Feedback on 2015 HERE reports

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Content of the presentation

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HEREs 2015-2017

- **New HERE teams** nominated from the start of 2015 (groups renewed by at least 50%)

- Introduction of HERE **Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct**

- **245 HERE in** 27 Partner Countries (ex Tempus-countries)
  - 78% academics
  - 16% from ministries or governmental agencies
  - 6% students

- **Good gender balance**: 48% women
General feedback on reports

- 2015 was the **launching year of HERE activities** under Erasmus+ (with renewed teams and new service provider)
  - > Reports show an efficient start, with a wide range of activities

- **Content and quality** of the reports varied
  - > From very short reports to extremely long and detailed ones

- Some inconsistencies in terms of **what to report**
  - > Reports should focus on actual HERE activities, planned and organised by the team
Management of the HERE teams
Management of the HERE teams

• **Regular meetings** of the HERE teams, but frequency varies – from biannual to monthly meetings

• **Drafting and circulation of minutes** - not clear whether in all countries

• Some HERE teams **work in sub-groups** according to topics (Moldova, Israel)

• Internal communication via e-mail, phone, Skype, video conferences
Management of the HERE teams

Use of HERE compensations:

- Tool for rewarding for **specific activities that require an investment in time and lead to a concrete output**

- **Not accepted**: compensations for tasks that HEREs carry out in the framework of their main occupation

- Not all NEOs used the compensations
  - **better use should be made** during 2016-17
  - **reflection needed** on the usefulness of the compensations
Management of the HERE teams

Best practices:

- Russia: All individual HEREs submit an activity plan and report on their activities using a reporting template.

- Serbia: Template for suggesting events. Use of virtual task board (trello) for planning of activities.

- Kazakhstan: Use of Key Performance Indicators for assessing the involvement of individual HEREs.

- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Document "Rules and Procedures" defines the responsibilities of the chair and other HEREs.
Management of the HERE teams

Recommendations

• The activities should be based on a common planning and agreed with the national authorities.

• HERE teams should meet regularly and minutes should be systematically circulated (also to relevant stakeholders outside HERE group).

• The role of the chair should be clearly defined.

• Transparent principles for awarding compensations should be produced and communicated to HEREs.
Use of Virtual Community

Welcome to the new portal of the Higher Education Reform Experts!

The network of Higher Education Reform Experts (HEREs) is a pool of experts supporting the modernisation of higher education in countries neighbouring the EU. Their activities are financed through the Erasmus+ programme and coordinated at the local level by the National Erasmus+ Offices (NEOs).

Between January 2016 – December 2017, the SPHERE Consortium will provide training and networking activities for the HEREs, in the framework of a service contract with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission.

Latest news

22 January, 2016 - 16:36
EUA launches the Refugees Welcome Map Survey: Your initiative counts!

EUA launches the Refugees Welcome Map Survey: Your initiative counts! Practically in all European countries universities and related organisations are responding to the refugees arriving in Europe, in multiple ways – for instance by providing advice, languages courses and...
Use of Virtual Community

• **Main tool for organisation and follow-up of international events**

• **Environment for discussion** – should be used more!

• **All HEREs** should be registered (14 lacking)

• Please **put your picture**!
Use of Virtual Community

Suggestions from NEO reports:

• Short training sessions on virtual community
• Creation of virtual library
• Creation of an electronic newsletter
• Development of country pages & links to national HERE websites
• Improved search function for identifying experts
• Facilitators for discussion groups
Use of Virtual Community

Suggestions from NEO reports (continued):

• Discussions focused on a country / region
• Presentations of case studies / good practices
• Possibility to address messages to a specific person
• Allow connection with Facebook, Linkedin profiles
• Provide a section for sharing announcements and invitations to events
• Search engine or catalogue of uploaded documents
HERE participation in international events
HERE participation in international events

- **5 events** in 2015 (Istanbul, Berlin, Ghent/Brussels, Petra, Tbilisi)
- **262 "instances of participation"** by HEREs
- **169 different HEREs** attended the events (~70% of all HEREs)
- **Increasing involvement of HEREs** as speakers / workshop chairs
HERE participation in international events

Feedback from participants:

• Generally **positive feedback**

• **Suggestions** for improvement:
  • Less lectures, more time for discussion & group work
  • Involve HEREs as speakers / panellists
  • Provide materials in advance
  • Preparatory work by HEREs (e.g. in Virtual Community)
  • Organise longer events
HEREs participation in international events

Recommendations:

• **Dead-lines for nominations and for registration** need to be respected

• **Cancellations / replacements** have to be managed in a more coordinated manner:
  • HEREs must **inform their NEO and the SPHERE team** in advance in case of cancellation
  • **Replacements** possible only **if accepted by SPHERE team** (NEO sends request – HERE registers if accepted)
HERE participation in international events

Recommendations (continued):

• Evaluation forms must be filled in via the SPHERE website following each event.

• The NEO should aim for a fair/balanced participation of all HEREs (not sending the same HERE several times per year).

• Dissemination / follow-up activities should be
  • Agreed / planned in advance (e.g. events, articles, reports, recommendations to Ministry)
  • Initiated both by the individuals and the group as whole
Local HERE events
Local HERE events

3 types of events:

• Follow-up of international events
• TAMs
• Other local events

Approximately 200 events organised in 2015
Follow-up of international events

- **Most countries** organised local events as follow-up of the international events attended by HEREs

- Types of activities:
  - events at the HEREs' home institutions
  - events with larger target groups (national, regional)
  - presentations at Erasmus+ events
Follow-up of international events

Best practices:

• Series of **10 training seminars in Jordan** to present results of international events (5 focused on ICT in teaching and learning)

• **3 regional seminars in Kyrgyzstan** to present results of Istanbul seminar and Ghent/Brussels study visits

• **In Ukraine, each international event is followed-up with one or several events at local level**
Implementation of TAMs

• 1st call for proposals (February 2015)
  ➢ 54 applications received, 38 selected (from 22 NEOs)

• 2nd call for proposals (October 2015)
  ➢ 70 applications received, 54 selected (from 20 NEOs)

New approach -> 2nd deadline for selected proposals providing more details, draft programme & dates:

• 31 January for TAM in first semester (February – June)
• 1 May for TAM in second semester (July – December)
TAMs implemented in 2015

- Western Balkans: 8
- S-Mediterranean Countries: 8
- Central Asia: 5
- Caucasus: 5
- Eastern Europe & Russia: 4

**TOTAL:** 30

- Implementation started late (May)
- Majority of TAM took place in 2nd half of the year
- Some 2015 TAM postponed to 2016
## TAM Topics in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joint / Double Degrees/Programmes</td>
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<td>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation of HE system performance</td>
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<td>Doctoral Studies</td>
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<td>Teacher Education</td>
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<td>HE and Labour market</td>
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<td>Quality Assurance</td>
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<td>Research based education</td>
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TAM features

• **Scale**: 1,754 participants in 2015
• **Average size**: 63 participants / TAM
• **Level** of participant's technical competence is high
• **Type of events**: working groups (with ministry), trainings, seminars (30-50), conferences (100+)
• **Duration**: 14 x 1-day, 14 x 2-days, 2 x 1.5-day sessions
• **3 TAM** moderated jointly by two experts
• **Quality** of expert: excellent in 60% of TAM reports
TAM - Relevance

• TAM correspond to a concrete need to update and modernise the content of educational programmes

• TAM contribute to prepare legislative changes

• Adjust national development in line with Bologna process

• Adaptation of international standards

• Presence and involvement of the Ministry of Education = added value
Other local events

• Events organised **in cooperation with the Ministry of Education** or other stakeholders in higher education

• Participation of individual **HEREs as speakers** in events organised by other organisations

• Examples
  - **RU**: Information session "Structural Reforms in the European Higher Education Area" organised by the Council of Europe and the Russian Ministry of Education (involved 3 HEREs)
  - **UA**: Cluster meeting of Tempus Structural Measure projects, organised at the Ministry of Education with the presence of the HERE group members
Other local HERE activities

Examples:

- **MD**: Survey on student governance produced by one of the HEREs contributed to the drafting of institutional regulations on student governance at one of the state universities.

- **RS**: Template session "Academic Business Club Development" to connect the academic and business world, tested at the BIZIT conference to bring closer IT companies and HEIs.
Local HERE activities

Recommendations:

• Local activities should be designed as part of an annual work plan, in consultation with the Ministry of Education

• Each international event should be followed-up with dissemination activities in the Partner Countries

• Goal-oriented TAM: should be designed to achieve a concrete output (institutional/national level)
Dissemination and communication
Dissemination and communication

• More **than 80 articles / publications** produced by HEREes

• Numerous interviews on **TV / radio**

• **Best practices – publications:**
  - **UZ:** Annual publication "Perspectives of higher education development"
  - **MD:** "Current trends in higher education in Moldova"
  - **BA:** "Recognition of foreign qualifications and implementation of Lisbon Recognition Convention"
  - **UA:** "Development of higher education QA in Ukraine"
Dissemination and communication

- HERE information on NEO websites generally rather limited
- Only one HERE Facebook page identified (UZ)
- Good practice in AM: leaflet to present HERE team (with pictures and profiles)
Dissemination and communication

**Recommendations:**

- All NEO websites should contain a HERE section with information on the HEREs and their activities (including link to SPHERE website).

- Articles and publications by HEREs should include a reference to their role as Higher Education Reform Experts for the Erasmus+ programme (see NEO grant agreement I.10.3)

- More use could be made of social media for promoting HERE activities.
HERE support to National Authorities
HERE support to National Authorities

- Most HERE teams have **strong links with national education authorities**

- Cooperation includes:
  - **Meetings** with Ministry officials to plan HERE activities
  - **Reports** to Ministry officials following international HERE events
  - Involvement of HEREs as members of **working groups** dealing with legislative reforms
  - **Presentations** made by HEREs at events organised by Ministry
HERE support to National Authorities

Best practices:

- **Kyrgyzstan**: contributions by HEREs to Action Plan 2015-17 of Education Development Strategy, involvement in updating of ECTS Guidelines, production of documents for National Qualifications Framework

- **Kosovo**: substantial contribution of the HERE group to the draft law on Higher Education

- **Albania**: active involvement of HEREs in reform of the law on Higher Education
HERE support to National Authorities

Recommendations:

• A **structured cooperation** between the HERE group and the national authorities is strongly recommended (regular meetings, annual workplan)

• HEREs should **report to the Ministry** and other relevant stakeholders on the international events they attend
Thank you for your attention!