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University Lifelong Learning to Live a Better Life – Continuing Education for Sustainable Quality of Life in Europe

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Strand: Active Citizenship and Humanity Engagement

INVITED - Strategies towards Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at Universities

As our societies change and become more diverse, universities are asked to be more open and inclusive. In Europe, increased migration has contributed to more cultural diversity – and more awareness on the topic. Social diversity and inequality are hotly debated in the wake of the economic crisis, ongoing globalisation and accelerated labour market changes. At the same time gender equality continues to be an issue in several areas. Also, universities need to find ways to enable participation of people from various backgrounds, including those that are traditionally less represented in higher education. Politically the topic is gaining importance with ministers reiterating their commitment at the 2018 Bologna Ministerial Conference in Paris to strengthen the social dimension of higher education and further national strategies.

Against the backdrop of these developments, the INVITED project aims at supporting universities in developing and implementing institutional level strategies towards equity, diversity and inclusion. Furthermore, it seeks to facilitate a dialogue between relevant stakeholders at system level with a view to ensure appropriate regulatory and funding frameworks that enable universities to fulfil their social responsibility.

The first steps taken have been to collect data and analyse the results. During the current workshop we will present the main findings of the survey and the next steps planned by the project.