

TOP-10 Insights - Trends in Higher Education

Johan Bergström, International Business developer for ICT Services and System Development (ITS) - Umeå University, johan.bergstrom@umu.se

Outi Tasala, Coordinator at CSC - IT Center for Science, outi.tasala@csc.fi

Keywords

TOP-10, trends, HEI's

1. ABSTRACT

The nature of higher education institutions and their service models are changing due to the economic situation in Europe, but even more so due to the changes in the digital domain. Work in which future trends affecting HEI's are identified is carried out by many notable organizations; Educause, Gartner, the NMC Horizon project, Caudit and Ucis, to name a few. They aptly produce lists from different viewpoints of trends affecting the HE sector, mainly focusing on IT. However, these have not as yet been analyzed on a European level.

Through ERAI (Eunis Research and Analysis Initiative) we are working to provide a piece to the European puzzle. We believe it would be beneficial to not only identify what has been suggested, but to start a discussion on the impact of these trends on HEI's, and a dialogue on what - if realized - these trends mean to the institutions.

The work done so far is good grounds for discussion, and what we hope to do is to start a wider discourse of Higher Education trends in a European context. During the spring we will carry out a process in which we do a close reading of the reports and, as a result of this, produce a first draft of an aggregate by the time of the conference. We will fine tune the process throughout the spring, and by the time of the conference will also have a more in-depth description on the main goals and the future steps to take after the aggregate. At the Eunis conference we would not only outline the process of the trend work, but more importantly extend an invitation for professionals in the higher education sector to participate in this.

We recognize several different audiences to whom this work is of interest, for example student administration staff, support services, experts on pedagogy, digital education and learning, and experts on research administration. For the purposes of this work our aim is to involve and engage IT leaders from different countries to comment on the trends. Thus the conference would serve as a starting point and a forum for discussion and for building our own narrative on the trends identified in the field. Time permitting, in addition to the aggregate, we will also do some preliminary analysis of the NMC Horizon project, Caudit and Educause TOP-10 issues. After the conference, in the next stage, we hope to interview IT leaders and, building on this, produce further analysis on the trends.

A shared view of the trends might help the institutions to anticipate and to optimally adapt to the trends. We strive for a pan-country collaborative approach, as a wider base will enable us to form a European perspective and produce value within a European context. The aim for this work is to provide an outlook on what is to come; to convey one possible picture of what the future of the international higher education will hold. As the trends are ever evolving, our plan is to make this a continuous process, to compile an aggregate annually, as this would enable institutions to follow the changes in

the field.

Previously identified trends have suggested that some of the core tasks may be outsourced and acquired from organizations outside the institutions' traditional ecosystems. Cooperation within the institution and faculties, but even more importantly between the institutions, will make a greater success factor in a small market. Business intelligence thinking is inserting itself even more in HEI's, and academic and learning analytics will be utilized to a greater degree. There is also some indication that the core structure of the institutions is changing, affecting the roles of staff in various ways.

Our analysis hopes to focus discussion on the topics at hand on a European level; identifying key issues may help the institutions in finding a common ground when planning ahead, thinking anew their ecosystems, and in identifying possibilities for working together.

2. AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Johan Bergström, Msc Computer Science, is working as an International Business developer for ICT Services and System Development (ITS) - Umeå University. Johan was the congress organiser of the 20th annual EUNIS congress in 2014. Johan is also a programme committee member the Terena Networking Conference in 2015 and 2016 as well as a Senior Reviewer ERO (Educause Review Online). <https://www.linkedin.com/in/johanbergstrom>

Outi Tasala has a Master of Arts degree from the University of Helsinki, and works at CSC - IT center for Science, an organization co-owned by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the institutions of higher education in Finland. More information about the author can be found on LinkedIn: <https://fi.linkedin.com/in/outitasala>