





ACA Policy seminar Improving undergraduate education in Europe: Liberal arts and sciences colleges Wrapping up – Barbara Oomen



## Liberal Arts and Sciences

studies



- Possibility introduced with Bologna 1999, return artes liberales/ LAS to Europe
- Undergraduate education as much-needed 'Bildung sanctuary', that could also revive European tradition of moral education



## The model discussed: three elements

- Aristotelian LAS model Samuel Abrahams
- Oxbridge size Nicholas Eschenbruch
- Humboldtian link of teaching and research Henk Meijer



## 🙀 I. The Aristotelian model – S. Abraham

- The praxis of reading, writing, talking
- Small seminars, allowing for discussion
- International student body, teaching in English
- Enables young people to explore
- Many misconceptions, but also serves to change higher education at large
- In demand with employers
- Meets needs of today's world
- Value integrity
- Purpose: creating excellence



#### Oxbridge size/the collegiate model: N. Eschenbruch

- Many different models, fi being part of larger university
- Faculty delighted by quality students: verbindlichkeit
- Commitment: relational, curricular, institutional
  -> rich academic space
- Questions: size, residence, teaching exchange, selection focus, extracurriculars
- Places for change



## Integrating teaching and learning – H Meijer

- The value of undergraduate research
- Undergraduate research journals
- And UGR conferences

*"The best way of doing research and creativity is by doing research and creativity"* 



### Comparing experiences – Vivian Nyitray

- Distinction Liberal Arts Colleges and Liberal Arts education
- Challenges and joys in implementing radically new model in a culture of vocational training, structures of authority, that considers students as children, and certain issues prohibited
- Mutability of the model



- Student and alumni experiences with liberal arts
- Student and alumni experiences on the job market
- Exchanging experiences





- Small and independent v. with large university
- Broadness v. new utilitarianism
- Muting v. purism



# Future cooperation

- Communicating the value of LAS: LAS as a way of strengthening undergraduate education in Europe, and engaging in wider debates on higher education
- Exchanging experiences: Exchange experiences, also on dilemma's
- Faculty exchanges: A new professional profile of faculty? Short stay exchanges? (B.Oomen@ucr.nl)
- Undergraduate research: Joint undergraduate research journals and conferences
- Strengthening the network? Join forces with global liberal arts alliance?



