Honors in Europe

getting to work

Honours Futures, June 3, 2016
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Lector (professor)  
Senior researcher

Acting President  
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Session moderator:

Dr. Marleen Eyckmans
Set-up of this session

• Presentation of brochure ‘Honors in Europe: getting to work’ by authors
• Discussion on three topics, starting by an example
• Goal: facilitating exchange of good practices and lessons learned from failures
Research project Honors in Europe

- Research project about special provisions for gifted and talented students in Higher Education in Europe.
- Phase 1: Eleven countries studied: Benelux, Nordic and German-speaking countries
- Inventory of programs at 303 Higher Education Institutions (4 million students)
Honors provisions per country

(Wolfensberger 2015)
Honors provisions (institutes)

(Wolfensberger 2015)
Publication

- Book published in open access at Springer
- Over 32,000 downloads so far

But…
Demand for additional publications:

- A. Research in new countries
- B. Practical guide for honors teachers and policy makers, based on research findings

Work in progress, updated with new findings and insights.
Cooperation with newly-formed European Honors Council
Brochure

Honors in Europe:
getting to work
Practical lessons for educators and policy makers
In cooperation with the European Honors Council

Dutch
Praktijklessen uit Europa

English
Honors in Europe:
die Arbeit beginnt
Praktische Tipps für Dozent/innen und Politiker/innen

German
(thanks to Vivian van Gerven)
Three topics for discussion, based on brochure

1. The (desired) role of the private sector in honors education
2. Starting an honors program: bottom-up or top-down?
3. Community formation and honors: what is the ideal mix of students, staff and others; and why?

Goal: facilitating exchange of good practices and lessons learned from failures
Private sector in honors education

Erasmus School of Economics

Information for
Education
Research
Expertise
About ESE
News
Working at ESE

Information for
Students
Master students
PwC Honours Master

PwC Honours Master

Are you that ambitious top student with qualitative, quantitative as well as social skills?
Marketing department Erasmus University Rotterdam:

“The 'Honours Masters' leads to a win-win situation:

- The sponsor receives the possibility to provide potential employees with extra training and experience.
- Students get an opportunity to have an inside look at a reputable company and to follow extra subjects. This looks very good on their CV.”
Private sector in honors education - Austria

Circle of Excellence (Graz)

- Students, staff from two universities in Graz and people from companies form year group
- Group runs own program, including masterclasses, excursions, workshops, internships, etc.
- Businesses sponsor year group, but also actively participate
- Run by a board which includes alumni
Companies involved as partners
What is the (desired) role of the private sector in honors education?
Norway – Centres of Excellence in Education (NOKUT)

- Program by national accreditation agency NOKUT
- Pilot program for excellent teacher education (2010)
- Three more programs accredited in 2013
- New round in preparation
- Key feature: excellence at institutional level
Starting bottom-up

**Denmark: Biotech Academy** at Danish Technical University – systems biology

- Students develop education projects for secondary school students
- Students form board, staff available on background
- Students attract own funding from companies
- Selection of new members by current members
Starting an honors program: bottom-up or top-down?
Community formation and honors: the ideal mix?

Honours College Geosciences (Utrecht University)

- Community of students and staff
- Student board
- Own (unofficial) website
- Social events
- Study trip
Honours College Geosciences

Week-long study trip organized by honors students

- Istanbul, February 2015
- Republic of Georgia, April 2016

Beneficial for creating community
Online community in German-speaking countries

E-fellows.net:

- Online community focused on talent development
- Offline: events, mentoring
- Major business partners involved
Community formation and honors: what is the ideal mix of students, staff and others; and why?
Many thanks for your attention.

Questions or remarks?

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More information: www.honorsineurope.com

Brochures available here for free download
**Overview of honors programs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>HEIs researched in total</th>
<th>HEIs with honors programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Definition

‘Honors programs are selective study programs linked to higher education institutions. They are designed for motivated and gifted students who want to do more than the regular program offers. These programs have clear admission criteria and clear goals and offer educational opportunities that are more challenging and demanding than regular programs.’

(Wolfensberger 2015, p. 12; based on NCHC 2010, Wolfensberger et al 2012)
Honors in Europe – preliminary overview 2016