**Call for contributions: 26<sup>th</sup> EAN Conference**

'**Sharing stories of empowerment: Creating new strategies for diversity and inclusion in higher education**'

**September 20-22, 2017 in Giessen, Germany**

**Deadline for proposal submission: Friday 2 June 2017**

The 26th annual conference of the European Access Network (EAN) will take place September 20-22, 2017 at the Justus-Liebig-University in Giessen, Germany. It is hosted by ArbeiterKind.de, Germany´s largest network for first generation students.

The overall conference theme is **'Sharing stories of empowerment: Creating new strategies for diversity and inclusion in higher education'**. Practitioners, researchers and policy makers are invited to submit <u>proposals for paper, project, workshop and poster presentations</u> addressing the following conference strands/thematic areas:

*Strand 1: Diversity in higher education: Problem or solution?*

*A deficit-focused perspective prevails in stories of so-called 'non-traditional' students. Diversity is often seen as a source of problems rather than an untapped resource and strength.  This conference strand aims to share and evaluate diversity strategies in higher education: How can we change the perception of diversity from a problem to a solution? How can we change our perspective and share stories that value different backgrounds and emphasize strengths of non-traditional students? Which teaching and learning methods are best suited to a strength-based approach?*

*Strand 2:  Equal access to higher education in immigrant societies*

*Integrating migrants and refugees in higher education systems is an urgent task in Europe. Refugees and migrants face several barriers to accessing higher education, including a lack of information and of individual guidance and support, inadequate provision of language courses for academic purposes, and restricted access to student finance schemes. How are practitioners, policy makers and civil society responding to the challenge? This conference strand presents inspiring practices, research results and examples of policy change.*

### *Strand 3: Student finance systems and their impact on access and success*

*Family wealth still plays a major role in pursuing higher education The doors of higher education institutions are open to all – but you need the necessary financial means to stay inside. Financing not only access, but also success in higher education has turned out to be a major hurdle for talented youth from underrepresented groups. This conference strand aims to discuss affordability and evaluate the role of grants, stipends, scholarships, loans and other student finance strategies.*


### *Strand 4: Diversity in higher education: Who needs to join the conversation?*

*Higher education institutions, policy-makers and students seem to be the most obvious contributors to strength-based strategies for diversity and inclusion in higher education. However, other groups and communities like families, religious and social organisations, businesses and the media might be important stakeholders too. Which voices are missing or overlooked in the present conversation? This conference strand aims to identify change makers and advocates and discuss the impact on power relations on diversity policies.*


## Terms and Conditions

- All proposals must relate to the conference themes.

- All presenters must register for the conference within two weeks of notice of acceptance, using the online form.

- It is the responsibility of the presenters to ensure they have the rights of use for all content and logos/images.

- Presentations must be non-commercial. For-profit entities need to be sponsors to present. Interest in commercial sponsorship or presentations should be directed to Anne Stalfort at stalfort@arbeiterkind.de


## Submission guidelines

- All abstracts should be submitted to eangiessen2017@arbeiterkind.de using the Submissions Form – click here to download.

- Deadline for submissions: **Friday 2 June 2017**. Acceptance will be confirmed within a few weeks of submission and no later than July 15, 2017

- Proposals must be designed for 30 minutes paper, project or workshop presentation and must include 10 minutes of questions & answers. ***Please pay attention to the guidelines for paper, project and workshop presentations below***.

- The poster presentations will be allocated within the conference program for poster presenters to showcase their work and discuss with participants. ***Please pay attention to the guidelines for posters below***.

- We are encouraging presenters to use innovative presentation formats.

- Please follow these guidelines for your proposal for:
  - Title: less than 20 words
  - Thematic area: Please indicate which of the four thematic areas outlined above you will be presenting under.
  - Author(s) and affiliation: First name, last name, institutional affiliation

- o Position: Please include your staff or volunteer position in the institution/organisation
- o Abstract text: must not exceed **300 words max**
- o Font: All abstracts should be submitted in an accessible, sans serif font e.g. Calibri, size 12 minimum.
- o Language: English

**Paper, Project and Workshop Presentation Format and Accessibility Guidelines**

- Consider the needs of participants whose first language is not English and those who rely on a Sign Language Interpreter – speak at a reasonable pace and don't rush through your material.
- Use a good colour contrast.
- Ensure that the font on your slides is a sufficient size to be viewed on a projector – usually no smaller than 24pt.
- Use a sans-serif font such as Calibri for maximum readability and clarity.
- Strive to use plain English.
- When choosing a slide style ensure that it is not too cluttered.
- Avoid using only colour to convey meaning.
- Ensure any videos include captions.
- Think about the needs of blind participants and ensure that an audio description accompanies any visual content.

**Poster Format and Accessibility Guidelines**

- All posters should be portrait style on A0 size paper and submitted in high quality / laminated format
- Use a good colour contrast
- Ensure that the font on your posters is a sufficient size to be viewed at a reasonable distance.Text should be a minimum of 24pt but ideally larger and titles should stand out and be clearly visible
- Use a sans-serif font such as calibri for maximum readability and clarity
- Avoid using a number of different fonts and styles
- Avoid using italics and underlining – use bold to emphasis
- Ensure sufficient line spacing of body text – 1.5 – 2
- Use captions for all images and graphs
- Don't place text over pictures
- Ensure the image is of sufficient resolution to remain clear when printed
- Strive to use plain English
- When designing your poster ensure that it not too cluttered and there is a logical flow of ideas. It helps the viewer if you can indicate (by number, letters, arrows), a sequence that might be followed in studying your material
- Avoid using only colour to convey meaning

- When presenting the poster consider the needs of participants whose first language is not English and those who rely on a Sign Language Interpreter – speak at a reasonable pace and don't rush through your material
- Please do not write or paint on the poster boards
- Please prepare for the top of your Poster a label indicating:
  - The title of your paper
  - The author(s)
  - Affiliation

**Thank you!**

This conference would not be possible without the support of our partners, donors and volunteers. We are grateful for the support of Justus Liebig University and for a United Way Worldwide grant on behalf of the generosity of FedEx.

If you have any questions concerning the conference please email Julia Dolscheid at eangiessen2017@arbeiterkind.de

**More information about the 26th EAN Conference is available HERE.**