



**Reality Check:
Contextualising Higher Education in
Central and South Eastern Europe**

The university landscape in Europe has undergone significant changes since 1989: After the collapse of socialism the universities in these countries were under immense pressure to introduce reforms due to increasing international competition, the massification of higher education and, more recently, the Bologna Process. The process of making higher education more market-oriented involved the discontinuation of entire disciplines, the construction of new institutions and the complete restructuring of the system.

The main motivation behind the Bologna Process is to increase the degree of convergence of national higher education systems in Europe. It started with the signature of the Bologna Declaration in 1999, which set in motion a lengthy process of complete reconstruction of the existing systems. The key features of the Bologna Process are, among others, the three-cycle system (BA, MA, PHD) and the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Rising enrolment rates and cuts to public funding have led to the increased influence of the private sector in higher education.

During this two-day conference, higher education experts from 11 countries will address the following key questions in keynotes, panel discussions and presentations: What is the current situation of universities in CEE? What trends can be identified in the educational policies in CEE? How do these changes affect the arts in particular? What are the main tensions between the private and public sectors in the field of higher education? What is the impact of a project like PATTERNS_Lectures?

Initiated by
ERSTE Foundation
www.erstestiftung.org

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WUS Austria
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ERSTE Stiftung



Vysoká škola uměleckoprůmyslová v Praze
Academy of Arts Architecture and Design Prague

Monday, 27 June 2011, 5 p.m.

Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design,
Prague (Auditorium)

WELCOME BY

Jindřich Smetana (Rector, AAAD Prague)
Christiane Erharder (Curator, ERSTE Foundation
Programme Culture, Vienna)

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY

Renata Salecl (Philosopher and theorist,
London and Ljubljana)

**Education Between Anxiety and Freedom:
What Has Changed in the Transition from
Socialism to Capitalism?**

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH

Christine Böhler
(Director, ERSTE Foundation Programme Culture,
Vienna)

Ruxandra Silvelia Demetrescu
(University Professor, Rector, National University
of Arts, Bucharest)

Martina Pachmanová
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(Assistant Professor, Department of Cultural
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Renata Salecl (Philosopher and theorist, London
and Ljubljana)

Veronika Šubrtová (Student, Masters Programme
History and Theory of Design
and New Media, AAAD, Prague)

MODERATOR

Martina Handler, Project Manager, WUS Austria,
Graz

PATTERNS_Lectures is a project to support the
development of new university courses in Central
and South Eastern Europe. 14 courses were selec-
ted and taught in 11 countries over the 2010/2011
academic year. Both the lecturers and representa-
tives from the universities where the courses were
held will participate in the conference.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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PATTERNS_LECTURES ACADEMIC ADVISORY PANEL

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CONCEPT AND ORGANISATION

Christiane Erharder, *Maria Derntl* (ERSTE Founda-
tion) and *Martina Handler*, *Ines Suh* (WUS Austria)

The conference continues with a closed session
on 28 June 2011.

ADDRESS

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