

EM-iDEA Vilnius Conference

Plenary Session Speaker's Biographies

Prof. Michael Blakemore

Technical Director, Ecorys UK

Michael Blakemore is Technical Director of Ecorys UK, Emeritus Professor of Geography at Durham University, and Honorary Research Fellow at Durham Business School where he supervises doctoral students (PhD and DBA). He has a particular research interest in information strategy, higher education reform (where he is a UK Bologna Expert), access to Public Sector Information and the integration of information through e-Government and e-Commerce.

He has been an expert with DG Information Society (European Commission), and has evaluated e-Democracy systems for the Scottish Government. He led the European Commission's study on citizen-centric eGovernment, (www.ccegov.eu), and led the study on "Multi-channel delivery strategies and sustainable business models for public services addressing socially disadvantaged groups" (www.mcegov.eu). Previously he had worked on EU contracts in the areas of 'Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs' and has worked since 2008 with DG EAC building Quality Assurance structures and indicators for Erasmus Mundus Courses (www.emqa.eu). In 2011 he worked on an evaluation of DG SANCO consumer education initiatives which include a focus on vulnerable/excluded consumers. He has been a vice-chair of Marie Curie Evaluation Panel (Economics and Social Science areas) for DG Research, and will chair the panel in 2012. Between 1995 and 2000 he collaborated closely with Eurostat to build online access to their EU and Regional Statistics, and between 1985 and 2000 led the development of UK online regional and labour market statistics (www.nomisweb.co.uk). In recent years he has been a consultant to the LEED (Local Economic and Employment Development) section of OECD scoping the potential for regional and local labour market indicators.

Dr. Kiyong BYUN

Vice-Director, Higher Education Policy Research Institute, Korea University

Professor Byun passed "the senior government officials examination" in 1991 after graduating from the Seoul National University College of Education. He was appointed a deputy director at the Korean Ministry of Education in 1992 and from then on he worked for the Ministry, except for when he was seconded to the OECD program on Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE) from 2002-2005. When he worked for the OECD/IMHE program, he took charge of a project entitled "Supporting the contribution of higher education institutions to regional development" where 12 countries including Korea participated. During his service at the Ministry of Education, he served as a

number of positions at the Ministry including Planning Officer and Head of Graduate School Reform Team before moving into Korea University as a professor in September 2008.

Professor Byun earned a PhD in Educational Policy & Management from the University of Oregon (Eugene) in the US. His scholarly interest is higher education policy, in particular, higher education governance, internationalization and globalization of higher education. He has published a number of reviewed original papers in the area of higher education policy. Currently, he is an associate professor at the College of Education, Department of Education and also serves as a vice-director of Higher Education Policy Research Institute at Korea University.