



# Equality for Diversity

The Social Dimension and  
Equality in Higher Education Today

25th European Students' Convention  
Dublin, Ireland  
8th - 10th of March, 2013



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# Welcome

## Dear participant, dear friend,

On behalf of the organising committee, the Social Dimension and Equality cluster and the entire ESU team it is my profound pleasure to welcome you to Dublin for the twenty-fifth European Students' Convention, Equality for Diversity: The Social Dimension and Equality in Higher Education Today.

The challenges facing our members, the students of Europe are immense. As the European economy continues to stagger from one crisis to another, the most vulnerable in society are often the ones who are first to be cut, first to be hit and first to suffer. Those who need us most are left behind.

However, no single set of challenges exists for any one country, any one society or any one group within society. How we respond to these diverse and complex challenges within the higher education community is termed the Social Dimension. Higher education benefits every aspect of society - from the individual to the external stakeholder - and it has always been, and I profoundly hope always will be ESU's first policy that Education is a human right, a public good, and must be free of all barriers.

The preparations for this convention have been handled by the brilliant organising team in Dublin, who have managed to assemble a fascinating agenda while coping with severe financial restrictions. To Ben Archibald and Cat O'Driscoll in USI, and Aengus Ó Maoláin from ESU, all the speakers, volunteers, and administrative staff go my sincere thanks.

ESU hopes for a diverse and fascinating conversation to take place here in Dublin, the better to serve our members and to increase our capacities, both as national unions of students and as European student representatives. I look forward to engaging in this conversation.

Karina Ufert,  
Chairperson of ESU



Equality for Diversity ESC 25 #esc25

04



## Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of every one of the 250,000 students we represent in the Union of Students in Ireland, it is my honour and pleasure to extend a céad míle fáilte (one hundred thousand welcomes) to the delegates of the 25th European Students' Convention.

Since the last time we hosted such a gathering of European student leaders, Ireland has transformed dramatically. Once a symbol of the prosperity that can come with European integration, it is now a case study in how that same integration can rescue an isolated island nation from economic ruin.

Our third level system has not escaped this period unscathed. As the budgets of institutions suffer cutbacks and the importance of the student experience figures less prominently in the priorities of those who shape the future of the sector, we cannot overstate the importance of the work carried out by Students' Unions, both in Ireland and across Europe.

The European Students' Union and USI work tirelessly to broaden, and when necessary protect, access to education. Through this work we give representation to the young people of our respective countries. We do so because we are united by the common bond of studentship and because we accept a duty to ensure that those who come after us must be afforded the opportunity to pursue their education to its highest level.

As we struggle with today's challenges, and as we share our inspiration and ideas, I am reminded of USI's guiding motto, "Ní neart go cur le chéile" - Together we're stronger. Indeed, I'm sure this motto informs the work of all the member organisations of ESU.

I look forward to showing you the very best of Irish hospitality and look forward to a wonderful 25th European Students' Convention.

Beir bua,  
John Logue,  
President of USI



**The Higher Education Authority** is the statutory planning and policy development body for higher education and research in Ireland. The HEA has wide advisory powers throughout the whole of the third-level education sector. In addition, it is the funding authority for the universities, institutes of technology and a number of designated higher education institutions.

The Mission Statement of the HEA is “To foster the development of a higher education sector which is accessible to all potential students and which is recognised internationally for the high quality of teaching, learning and research and which has the capacity to address the changing needs and challenges in our society”.

The Principal Functions of the HEA are

To further the development of higher education.

To maintain a continuous review of the demand and need for higher education.

To assist in the coordination of state investment in higher education and to prepare proposals for such investment.

To allocate among universities, institutes of technology and the designated institutions the grants voted by the Oireachtas.

To promote the attainment of equality of opportunity in higher education and democratisation of higher education.

Meetings of the Higher Education Authority members are normally held every second month. The Authority's Executive reports to it in regard to the administrative and advisory functions arising from:

a) Recurrent funding of the universities, institutes of technology and designated higher education and research institutions and the processing of annual budgets and estimates.

b) The Capital building and equipment programme for higher education and research institutions. The planning and provision of physical facilities, such as new buildings, capital equipment, adaptation of buildings and related matters, form part of this work.

c) Research into the needs of the country for higher education and the demand from students for higher education. Contact is maintained with a wide range of state agencies and the social partners with a view, amongst other matters, to promoting an appreciation of the value of higher education and research.

The HEA is also the Irish contact point for a number of EU programmes. Lifelong learning programme previously referred to as Socrates (Erasmus) and Tempus. The Higher Education Authority's support for scholarship and basic research is central in meeting the obligations and opportunities for the higher education system. In the past five years, the HEA's involvement in this area has grown to such an extent that the HEA is now the most significant source of support for third level research in the country.



JIM  
LARKIN

1874-1947

# About ESU

**The European Students' Union** (ESU) is the umbrella organisation of 47 National Unions of Students (NUS) from 39 countries (December 2012). The NUSes are open to all students in their respective country regardless of political persuasion, religion, ethnic or cultural origin, sexual orientation or social standing. Our members are also student-run, autonomous, representative and operate according to democratic principles.

The aim of ESU is to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at the European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the European Union, Bologna Follow Up Group, Council of Europe and UNESCO. Through its members, ESU represents over 11 million students in Europe.

ESU works to bring together, resource, train and inform national student representatives on policy developments in higher education at the European level. Since decisions concerning higher education are increasingly taken at the European level, ESU's role as the only European-wide student platform is similarly growing. ESU's work centres around supporting its members through organising seminars, training, campaigns and conferences relevant to students, conducting European-wide research, partnership projects and campaigns, providing information services and producing a variety of publications. For both students, policy-makers and higher education professionals.

**Mission** ESU's mission is to represent, defend and strengthen students' educational, democratic and political and social rights. ESU will work for sustainable, accessible and high quality higher education in Europe.

**Vision** Equal educational and social opportunities in an open and democratic Europe where students shape a sustainable future.

**Values** ESU is diverse, democratic and open-minded. We represent all students in Europe, understanding the diversity of the students. ESU is inclusive and strives for solidarity within the students' movement.

We are independent. ESU structures facilitate the accountability of the elected representatives, works with respect towards all members and their different opinions and functions transparently.

We are unconventional and open for new thoughts. We, as experts of higher education bring in courageous and smart ideas through a fresh and spontaneous, but professional attitude.

[www.esu-online.org](http://www.esu-online.org)



## The Union of Students in Ireland (Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn)

(USI) is the national representative body for Ireland's 250,000 students in third level education. We are a membership organisation – our members are our affiliated Students' Unions around Ireland, North and South.

Founded in 1959, past officers of USI have gone on to fulfil prominent roles in Irish society, including Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) Éamon Gilmore, former Chief Justice John L. Murray, broadcaster Joe Duffy, Ministers Pat Rabbitte, Alex White, and leader of the SDLP in Northern Ireland Mark Durkan.

The basic principle on which the students in Ireland built USI was for the defense, promotion and organisation of the fundamental educational, welfare, economic, political, social, cultural and other interests of all the students in Ireland on a national and international level. As such, USI has been a member of the European Students' Union since 1983 and has provided several office holders to that body.

USI believes that students have a right to a decent standard of living including the right to financial support, proper housing and future prospects of employment in Ireland and regards the defense and promotion of all democratic and human rights as a core goal of the organisation.

USI seeks to provide student services, including commercial services, for the benefit of the membership on the principle that control of student services should lie with the membership.

USI is a democratic, student led organisation, independent of all external authorities, with decision making being made at the level closest to students as possible, and where formulation of policy by the students ordinarily occurs by simple majority vote of their delegates at its Annual Congress. USI respects the right of the students through their Member Organisation to call to account and instruct those charged with office within the union and to discipline and ultimately dismiss those who fail to carry out their responsibilities.

## USI and ESU - Welcome back to Ireland!

|        |         |                |
|--------|---------|----------------|
| BM 7   | Dublin  | 1985           |
| BM 12  | Dublin  | 1987           |
| BM 27  | Belfast | 1994 (NUS-USI) |
| ESC 7  | Dublin  | 2004           |
| ESC 25 | Dublin  | 2013           |



**Union of Students in Ireland**  
*Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn*

[www.usi.ie](http://www.usi.ie)

## The National Union of Students - Union of Students in Ireland (NUS-USI)

was established in 1972 under a unique arrangement where both the National Unions of Britain and Ireland, NUSUK and USI respectively, jointly organised in Northern Ireland to promote student unity across the sectarian divide.

As such, every student in Northern Ireland is a member of both the National Union of Students of the United Kingdom and the Union of Students in Ireland.

NUS-USI Student Movement represents the interests of over 200,000 students in Northern Ireland and campaigns on their behalf in many different fields such as student hardship, health, prejudice and accommodation. We also provide an infrastructure that helps individual Students' Unions in the North of Ireland to develop their own work through our research, training and development functions

**Our Vision:** The vision of NUS-USI is to promote social justice and reduce educational inequality where everyone has the right to participate in a society, which respects diversity and human rights. Every student will play an active part in and be a respected member of a society that values learning, participating with their students' Union locally, and nationally through NUS-USI, which will continue to be the recognised voice of students in Northern Ireland.

**Our Mission:** NUS-USI will improve the lives and experiences of students in Northern Ireland by representing and fostering strong students' Unions & providing clear, effective and democratic leadership.



## The Clock Tower

The main conference venue is located within the main campus of the Ministry of Education and Skills, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 on the North side of the city. The main street - O'Connell Street, and the large shopping area - Henry Street, are just two minutes walk away.



## DIT Cathal Brugha Street

Group and breakout sessions will take place in the Cathal Brugha Street campus of the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) just across the street from the Clock Tower.



## Carlton Hotel, Blanchardstown

Overnight accommodation will be provided in the beautiful, four-star Carlton Hotel in Blanchardstown, approximately 15 kilometres from the main venues, in the North-West of the city.



# Agenda: Day One

## Thursday, 7th of March

Carlton Hotel

- All Day Delegates arrival and registration  
**21:00** **Welcome reception, Mayor of Fingal**  
Councillor Cian O'Donoghue

## Friday, 8th of March

The Clock Tower

- 08:00** Breakfast
- 08:30** Departure from Hotel to Venue
- 10:00** **Welcoming words and opening address**  
Karina Ufert (ESU, Belgium)  
John Logue (USI, Ireland)  
Fernando M. Galán Palomares (ESU, Belgium)  
Seán Ó Foghlú, Secretary General, Ministry of Education
- 10:45** **Introduction to the Social Dimension**  
Kathleen Lynch (University College Dublin)  
Nat O'Connor (TASC Think-Tank)  
Patrick Geoghegan (Trinity College, Dublin)
- 12:30** **Lunch**
- 14:00** **National Contexts**  
Group session with individual reporters
- 16:15** **International Contexts**  
Group reporters  
Karina Ufert  
Brian Power (Ministry of Education)
- 18:00** **End of Formal Business**

## Saturday, 9th of March

The Clock Tower  
DIT Cathal Brugha Street

- 08:00** Breakfast
- 09:00** Departure from Hotel to Venue
- 10:00** Quality for Equality - Norma Ryan
- 10:30** Building participation in Finland: KYKY  
Juha Töyrylä and Niina Jurva (SYL, Finland)
- 11:45** Disability  
Ger Gallagher (Student, University College Dublin)  
Niamh Hayes (AHEAD, Ireland, and LINK network)
- 13:00** Lunch
- 14:00** Unequal / Different - Equal / the Same  
Aengus Ó Maoláin (ESU, Belgium)
- 15:45** ESU Policy Revision (closed session)  
Parallel working groups, 3 x 40 minute sessions
- 17:30** Sustainability and the Public Responsibility  
ESU's policy on the Public Responsibility and Financing  
Plenary session chair Rok Primozic (ESU, Belgium)
- 18:30** End of Formal Business

# Agenda: Day Three

**Sunday, 10th of March**

**The Clock Tower**

- 08:00**      **Breakfast**
- 09:00**      **Departure from Hotel to Venue**
- 10:00**      **Invisible Discrimination - National Minorities**  
Martin Collins (Pavee Point centre for Irish Travellers)  
Sancha Magat (Migrant Rights Centre Ireland)
- 11:30**      **ESU EMWG consultation**  
ESU's Migrants and Ethnic Minorities working group
- 13:00**      **Lunch**
- 14:30**      **Policy-makers' Considerations**  
Tom Boland, Higher Education Authority of Ireland
- 16:15**      **Conclusions and Actions**  
Report of the general reporter: Fernando M. Galán Palomares  
Taina Moisander (ESU, Belgium)
- 16:40**      **Conclusion of the Convention**  
Karina Ufert  
John Logue  
Minister Ruairí Quinn, TD
- 17:30**      **End of Formal Business**



Equality for Diversity    ESC 25    #esc25

## Ethical Guidelines and Code of Conduct of the European Students' Union

The Ethical Guidelines consist of a full set of the basic standards expected of the European Students' Union (ESU) which are to be respected by all the elected representatives and members, during any event ESU organizes, co-organizes, supports or otherwise lends its name to. This code also applies to internal ESU events as well as social events during the said events.

Basic principles ESU adheres to are: Equality, Accessibility and Respect. We believe that ESU must be an arena open to all students in Europe, a safe space where argumentation and debates are carried out with all participants both being actively engaged in discussions and being able to comfortably express opinions and challenge ideas. Being an European wide organization, ESU is the arena of different cultures, religions, political stands, backgrounds, beliefs and contexts. To make the best out of our differences and diversity, promote cultural understanding and intercultural dialogue certain standards need to be respected.

An underlying thought of these guidelines is that every participant in ESU's events is aware and responsible towards the principles mentioned. As students' representatives, we have the responsibility to act towards them.

Based on the principles of equality, accessibility and respect, ESU representatives and participants on internal and external events are expected to adhere to the following points:

1. Treat everyone equally irrespective of socio-economic background, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, political views, reduced mobility, gender expression, disabilities or any other basis of discrimination, abstaining from any direct or indirect discrimination as well from any form of harassment.
2. Make no inappropriate jokes or remarks, based on any discriminative grounds that cause people to feel uncomfortable or discriminated against.
3. Behave and react towards the colleagues with respect.
4. Actively engage in the organized activities during seminars, panel sessions and discussions as well attending all the organized sessions, meetings, discussions and debates.
5. Respect the different multicultural backgrounds of the colleagues.
6. Proactively create an inclusive welcoming atmosphere for all of the participants, during both formal and informal parts of the event.
7. Use no demeaning or abusive language towards other participants.
8. Respect the timeframes given by the organizers of the event.
9. Respect the event's facilities and any rules associated with such use.
10. Respect the environment and take care about their surroundings.

We are emphasizing herein that this list is not exhaustive and that the violations of the Ethical Guidelines might happen outside of the frames given by this Code of Conduct.

## Ireland quick facts

### The Island of Ireland

Population 6 500 000  
States **Ireland and Northern Ireland**

### Ireland

Name (Official) Éire / Ireland  
Capital Dublin  
Population 4 500 000  
Independence declared 1916  
recognised 1922  
European Union 1974  
Internet .ie  
Telephone +353  
Time Zone GMT (UTC + 0)  
Drives on the **Left**  
Electricity Three-pin rectangular plugs

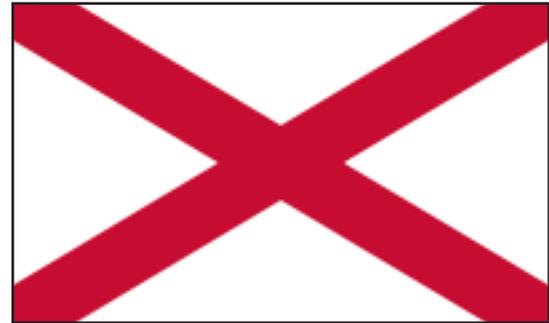
Flag of Ireland



### Northern Ireland

#### (semi-autonomous UK)

Capital Belfast  
Population 1 900 000  
Internet .co.uk  
Telephone +44



Northern Ireland has no official Flag.  
The Saint Patrick's Saltire is used for official purposes.

Currency Euro €  
Weather (March) 5 - 10 degrees. Expect rain!  
Smoking Illegal in most public places  
Drinking Legal drinking age is 18  
Emergencies Call 999 or 112

### Health and Safety

While Ireland is a relatively safe country by European standards, it is unwise to walk around Dublin city centre unaccompanied after dark.

### Transport around Dublin

**Taxis:** Taxis are expensive in Dublin, and a one-way trip from the airport to the city centre will cost approximately €20. All drivers should use a meter.

**Buses:** Buses are comparatively cheap and frequent. However, there is an extremely limited service after 23:30 and before 07:00.

**Train / Tram:** The DART (overground) and LUAS (tram) are cheap and frequent, but serve only a limited route.

**Metro:** Come back in 2020... maybe.

## Language

The first official language of Ireland is Irish, however in Dublin everyone speaks English. In recent years, the second most spoken language in Dublin has become Polish, so it is almost guaranteed you will hear Polish spoken on the streets before Irish! Irish is spoken more on the west coast.

As if all of that wasn't complicated enough, the Irish dialect of English (Hiberno-English) is a rather special way of speaking which may surprise even the most astute European English-speaker. We have included some choice phrases in the guide below.

### English

Hello  
Hi  
Goodbye  
Please  
With your permission  
Thank you  
Thank you very much  
You're welcome  
Police  
Congratulations  
Good luck  
Cheers  
How are you?  
Very well, thanks. And you?  
Sorry  
I don't speak Irish  
Do you speak English?  
One  
Two  
Three  
Four  
Five  
Six  
Seven  
Eight  
Nine  
Ten

### Irish

Dia dhuit  
Haigh  
Slán  
Le do thoill  
Más é do thoill é  
Go raibh maith agat  
Go raibh míle maith agat  
Tá fáilte romhat  
Garda  
Comhghairdeas  
Ádh mór  
Sláinte  
Conas atá tú?  
Go maith, go raibh maith agat. Tú féin?  
Gabh mo leithscéal  
Níl Gaeilge agam  
An bhfuil Béarla agat?  
Aon  
Dó  
Trí  
Ceathair  
Cúig  
Sé  
Seacht  
Ocht  
Naoi  
Deich

### Good thing

Savage Gas  
Class Craic (pr. Crack)  
Rocking Fair Play  
Whopper Eat the face off

### Bad thing

Shite Bollocks  
Cute Scarlet  
Catmalojan Banjaxed  
Gobshite Eat the head off



## When you land in Dublin Airport (Easy version)

- 1 If you have provided us with your flight number, proceed straight out after baggage reclaim to the arrivals hall.
- 2 There, you will find somebody holding a sign with the logos of ESU, USI and the ESC. They will tell you when the next bus is departing for the hotel and will take you!
- 3 Registration, and so on, will happen at the hotel.

There will be someone present in the airport all day on Thursday, the 7th of March.

## The slightly less easy version

If, for some reason, something goes wrong, it is very simple to reach the hotel by public transport.

- 1 Leave the airport (either terminal) and find the bus stop for the 'Aircoach.' Buy a ticket (€7) and travel to **O'Connell Street**.
- 2 At O'Connell street. Get off the bus and walk around the corner to **Parnell Street**.
- 3 On Parnell Street, find the bus-stop for route 40 D, travelling in the direction 'Tyrellstown.' Note that the bus only accepts coins and the cost will be approximately €3.
- 4 Ride the bus to the very last stop, which is our hotel - the '**Carlton Hotel, Blanchardstown**.'

## If you are arriving by Ferry / Train

Please let us know before arrival so we can arrange for you to be picked up.

## In case of emergency

Ben Archibald: +353 8314 62353

Dublin Airport Flight Information: +353 1814 1111

**Seán Ó Foghlú** is Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills in Dublin, and has held senior posts in the education ministry including responsibility for planning and building, social inclusion, school transport, payroll and pensions. From 2001 - 2008, he led the establishment of the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland and was the authority's first Chief Executive. In this role he led the development and implementation of the National Framework of Qualifications. Before then he was head of policy and planning the Higher Education Authority.

**Kathleen Lynch** is professor of Equality Studies at University College Dublin and has published widely on the subjects of equality in higher education as well as in egalitarian theory and practice. An academic and activist, she strongly believes that the purpose of scholarship is not just to understand the world, but to change it for the good of all humanity. Since 2007 she has been an advisor to the EU Directorate General on Education and Culture as a member of the Network of Experts on the Social Sciences in Education and Training. She is one of twelve global experts to be involved in the Gender Excellence Research Programme in the Universities of Linköping and Örebro, Sweden and was a member of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences from 2010 to 2012.

**Nat O'Connor** is the Director of TASC, an independent, progressive think-tank. He holds a PhD in political science from Trinity College Dublin and an MA in political science and social policy from the University of Dundee, Scotland. Before joining TASC in 2009, he led the research team in the Homeless Agency. Nat has worked as a consultant to local government on the development of statistical reporting of 'service indicators', and has lectured in NUI Maynooth, Trinity College Dublin and All Hallows College (DCU). While researching and writing his PhD (on public access to information as part of democracy), he spent two years living and working in France.

**Brian Power** is head of Student Support and Equity of Access to Higher Education at the Irish Department of Education and Skills and is currently Co-Chair of the Bologna Working Group on the Social Dimension of Higher Education. He has held a number of senior posts in the Department of Education and Skills, including in international and EU affairs and has served with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Education Attaché in the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU in Brussels. Until recently, Brian was also Co-Chair of the Bologna Network of Experts on Student Support in Europe (NESSIE). He has previously served as a member of the EU Education Committee and the Education Committee of the OECD. He holds an MSc in Public Service Innovation Management from the University of Ulster and the Letterkenny Institute of Technology and represents Ireland as a member of the High Council of the European University Institute in Florence.

**Patrick Geoghegan** is an historian, expert in the Anglo-Irish relationship in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as well as on the competing themes of constitutional nationalism and republicanism between 1782 and 1848. A passionate educator, he has been awarded the Provost's award for teaching excellence in 2009 and exemplifies the use of innovative methods to develop critical and independent thinking skills in his students. He currently serves as the Senior Lecturer for Trinity College, Dublin, the academic officer with responsibility for admissions and the progression and examination of all undergraduate students.

**Norma Ryan**, a biochemist by discipline, has held the post of Director of Quality Promotion at University College Cork since its inception in 1999. As Director of Quality Promotion, Dr. Ryan has led the development and implementation of quality assurance/quality improvement reviews in UCC. Dr. Ryan is a member of the Irish Team of National Bologna Experts and has presented papers at many European conferences and seminars on the Bologna Process, focussing in particular on the quality initiatives and practices.

**Minister Ruairí Quinn, TD** has been Minister for Education and Skills of Ireland since March 2011. He has been a member of parliament (Teachta Dála) for Dublin South-East since 1977 and also served as a member of Seanad Éireann (the Senate of Ireland). He was Minister for Enterprise and Employment, and subsequently Minister for Finance from 1993 - 1997, and is credited as having overseen a period where the Irish economy first showed the promise of the Celtic Tiger which was to come. In 1997, he became leader of the Labour Party. A committed European, he led the European Movement Ireland until 2007 and is Vice-President and Treasurer of the Party of European Socialists. His tenure in office as Minister for Education has been marked by a radical taste for reform of primary school management and patronage, secondary school curriculum and transparency and accountability in higher education.

Speaking in October, 2012 of his modernisation agenda, Minister Quinn said: “The demons of nationalism, and dare I say it of chauvinism, those demons are still embedded within our culture and... will only stay in the place where they belong if we have more Europe, if we have a deeper Europe, if we have a wider Europe.”

**Gerard Gallagher** is a Masters student in Equality Studies at University College, Dublin. He has been elected Disability Rights Officer of UCD Students’ Union and Equality Officer of the Union of Students in Ireland. Gerard has been a member of the boards of the Association for Higher Education Access and Disability, the Irish Council for International Students, and Mature Students Ireland. Ger is one half of the team that runs UrAbility.com, an online platform that aims to create a space for those interested in disability can come together, learn from each other, and embrace their ability.

**Niamh Hayes** is Policy and Information Management Officer with the Association for Higher Education Access and Disability, and is a former Disability Rights Officer in the Union of Students in Ireland. A master graduate in equality studies from University College Dublin, Niamh has been responsible for the GET AHEAD project - a space for graduates with disabilities to discuss and share their experience of the transition from education to employment. She has been actively involved in AHEAD’s contribution to the LINK network of organisations which share the ultimate goal of the full inclusion of students with disabilities in higher education, with members from across Europe.

**Tom Boland** is Chief Executive of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) since January 2004. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Boland was Director of Strategic Policy in the Department of Education and Science, a role he combined with that of Head of Legal Services and Legal Adviser to the Department. He is chairperson of the Board of HEAnet (a public sector company which provides high quality internet services to the Irish education and research system). He is a member of the Board of the Fulbright Commission, of the Central Applications Office and of Science Foundation Ireland. He holds degrees in Civil Engineering and Law and was called to the Irish Bar in 1987.

**Pavee Point** is a voluntary, or non-governmental, organisation committed to the attainment of human rights for Irish Travellers. The group is comprised of Travellers and members of the majority population working together in partnership to address the needs of Travellers as a minority group experiencing exclusion and marginalisation. The aim of Pavee Point is to contribute to improvement in the quality of life and living circumstances of Irish Travellers, through working for social justice, solidarity, socio-economic development and human rights. The name “Travellers” refers to a nomadic Irish ethnic group. Irish Travellers are a people with a separate identity, culture and history, although they are as fully Irish as the majority population.

**Migrant Rights Centre Ireland** is a national organisation working to promote justice, empowerment and equality for migrant workers and their families. For ten years, MRCI has taken a stand with migrants to tackle the root causes of inequality. We use a community work approach with a focus on participation, leadership and empowerment, and have a strong track record in securing policy changes e.g. Bridging Visa for undocumented migrants; reversal of work permit changes; protections for domestic & agriculture workers; reversing the minimum wage cut.





## Event Organisers



## Principal Partners

**HEA** | HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY  
AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS



Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar  
Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh  
Irish Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union  
[eu2013.ie](http://eu2013.ie)

