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# NEWSLETTER

EAIR – The European Higher Education Society  
Linking research, policy and practice

Amsterdam, December 2017

**The year 2017 is coming to its last days and** - as in the past - EAIR with our last newsletter of the year looks back before entering the new year. This year our colleagues at CIPES at the University Porto welcomed our members and forum participants in Portugal. The forum, based on the proposal submission numbers during the first months in 2017, got one of the highest attention in EAIR history. Also our new initiatives like the policy round tables at the forum attracted a substantial number of participants and gave an additional venue for policy makers to discuss recent developments. The membership is growing again and the association is in a good financial shape. Of course the new EAIR strategy (2018-2023), which will be introduced during our next AGM, will pay not only attention to the past, but will bring new initiatives while keeping the mission of EAIR as its own identify for the future.

Today institutional research has reached a professional level that can be realized in the number of fellows with institutional research related tasks as well as the number of publications available. However institutional research needs further attention and development in Europe. As long as reporting is the most dominant task and institutional research is rather segmented between units inside higher education institutions as well as not recognized as an important research function EAIR's mission remains to connect research with practice and to gain visibility for its impact on higher education development. In essence, professionals, equipped with the overall knowledge of a comprehensive understanding of higher education developments and the uniqueness of the specific institutional context, and analytical skills are in charge of collection, analysis, and operational reporting of data and information.

These higher education professionals understand the institutional context and information and are the enabler of an effective strategic planning. Most probably never before was this group of people more important in higher education development. Further need for better positioning, the degree of stratification and competition will take advantage from the knowledge, skills and competences of this group. On the other hand EAIR is the missing link between the different groups involved in higher education development. This unique mission makes EAIR a vital partner and underline the importance this association in Europe.

However as MIT professor Alan Kay pointed out "the music is not in the piano". Even though EAIR's mission, structures and procedures have been in place for a long time, it is the association's members including policy makers, researchers and practitioners who bring things to life and hence define together the future of the association.

In 2018, EAIR is going to celebrate its 40th "birthday" at the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest. Most probably, and based on recent developments questioning freedom, autonomy and policy formation, CEU is one of the most well-know university at least in Europe. Which university could be a better host to underline and demonstrate the mission of EAIR by linking policy, research and practice then CEU. We all look forward to visit CEU and to celebrate our long history as well as to share our future perspectives with our members, colleagues and participants.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, the President and the EAIR Office, I wish you a very good festive season, peaceful Christmas and the best for 2018 and hope to see you at CEU!

## Attila Pausits

Chair Executive Committee EAIR

Ass. Prof. Dr. habil. Attila Pausits, PhD,

Danube University Krems, Austria

Head of the Centre for Educational Management & Higher Education Development, and Academic

Director of the Erasmus Mundus Master Programme "Research & Innovation in Higher Education"



# EAIR-ing

## Enhance – Inclusion and Diversity Management (IDM)

The Yerevan communiqué (2015) as well as subsequent national strategies on the social dimension encourage European Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to provide inclusive systems for previously under-represented student groups. The aim is to widen access to university and to improve the outcomes for a more diverse range of applicants (e.g. disabled students, students with different national/ethnic/cultural/ linguistic backgrounds, and students with differing levels of maturity or prior work experience). <http://www.eairweb.org/category/eair-ing/>

## Silke Preymann

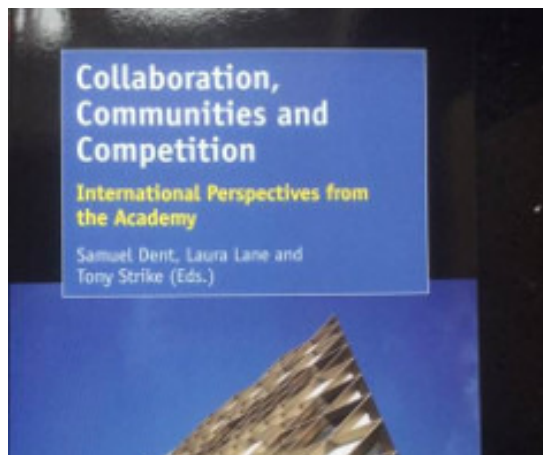
University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria

## Mark O'Hara

Birmingham City University



# EAIR Publications



At the **EAIR Annual Forum 2017** in Porto a new book was launched "**Collaboration, Communities and Competition. International Perspectives from the Academy**". The authors of this book are Samuel Dent, Laura Lane and Tony Strike (Eds.).

This book asks whether there is an alternative approach to this now transnational competitive logic. Can collaboration and partnership (re-) emerge as an antidote to the consumerist and competitive approaches taken by governments toward regulating their higher education systems? The question of competition, collaboration and



Available from **Sense**:

Available from **Amazon**:

Both at \$43 dollars (€36 Euro)

community is addressed here at three levels of analysis. The macro-level or the international system level, observes competition and collaboration between countries and between institutions. The meso-level, includes competition and collaboration between academics and students, and at inter-and intra-disciplinary levels across organizational boundaries. Finally, competition and collaboration at the micro-level considers the interface between individual academics, and between academics and students as learners.

### Invitation to submit an article for the EAIR journal TEAM

Are you interested in submitting an article to the Tertiary Education and Management' (TEAM), our journal? The publisher of 'TEAM' is Routledge Taylor & Francis Group **Routledge Taylor & Francis Group**, United Kingdom. For any questions please contact our Editor in Chief Prof Dr Malcolm Tight t: +44-2476 52 38 09 email [m.tight@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:m.tight@lancaster.ac.uk)

To submit your article, please go to our website: <http://www.eairweb.org/publications/team> then click <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rtem>



**We will be celebrating our 40th Annual EAIR Forum at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, from 26 to 29 August 2018.**

The theme of the Forum is "Competition, collaboration and complementarity in higher education" which will be consisted of eight tracks:

- 1) Teaching and learning
- 2) Quality in higher education
- 3) Governance and management
- 4) Social dimension of higher education
- 5) Higher education and collaborative technologies



- 6) Academic career development
- 7) University autonomy
- 8) Innovation in higher education

**The Call of Proposals is now open!** More information:

<http://www.eairweb.org/forum2018/2018-call-for-proposals/>

## Call for EAIR Forum Host 2019

Have you or has your higher education institution ever considered to host one of the future EAIR Forums?

The annual EAIR Forum is the opportunity for researchers, practitioners and policymakers to get together, to exchange information, give or listen to presentations, network with colleagues from abroad and meet new and interesting people.

Forums are usually hosted by a university and each year a different European location is chosen as venue. Each Forum has a special theme, which is sub-divided into several tracks to accommodate special interests and various fields of expertise and specialisation.

EAIR invites you to consider hosting an EAIR Forum in your institution of higher education and in your city for 2019 and onwards. All institutions are invited. Feel free to forward this message to institutions that you think may be willing to consider this.

If you are interested to submit a proposal or need of further information and would like to discuss other issues, please contact the EAIR Executive Director, Gerlof Groenewoud ([eair@eairweb.org](mailto:eair@eairweb.org)) or the Chair of the EAIR Executive Committee, Ass. Prof. Dr. habil. Attila Pausits, PhD. ([attila.pausits@donau-uni.ac.at](mailto:attila.pausits@donau-uni.ac.at))





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