



Newsletter 31 – January 2021

The European Honors Council (EHC) hopes you are doing as well as possible in these difficult times. In this newsletter we share some info and events to look forward to:

- International summer school program Pillars of Democracy (online)
- Conferences on gifted education and talent development
- New articles on effects of ‘excellence programs’ in the Netherlands
- The power of international networking for students – new thesis

International summer school program Pillars of Democracy (online)

Hanze University of Applied Sciences (Groningen, the Netherlands) offers a summer school program themed ‘Pillars of Democracy’ this spring. This ‘summer’ course is offered online. A series of eight digital workshops will be offered, each of which focuses on important themes relating to democracy, civic engagement, and learning from the Holocaust. The aim of this course is to apply lessons learned from the past to present-day society, empowering students to become effective citizens with knowledge and understanding of the history of World War II and its implications for the present. Hanze is looking for motivated and reflective students from all disciplines and countries who are ready to explore this monumental event in social history and find creative ways to bring the learnings from the past into current society. The program will run in evenings (CET) in the period 6 April – 8 June. Application deadline is 1 March. All info and a downloadable flyer can be found on www.hanze.nl/pillarsofdemocracy

Conferences on gifted education and talent development

Looking for new inspiration, or ways to share your insights on talent development? Three conferences are coming up:

- The 2021 conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) will be held online, in the period from 31 July – 8 August. The conference will focus on the theme of Developing the Future of Gifted Education. The deadline for abstracts is 1 March. See all info on the [conference website](#).

-The European Council for High Ability (ECHA) is planning its conference in Porto (Portugal) from 31 August - 3 September 2021. The central conference theme is: Gifts and Talents, Values for the Future. For this conference, submission deadline is also 1 March, as can be seen on the [conference website](#).

-The Bildungskongress in Muenster (Germany), which will be held from 22-25 September 2021, has extended the deadline for contributions to 21 February. The conference is themed ‘Identifying Potential – Developing Talents – Sustainable Education’. All information is on the [conference website](#) and the full call for papers in English can be found [here](#).

New articles on effects of ‘excellence programs’ in the Netherlands

In the period 2015-2019, a number of universities and research institutions jointly conducted a research project into the effects of excellence programs in higher education in the Netherlands. The results are now published in a special issue of the European Journal of Higher Education. The introduction is titled [Excellence programmes in higher education: selection of students, effects on students, and the broader impact on higher education institutions](#), by Tim Huijts & Renze Kolster. The other articles can be found from here, and more reports can also be found on the [project website](#).

The power of international networking for students – new thesis

What can participation in an international project focused on talent development bring to students? Student Etienne Koot (Utrecht University, the Netherlands) reports: ‘Last year in June I did my bachelor thesis on the CoTalent project and its effects on the participating students’ future career using a network perspective. The thesis made for interesting results with the help of eight illuminating interviewees. Overall the results were incredibly positive; the students unequivocally called the project a ‘once in a lifetime experience’. The students had grown in both soft and hard skills and often gained a friend or two. The focal point of research was the co-creation aspect of the CoTalent project, but also looked at other factors that made the CoTalent project such a success.’ The full thesis is now available on the [CoTalent website](#); and Etienne is preparing to submit a note to the Journal of the European Honors Council.

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
Find the newsletter archive [here](#).

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

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

If you have input for the next newsletter, please [send](#) it in.

This newsletter was sent to you because you registered as a member of the European Honors Council. If you no longer want to receive these e-mails, please send a message to membership@honorscouncil.eu