



Photo from the 2016 Inaugural Honors Faculty Institute in Groningen

Ph.D day, international honors experts and Danish delegation in Groningen

Busy times in January at the Research Centre Talent Development in Higher Education and Society at Hanze University of Applied Sciences (UAS) in Groningen, the Netherlands!

On 19 January, the first “Honours PhD research-teaching day” took place. This was the first time in the Netherlands (maybe even in Europe) that an event focusing on PhD research on education for talented/gifted/honours students was organized. Lectures and discussions with prof. Kirsi Tirri from Finland and Dr. Leonie Kronborg from Australia were hosted. On 20 January, Dr. Kronborg delivered a lecture. A report can be found [here](#).

On Monday 23 January, a Danish government delegation paid a work visit to Hanze UAS, as a follow-up to an earlier visit by the EHC board to Copenhagen. A presentation was also held about the honors program at the Academic Medical Center at the University of Amsterdam. Focus of the discussion was on issues of quality assurance.

Program in the spotlight: Honors Club at University of Iasi, Romania

The IQ Club represents a honors non-formal program developed at the oldest university of Romania, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi (UAIC). Highly able students from different high schools of Iasi city and from the 15 Departments of UAIC have the opportunity to join in this Honors Club, as a community of innovative learning and creative experience.

At the very beginning of this honors club it was the vision to create a place for high school students awarded with national and international prizes at different academic competitions. This idea appertained to a small group of parents and International Olympiad students from the city of Iasi. In a TV debate they shared their disappointment with the lack of emotional

and academic support that such talented students usually receive in the weeks after their victorious return from the competitions. From the point when the media attention ends, these students' chances to be together again, to share their thinking, hopes and qualms, in a supporting and challenging environment, are very limited. As a reaction to this debate, a group of university teachers and multinational companies' representatives organizes a non-formal education program, like a club, in order to meet students' emotional and intellectual needs. This program is developing since 2012, at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi and involves more than 50 workshops and trainings on topics like storytelling, creativity, time management, volunteering, study mobilities, career development; 3 summer camps focusing on self-knowledge, team-building and leadership; early admittance to university courses and seminars, mentoring on academic development, and research probation. More info with professor [Carmen Cretu](#) at Department of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi.

Registration for HERU conference open

The American-based network *Honors Education at Research Universities* (HERU) organizes its biannual National Conference on May 24 -25, 2017 in Columbus, Ohio. More info and a registration link can be found [here](#).

EHC sessions accepted for international honors conference Windesheim

On 8-9 June 2017, the [International honors conference at Windesheim UAS in Zwolle](#), the Netherlands will be held. Four sessions that are connected to the EHC board have been accepted. Themes are: 'Growing in honors', 'Honors impact', 'Honours futures: Moving forward' and 'Bringing honors students together.' More info in the coming newsletters!

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 March 5, 2017.