



**Conference Programme:  
“Higher Education Cooperation between  
the European Union and Nepal”  
Kathmandu, Nepal. Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**Speakers’ Biographies**

**H.E. Ms. Rensje Teerink – Ambassador, European Union Delegation to Nepal**

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Rensje Teerink, of Dutch nationality, was born in Luxembourg in 1960 and studied Cultural Anthropology/Non-Western Sociology at the University of Amsterdam. Specialising in Asian studies she conducted extensive field research in western India (Gujarat and Maharashtra). In 1985, she joined the Centre for Asian Studies Amsterdam (CASA) as a researcher and, among other consultancy posts, contributed to a project funded by IDPAD (the Indo-Dutch Project for Alternatives in Development) on gender and labour migration in rural India.

She joined the European Commission in 1995 as administrator for South Asia. In 2006 she was appointed Deputy Head of Unit for India, Nepal, Bhutan and SAARC. In 2011 she joined the newly created European External Action Service as Deputy Head of Division for the same countries. She was nominated by EU HR/VP Catherine Ashton as EU Ambassador/Head of Delegation to Nepal in April 2013.

Ms Teerink is married with two children and, apart from her Dutch mother tongue, is fluent in English, French, German and Italian and has a working knowledge of Spanish and Hindi.

**Mr. Christian Wagner – EU Education Expert, and Team Leader of the EU funded Central Asian Education Platform project since September 2013**

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Mr Wagner holds a Master’s degree in Economics from the University of Tuebingen, Germany. After studying in Germany and in Moscow at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), he worked as Deputy Team Leader for the largest EU funded “Management Training Programme (MTP)” covering up to seven countries of the CIS including Central Asian countries and Mongolia providing expertise e.g. in capacity development, to various Ministries.

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In the last years, he was involved as expert in supporting public and private institutions dealing with policy reforms in the HE, VET, labour market/employment promotion sector e.g. in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Serbia. Furthermore, he designed and planned internship programmes for managing VET staff from Kazakhstan both in Germany and in Kazakhstan, and conducted project assessments in the VET sector.

He further worked as Project Director for the German Energy Agency, Germany's centre of expertise for energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and intelligent energy systems, supporting the set-up of the former Russian.-German Energy Agency. He will soon complete his Master's degree in Energy Management. Until recently, he was also managing an EU Switch Asia Grant project in Nepal as Team Leader.

He is fluent in English and Russian and a certified Project Management Professional.

## Prof. Ewa Chmielecka - Head of the Department of Educational Policy at the Warsaw School of Economics and NQF Expert at the Educational Research Institute (IBE), Warsaw, Poland

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**Prof. Ewa Chmielecka** is a NQF Expert at the Educational Research Institute in Warsaw and the Professor at the Warsaw School of Economics where she heads the Department of Educational Policy. She has extensive national and international research experience in the public policy of educational systems, particularly concerning lifelong learning, qualifications frameworks and quality assurance. Her international research experiences are illustrated by the list of some 100 publications in these fields, as well as her leadership or membership in numerous international research projects and expert groups. She represents Poland in the European Commission's EQF Advisory Group (2008 – present). She was a member of the working team for aligning the Hong Kong QF to the EQF (2014 -2015). She is a leader of the AG working team on qualifications horizontal comparison (2016). She was a co-author of the level descriptors of the Polish Qualifications Framework, as well as co-author of Poland's self-certification report submitted to the EQF Advisory Group in 2013. She also has been serving on the Croatian, Hungarian and Slovakian Referencing (NQF/EQF) Teams, Twinning project for Macedonia, NQF-IN Erasmus+ project and the others.

She was a member and the chair of the Polish Bologna Experts Team (2006 – 2013) as well as a member of the Polish Universities Accreditation Commission (2012 – 2015). Her national position in the Polish academic community is reflected by her membership in the Polish

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Academy of Science Committees: “Poland in United Europe” (2003 – 2006) and “Ethics in Science” (2008 – present). She was awarded the title “Authority of the Year” by the Students’ Parliament of the Republic of Poland in 2009 and the Medal of KEN in 2016.

## Professor Tuovi Leppänen – Senior Lecturer, JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Teacher Education College, Jyväskylä, Finland

Ms. Tuovi Leppänen has years of experience in teaching at the University of Applied Sciences, including international teacher education, multicultural social studies, youth work and international competences. She also has 10 years’ experience in cooperation with developing countries, especially with Nepal. In ToT – Nepal project she acted as a Project Manager and teacher in specialization area adult learning and participatory methodology. She supported teacher educators of Tribhuvan University, Faculty of Education (Tu-FoE) to implement an upgrading programme for secondary education working teachers through an Open and Distance Learning (ODL) methodology.

## Prof. Shyam Krishna Maharjan, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal

Professor Maharjan has many years of experience in teaching health and physical education and population education. He has experience of material development, lecturing, project coordination and management in Nepal and internationally. In Training of Trainers (ToT – Nepal) project he has been a Project Coordinator for three years. He acted as a liaison person between Nepal and Finland, participating in the baseline study and other related activities, organizing project's workshops and meetings and supported other staff members of Tribhuvan University, Regional Campuses involving in the project implementation.

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