



WORLD
CONGRESS
ON ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Connecting the Unconnected

Our mission

To make a tangible impact on rates of participation and success in post-secondary pathways throughout the developing and developed world, where youth and adults are held back by poverty, birth, and other economic and social circumstances.

Why the World Congress?

Inequalities in access to post-secondary education are a global phenomenon. They transcend the wealth and size of nations and continents and the nature of politics and societies. They are an intractable challenge that demands a global approach. The *European Access Network (EAN)* has been working to connect those within and outside education who are committed to addressing such inequalities for over 20 years. The EAN is now founding a new social movement and global learning community to tackle continuing inequalities in a global way.

The World Congress on Access to Post-Secondary Education will bring together those already actively working to achieve greater equality with others in politics, business and education who support this goal in order to achieve a greater collective impact through increased engagement, collaboration, mutual learning and support. Central to this new community will be the voices of young people and students, helping to inform our understanding to shape action.

Our objectives

- To link existing access networks with new economic and social partners around the globe
- To build the economic, political and social case for improving education pathways and outcomes and use it to engage others in a collective agenda for change
- To demonstrate innovative approaches, build communities of practice and create new social partnerships
- To place current and future students and youth at the core of efforts to improve access to and success in postsecondary education
- To develop an agenda for action and a series of experimental projects that will be the fulcrum for work by the movement

The Congress Series 2013 - 2017

The World Congress will be built around hosting a series of three global events between 2013 and 2017 that will progressively build and enact an agenda for change. The series theme, *Connecting the Unconnected*, signals our aim to:

- Connect individuals and groups engaged in activities to increase participation and success for greater collective impact
- Create new connections to bring in fresh partners to strengthen efforts and outcomes
- Connect with new ideas and resources, including the potential in new technologies
- Build and strengthen connections across sectoral and geographic boundaries for mutual learning and support and to enable new and improved pathways and practices
- Build and strengthen co-operative links between education, business, government and the third sector based on common interests in supporting participation

Progress So Far

The first World Congress will be held in **Montreal, Canada from October 7th-10th 2013** and will set the agenda for the on-going work of the Congress. We anticipate that over 400 delegates will attend from across the world. Seven specific strands of work will focus on topics ranging from financing opportunity to the role of teaching and learning and Aboriginal, First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples. The sessions will be designed as interactive ideas exchanges to shape what Congress is and could become.

Support for the Congress is expanding rapidly. Initial planning has benefitted from funding from the Lumina Foundation (www.luminafoundation.org) and EAN is developing a network of supporting organisations around the world which are also assisting with the development of the Congress. They include the International Association of Universities (IAU), the Institute for the Development of Education in (Croatia), the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), the Educational Testing Service (ETS), Pascal Observatory and many individual universities and colleges. World Congress Ambassadors are also being appointed in different parts of the world to promote its goals.

As part of its commitment to the voices of students and young people, EAN has established a global network of World Congress *Student and Youth (SAY) Ambassadors* from over 25 countries, working in their local regions to advance the aims of the Congress. We are supporting Student Scholars from six regions to undertake research projects that they will present in Montreal and working with the European Students Union to support student engagement.

After Montreal

Two further major events will be held in 2015 and 2017 in different parts of the world, building on Montreal 2013 and working towards the creation of a roadmap for a sustainable future for the global access movement beyond 2017. In addition, we will engage in an on-going programme of activities to support and grow the global access community including:

Research

We will establish a programme of research with a global reach to help us to understand better the causes and effects of unequal participation and success in post-secondary education in different geographical, political, economic and historical contexts and the most effective ways to address to address them. It will be underpinned by a worldwide network of researchers in this field.

Building Partnerships and Collaborative Effort

Connecting with other organisations with shared values is at the centre of how we will grow the movement and make it sustainable e.g. Communities of Practice

Development Programme

We will initiate a programme to test and refine methods and approaches for addressing particular issues and obstacles to wider participation and success in post-secondary education.

Seminars

We aim to establish a series of seminars looking at different aspects of post-secondary education in different contexts delivered across the world between Congresses to build on the emerging themes.

How to get involved

Early registration for Montreal 2013 is advisable to take advantage of special rates. Additional discounts will apply for EAN members and can be negotiated for people and institutions from partner organisations and developing regions. Registration will be conducted online through our website. Contact info@eanworldcongress.org for assistance.

While attendance at Montreal is crucial, Congress will be shaped by the activities and objectives of those committed to our goals and there are many different ways to become involved, e.g.:

- Share what your organisation is doing by presenting or exhibiting at Montreal
- Sponsor/support the first Congress in Montreal or aspects of the ongoing work of the movement
- Join the World Congress global research network
- Speak to us about other ways in which you want to work with us to shape this movement

If you would like to learn more about the Congress and how you or your organisation can work with us please contact Fran Ferrier, Executive Director of the EAN: fran.ferrier@eanworldcongress.org