

PEER LEARNING ACTIVITY ON SHORT-CYCLE HIGHER EDUCATION

Polytechnic Institute of Porto – Presidency Services, Rua Dr. Roberto Frias, 712, Porto, Portugal

19 – 20 September, 2019

Event Programme

Thursday, 19 September 2019

Time	Item
14:30	Registration of participants
15:00	Welcome by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedro Dominginhos, the President, Council of Portuguese Polytechnics • João Rocha, the President, Polytechnic Institute of Porto • Michal Karpíšek, Secretary General, EURASHE
15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening address. High representative of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (tbc)
16:00	Introduction of the concept of the reversed peer learning activity within EURASHE agenda. Michal Karpíšek, Secretary General, EURASHE
16:30	Coffee break
16:50	Setting the scene. Presentation of the Short-cycle higher education situation in Portugal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the role and development of short-cycle higher education in Portugal. João Queiroz, the Director-General for Higher Education in Portugal • General situation and position of short-cycle higher education in Europe. Jean-Philippe Restoueix, expert, Council of Europe <p>Discussion</p>
18:00	End of the day
18:30	The conference reception, Location TBC

Friday, 20 September 2019

Time	Item
9:30	Welcome and summary of the first day, Armando Pires, EURASHE Vice-President, CCISP
9:50	Presentation of the Portuguese situation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional experience – role of short-cycle higher education, its specifics, challenges. Speaker TBC • Experience with short-cycle higher education and challenges from the business perspective. Paulo Almeida, Deloitte • Students' view. Student representative (tbc)
10:50	Coffee break
11:20	Response of international experts reflecting on the addressed themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean-Philippe Restoueix, expert, Council of Europe. Focus on profile and role of SCHE within the changing environment, recognition agenda • Jim Murray, Deputy CEO and Director of Academic Affairs, THEA, Ireland. Focus on a role and quality assurance of short-cycle higher education within the diversified higher education landscape. • Alicia-Leonor Sauli-Miklavčič, expert, Slovene Association of Higher Vocational Colleges, EURASHE Board member. Focus on institutional experience and methods of learning. <p>Discussion</p>
12:20	Introduction of the smaller discussion groups on various topics
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Group discussion groups on following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role, profile and position of SCHE within higher education (Jean-Philippe Restoueix) • Quality assurance and recognition of SCHE within higher education system (Jim Murray) • SCHE methods of learning including work-based learning elements, engagement with stakeholders (Alicia-Leonor Sauli-Miklavčič)
15:00	Coffee break
15:30	Briefing from the workshops & discussion
16:00	Reflection from the Portuguese side (TBC)
16:20	Reflection of the international experts
16:40	Final discussion
16:50	Conclusions, Michal Karpíšek, EURASHE
17:00	End of the event

Background of the activity

A reversed peer-learning approach allows EURASHE to support its members' discussions on role and various aspects of mission of PHE, on Bologna process and their reflection in national policies. It builds upon a national background paper indicating the key issues and concerns within the specific area selected by the hosting organisation (most likely the national association of institutes of professional higher education), their reflection from the view of international experts and workshop discussions among the local and international participants.

The expected outcome is a set of comments and conclusions which may serve for further national debate and policy work, yet also enhanced understanding of the relevant issues within the international community.

Expected scope of the event is about 80 participants bringing together representatives of professional higher education from the country and abroad, international experts and other relevant key actors from the hosting country (ministry, quality assurance agencies, higher education community including students, world of work...).

Focus of the activity

The event co-organised together with the Council of Portuguese Polytechnics (CCISP) with the support of the Portuguese Ministry of Higher Education and Science and Polytechnic Institute of Porto will focus at their request on **various aspects of short-cycle higher education** with emphasis on the following issues:

- Mission, role and objectives of SCHE, reflecting world of work and specific learners' groups needs,
- Quality assurance in SCHE, approach, tools and impact on recognition within higher education
- Pedagogy with emphasis on practical aspects, work-based learning and cooperation with world of work.

Short-cycle higher education – and in a wider context qualifications at the level 5 of the European Qualifications Framework – is one of the most dynamically developing segments of higher/tertiary education in Europe. This type of education provides various opportunities - it serves as another, important channel for enhances access to higher education, quite often for learners from non-traditional background; it provides a bridge to higher qualifications, yet also offers special, targeted professional qualification for a narrow range of specific, relatively high-qualified jobs. It may serve as a strong building stone of life-long learning agenda addressing people how to seek for up- and re-skilling within their development of competences, profile and attractiveness at the labour market. Due to its specific professional profile, the very close engagement with the world of work is usually much stronger than it is used in higher education in general. Due to the variability of missions, but also due to much colourful range of providers, there are various expectations as regards profile, characteristics, key features of learning provisions within the short-cycle higher education – and even more when considering the complexity of various provisions at EQF level 5. There has been little evidence of the development at European level, although various institutions (European Commission, Cedefop, European Training Foundation, Council of Europe, EURASHE, ...) contributed with their views and studies.

The short-cycle has been systemically incorporated into the Bologna structures over the past year. The Dublin descriptors within the Qualifications Framework of European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

include specific descriptors for the higher education short-cycle¹. After calling for development of tools and mechanisms for recognition of short-cycle higher education in previous communiques, the responsible ministers of EHEA countries adopted at their meeting in Paris on May 2018 within their final Paris communique² the short cycle qualifications as a stand-alone qualification level within the overarching Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area.

While the introduction of the respective qualification within higher education is not obligatory for the EHEA countries, there has been definitely a growing attention to its potential, profile, role and links to other qualification levels, as well as consideration how to integrate the short-cycle higher education provisions within general higher education structures and tools including quality assurance and recognition.

The lessons learnt from the Portuguese situation may contribute to such debate, yet the event is expected to provide international view to Portuguese hosts at the same time.

Speakers

Jim Murray

Deputy CEO and Director of Academic Affairs, THEA

Dr. Jim Murray is a historian by training, and has worked previously as an archivist in the UK's National Archives (1990-95); in university administration in Dublin City University (1995-2003); and in the areas of quality assurance and qualifications in the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (2003-11). He is currently Deputy CEO and Director of Academic Affairs in THEA, the representative and advocacy body for Ireland's technological higher education institutions. As Director of Academic Affairs he supports member institutions in driving improvement and innovation across their academic offering, opening up access to higher education, influencing and shaping the academic policy and quality agendas at the national level, and advocating for and supporting the development and reconfiguration of the technological higher education sector, as the IoTs progress towards redesignation as technological universities.

João Queiroz

Director-General for Higher Education in Portugal

João Queiroz is Director-General for Higher Education in Portugal since 2014 and is a full Professor of Biochemistry/Biotechnology at the University of Beira Interior.

He was President of Faculty of Health Sciences from 2002 to 2009, Scientific Coordinator of CICS-UBI – Health Sciences Research Centre from 2003 to 2009 and Rector of University of Beira Interior from 2009 to 2013. He was member of the Executive Committee of the Foundation of Portuguese Universities and member of the Permanent Committee of the Council of Rectors of the Portuguese Universities. He is currently the Coordinator of the Monitoring Committee of the CTeSP – the Portuguese Short-Cycle Higher Education and President of the Commission for the Recognition of Foreign Degrees and Diplomas. He is a member of GRAN – Group of Representatives of the National Authority for the Erasmus+ programme, member of the Board of the Fulbright Portugal programme, member of the

¹ http://www.ehea.info/media.ehea.info/file/WG_Frameworks_qualification/71/0/050218_QF_EHEA_580710.pdf, pg. 66

² http://www.ehea.info/Upload/document/ministerial_declarations/EHEAParis2018_Communique_final_952771.pdf

Coordinating Council of Higher Education of Portugal and Coordinator of the Portuguese representation in BFUG-Bologna follow-up Group.

Jean Philippe Restoueix

Administrator, Council of Europe

Jean Philippe RESTOUEIX is 56 years old. Since 1994, he is administrator within the Council of Europe firstly in the Youth department and since 2007 within the Education department. Within the Education Department, he is co-secretary of the Lisbon Recognition Convention including the ENIC NARIC networks. He represents the Council of Europe within the « European Qualifications Framework Life Long Learning/EQF LLL » Advisory Group. He was and is member of several working groups, peer group of the Bologna Process.

Alicia-Leonor Sauli-Miklavčič

Board member of EURASHE

Alicia-Leonor Sauli-Miklavčič is a good connoisseur of international professional higher education, she has been Project Expert at the Slovene Association HVC as well as a member of the EURASHE working group on Employability & Lifelong Learning. She was one of the partners in the L5-Missing Link project, and is one of the experts for the Short Cycle Higher Education in Europe publication as well as one of the partners in the HAPHE project. In November 2012 she organised and chaired the first HAPHE conference for South-Eastern Europe and in April 2012 co-organised and chaired the Bologna Seminar on Learning Outcomes in Ljubljana (Slovenia). Alicia-Leonor Sauli-Miklavčič established the first Slovene ERASMUS Placement Consortium, the Slovene ERASMUS PHE Alumni Club and ERASMUS PHE Teacher & Staff Club and as an ERASMUS co-ordinator at Wood Technology School, Higher Vocational College (School Centre Maribor) contributed to the its selection for Erasmus Success Stories 2012 by the European Commission. She possesses good command of English, German, Croatian and Spanish. She has been elected to the Board of EURASHE for a 2-year mandate in 2016.

Target group:

Ca 80 representatives from the country and abroad PHE institutions

Fees & registrations:

- The event is free of charge.
- Please register [here](#) by 11 September 2019. Successful registration will be confirmed by a separate e-mail.