



# **HERE and their mission: Contributing to higher education reform**

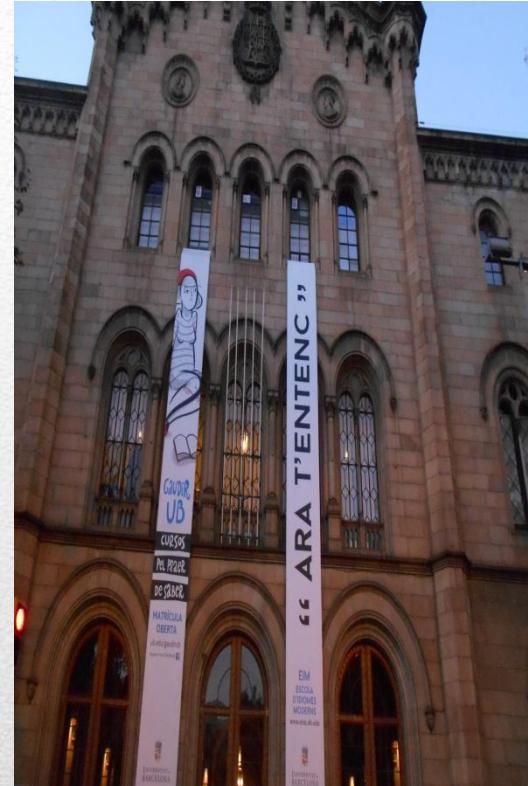
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2017

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The Seminar took place at the University of Barcelona (**Universitat de Barcelona**)

114 people from 27 countries participated in the seminar: experts (HERE's), heads of ERASMUS+ national offices, the representatives of EACEA and EUA, and SPHERE team.

About four weeks before the Conference the SPHERE team provided a set of materials that included a draft on the Analytical Framework of HE Reform. The latter briefly defined and discussed the four elements (preconditions, objectives, instruments and dimensions)



**The experts answered the questions and expressed their views on the indicated points. Based on that Prof. Ramon Torrent prepared one of the fundamental documents of the conference.**

Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) are tasked to contribute to higher education reform in their countries. But higher education reforms are complex and multifaceted processes: policy paper may be at the very start of it intended to set the process in progress. This process requires broader approaches to transfer the paper into practice. Reform processes not only have to pull together the technical expertise and the legal framework, but they also have to consider a wide range of higher education stakeholders and encourage and facilitate their proactive contribution: national ministries, higher education institutions and their members (students and staff), professional bodies and associations, NGOs, enterprises, etc.



Higher Education Reform is not an unidirectional/unidimensional process. On the basis of the existing preconditions, and in order to achieve a set of well-ordered objectives, it can follow different "roads". In order to facilitate finding the most adequate road for each country the conference discussed a "matrix of HE policy reform" that articulates:

1. Five central "dimensions" in which higher education reform can/should advance, or on which HE reform can be evaluated by:
  - i. Access/ retention/ study success
  - ii. Quality
  - iii. Employability
  - iv. Internationalization
  - v. Democratic governance and autonomy



2. Seven “instruments” that can/must be used in order to make HE policy reform advance in those dimensions:

- a) Teaching practices
- b) Staff
- c) Institutional infrastructure/technology
- d) Quality assurance
- e) Legal frameworks/ laws and regulations
- f) Finance
- g) External partners



The conference focused on the following aspects: that HERE may have very different ideas of what these dimensions and instruments actually mean; how they should be approached and how to establish the priorities among them.

These debates were an integral part of the conference agenda.

The Conference programme was full and interesting. Special interest for us were the national cases from HERE countries such as Armenia and Lebanon. (**Kristina Tsaturyan, Head of International Cooperation, Armenian State Pedagogical University** and **Ahmad Jammal, Director General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Higher Education**)



Erasmus+

Reform in Lebanese Higher Education

Ahmad JAMMAL  
Director General of Higher Education

HERE 2016 Annual Conference  
HERE & Their mission: Contributing to HE Reform  
University of Barcelona, Spain  
12-13 December, 2016



Amongst other reports I want to emphasize two reports - one is of the EUA representative Howard Davies: "Higher education reform: lessons from the Bologna Process"

where he spoke about successful interaction between the higher education of Portugal and the EUA, and the other is of the EACEA representative Piia Heinämäki: "HERE report 2015 - good practices and recommendations".



*Besides plenary sessions we have also participated in the meetings of discussion groups.*



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

