



Newsletter 6 – January 2017

In the monthly newsletter, the European Honors Council (EHC) presents you news, events and materials to foster exchange in the honors community and beyond. In this newsletter:

- EHC starts publishing Notes and Papers following Utrecht honors conference
- Germany starts €125 million initiative to foster and challenge talented pupils
- Two new Ph.D. theses on honors published in the Netherlands
- Lectures international honors experts in Groningen 19/20 January

EHC starts publishing Notes and Papers following Utrecht honors conference

After the successful conference *Honours Futures* in Utrecht in June 2016, the EHC has initiated the publishing of the most interesting contributions to the conference on the website of the EHC as papers or notes. An editing committee was set up, and selected contributors have received an invitation to send in a paper or note. The deadline is February 1st and contributions will appear on the website as soon as they are processed. We expect to publish around 15 contributions and also plan to present an overview of the contributions at the international honors conference at Windesheim in June. More information and the contributions (as soon as they are ready) can be found [here](#).

Germany starts €125 million initiative to foster and challenge talented pupils



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

In Germany, the federal ministry for education and research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung) and the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (Kultusministerkonferenz) revealed a new initiative for the federal states of Germany that concentrates on fostering and developing the high achieving and potentially high achieving students in school. This new initiative focusses on talented students who also can have difficulties within the regular school system. In the initiative, which was presented in November, 125 million euros are offered for projects which

are supposed to run ten years and focus on the best way to foster and challenge talented pupils. Schools and other initiatives can apply for becoming part of this initiative in the coming months. The first projects will start in the 2017/2018 school year.

More info (in German) can be found in this [document](#).

Two new Ph.D. theses on honors published in the Netherlands

Two Ph.D. theses on honors education were recently successfully defended in the Netherlands.



The first thesis, 'X-Factor for innovation: identifying future excellent professionals', was defended by Janina Banis-Den Hertog at the University of Twente on 23 November. Main question was: *which individual antecedents predict professional excellence?* One of the conclusions is that the honors context positively influences innovative behavior, the development of innovative behavior and the level of achievement of students. More info can be found [here](#).

The second thesis, 'Excellence in higher education: Students' personal qualities and the effects of undergraduate honours programmes', was defended by Ada Kool at Utrecht University on 2 December 2016. Aims of these study were to help to determine how to optimally support students with different personal qualities across their study career, how to identify potential honours students, and how to increase the effectiveness of honours programmes. Results regarding the effectiveness of honours programmes show that former honours students could be distinguished from their non-honours peers after graduation during the first years of their professional career. This thesis has been published in open access and can be downloaded [here](#).

Lectures international honors experts in Groningen 19/20 January

Would you like to be inspired two international experts in honours? Next week, the Research Centre Talent Development in Higher Education and Society at Hanze University of Applied Sciences in Groningen (Netherlands) hosts lectures and discussions with prof. Kirsi Tirri from Finland and Dr. Leonie Kronborg from Australia.

Prof. dr. [Kirsi Tirri](#), professor of Education, University of Helsinki, Finland, specialist in the field of moral education and giftedness, will give a lecture in the afternoon of Thursday 19 January (15.30). This lecture closes an international Ph.D. day, but can also be attended on its own. More info can be found [here](#). Please register [here](#).

On the next morning, Friday 20 January, Dr. Leonie Kronborg, expert in the field of Gifted Education from the Faculty of Education, Monash University, Victoria, Australia will give a lecture titled "Effective teaching of gifted and highly able secondary students for talent development: a case study". This will take place at 9.30 am, Zernikeplein 11, room H0.100, Groningen. Due to the limited number of places, you are requested to send an [e-mail](#) if you would like to join this presentation.

More info?

Please feel free to send this newsletter around to colleagues and friends, and invite them to also [join](#) the EHC. See www.honorscouncil.eu
See the full [European Honors Council Acting Board](#)

For membership questions: membership@honorscouncil.eu (Marleen Eyckmans)

All other questions: info@honorscouncil.eu (Maarten Hogenstijn)

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This newsletter is sent out on a monthly basis. If you have input for the next newsletter, please [send](#) it in before February 5, 2017.