



**UNESCO Forum on Higher Education in the Europe Region:
*Access, Values, Quality and Competitiveness***

[Convened in the context of the 2009 World Conference on Higher Education]

Palace of the Parliament, Bucharest, 21–24 May 2009

Organizers:

Government of Romania

represented by the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, and

UNESCO European Center for Higher Education

in collaboration with:

the Council of Europe, the European Commission, OECD,
the European University Association (EUA), the European Students' Union (ESU),
and Education International (EI)

WELCOME NOTE

Higher education in the UNESCO Europe Region is in the midst of fundamental transformations. Ten years on from the 1998 World Conference on Higher Education (WCHE) it is both timely and appropriate that a new regional and global assessment of the major developments and trends in the field of higher education worldwide takes place.

The Government of Romania, represented by the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, and UNESCO-CEPES, in close collaboration with some of our longstanding partners: the Council of Europe, the European Commission, OECD, the European University Association (EUA), the European Students' Union (ESU), and Education International (EI), are organizing the **UNESCO Forum on Higher Education in the Europe Region: *Access, Values, Quality and Competitiveness***, in **Bucharest**, Romania, from **21-24 May 2009**, in preparation of the 2009 World Conference of Higher Education (WCHE+10) to be held at UNESCO Headquarters, in Paris, July 2009.

This important event will be attended by ministers, parliamentarians, academics, researchers,

individual experts, students, journalists, representatives of international governmental and nongovernmental organizations from all countries of the UNESCO Europe Region (including Europe, North America and Israel) and not only.

The Forum will generate a platform for critical debating the state and the future of higher education in the region and give an important input to the WCHE+10. The meeting will take place at the Palace of the Parliament, providing a fitting venue for vivid academic debate and networking, but also the opportunity for a glimpse of Bucharest, the capital of Romania- a country of cultural personalities, scientists and artists such as Constantin Brâncuși, Henri Coandă, Mircea Eliade, and George Enescu.

For further information concerning the content and the organization of the *UNESCO Forum on Higher Education in the Europe Region* please consult the UNESCO-CEPES Forum website www.cepes.ro/forum.