)** – “Private and public funding of our tertiary sector have gone in opposite directions”.

**RQF blamed for spike in Discovery applications (Campus Review, 09 Oct: 1, 14)** – “Intense pressure on university staff to prove their “research activeness” for the Research Quality Framework may be behind a spike in ARC Discovery grant applications, it was claimed last week”.

**What price diversity? (Campus Review, 09 Oct: 1)** – “The Australian international student market is marked by a surprising lack of diversity in where they choose to study, new research from IDP Education Australia reveals.”

**LPTF savaged – again (Campus Review, 09 Oct: 3)** – “Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop last week named the 23 universities that will share in \$83 million in 2008. The LPTF was set up to reward excellence in teaching and research but has been plagued by criticism since the first funding round in 2006.”

**Seat at the table (Campus Review, 09 Oct: 6, 7)** – “Changes to the national protocols have generated a lot of debate about universities’ governing bodies. But is all this change occurring in the absence of hard facts”.

**University enrolments reach record level (DEST, 04 Oct)** – “New statistics released today by the Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, show a record number of students at Australian universities.” See *publications section of this issue of HEInfo* for details.

## New Publications

**Antony Stella and David Woodhouse, *Benchmarking in Australian Higher Education: A Thematic Analysis of AUQA Audit Reports, Occasional Publications Series No: 13*** – “...the present analysis has a focus on benchmarking as remarked on by audit panels in the AUQA audit reports for universities that were in the public domain by June 2007.”

To access the report, navigate to

<http://www.auqa.com.au/qualityenhancement/publications/occasional/publications/>

**European University Association, *Creativity in Higher Education: Report on the EUA Creativity Project 2006-2007*** - “Creativity in Higher Education”, a project initiated by the European University Association (EUA) and cofunded by the Socrates Programme of the European Commission was designed as an exploratory activity to enhance our understanding of the concept and to address the question of how creativity can be strengthened in European higher education. In this project the term creativity has been used in its broad meaning as encompassing originality coupled with appropriateness in all disciplines including the arts.”

To download the report navigate to click [here](#)

### **DEST Higher Education Statistics Collections**

\* Students 2006 [full year]: selected higher education statistics

\* Award course completions 2005: selected higher education statistics

\* Staff 2006: selected higher education statistics tables

To access these publications navigate to

[http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher\\_education/publications\\_resources/statistics/publications\\_higher\\_education\\_stat](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/publications_resources/statistics/publications_higher_education_stat)

**OECD, *Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators in a Changing World, Responding to Policy Needs*** – “This conference proceedings of the OECD Blue Sky II Forum describes some of the policy needs, measurement issues, and challenges in describing cross-cutting and emerging topics in science, technology and innovation (STI). It also presents ideas to exploit existing data and develop new frameworks of measurement in order to guide future development of STI indicators at the OECD and beyond.”

To find out more navigate to

<http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?sf1=identifiers&lang=EN&st1=922007121p1>

## New Conference Listings

**FOR A FULL LISTING OF UP AND COMING EVENTS FOLLOW THIS [LINK](#)**

**ISANA: International Education Association 18th International Conference, Adelaide, 27-30 November**

**2007** – “This year’s theme ‘Student Success in International Education’ recognises that international education is a multi-faceted phenomenon that intersects with the interests of a range of stakeholders”.

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.cdesign.com.au/isana07>

**The 11th UNESCO-APEID International Conference, *Reinventing Higher Education: Toward Participatory and Sustainable Development*, Bangkok, Thailand, 12-14 December 2007** – “The Conference is expected to

facilitate a paradigm shift in a sector that is less commonly associated with participatory development by highlighting the role of universities and other higher education institutions in balancing social inequalities and in formulating sustainable solutions with, and for, people so that they can have equal access to the benefits of a globalizing world.” To find out more, navigate to <http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=11apeidconf>

**IV International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education, *New challenges and emerging roles for human and social development*, Barcelona, Spain, 31 March – 1 April 2008** – “The aim of the Conference

is to explore the role of higher education as a key element for human and social development and to find new ways for the exchange of values between university and society. Participants will approach the key issue: what knowledge do we need for what kind of society?” This conference is organized by the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI) and hosted by the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC)

To find out more navigate to <http://www.quni-rmies.net/k2008/>

## **FREE TRIAL SERVICE**

HE Info is a weekly electronic information service produced by the [Centre for Higher Education Management & Policy](#) at the [University of New England](#), Armidale, Australia. The purpose is to provide regular updates on the News, Publications, Events and other items of interest relating to Higher Education Policy particularly in, but not restricted to Australia. We do not claim to present all items of relevance but we do hope to achieve a good coverage of the main issues.

The service is currently in its developmental phase, so if you have any comments relating to content or if you would like to be added to, or removed from, the mailing list for the new issue alert please email [chemp@une.edu.au](mailto:chemp@une.edu.au)

All information presented in each issue has been accessed from a variety of sources. Every effort has been made to acknowledge these where appropriate.

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