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Enabling HERE Teams and their impact on policy making

HERE Annual Conference, 4-5December 2023, University of Barcelona

HERE team in Montenegro

- Established with the **Decision of Ministry of Education** on December 2022
- At the beginning consisted of 13 members, latter 2 members withdraw
- Members including **representatives of**:
  - **Ministry of Education** (General Director for the Higher Education)
  - **HEIs management** (Vice Rector for International Cooperation of University of Montenegro and General Manager of University of Donja Gorica)
  - **Academic staff from 4 ME HEIs** (Faculty of Philosophy UoM, Faculty of Metallurgy and Technology UoM, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences UoM, Faculty of Economics UoM, Faculty of Electrical Engineering UoM, University of Donja Gorica, University Adriatic Bar, University Mediterranean)
  - **Students Parliaments from 2 ME HEIs** (University of Montenegro and University of Donja Gorica
- New and older HERE team members (2 older HERE team members and 11 new)

HERE team work plan

- A draft proposed by the President of the HERE team in Montenegro in cooperation with NEO since the initial HERE-NEO meetings,
- Discussed and agreed upon with the HERE team members,
- Latter reviewed in accordance with the new SPHERE form received,
- Defined priorities, objectives, link with EU policies, activities, TAMs, follow up TAM activities, expected outcomes of activities, etc.

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HERE team work plan

Priorities defined

Strengthening and modernization of the framework of higher education through the use of European good practice

Exploring technologies for the massive incorporation of blended/hybrid learning accompanied by management change rather than resilience

Lessons learned: Reviewing the quality assurance system in higher education

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HERE team work plan

Planned TAMs

1. Intellectual property rights and copyright at the institution of Higher Education

2. Digital teaching and learning or teaching and learning in digital learning environment

3. Plagiarism in Higher Education - awareness, threats and consequences

A year after: review of HERE team activities during 2023

- Generally speaking, the HERE performance was subject to SPHERE delays,
- Since the establishment of HERE (end of year 2022), totally **7 HERE-NEO team meetings** took place,
- After the explanation of the HERE mandate, the meetings aimed at agreeing upon the key priorities of higher education system that would be addressed by HERE, the annual HERE publication and the topics of the journal articles of HERE team, potential activities that could tackle such topics of relevance, definition of mechanisms on how to increase the visibility and impact of HERE activities, discussion and agreeing upon the HERE annual work plan as well as the TAM seminars,
- A new HERE edition of publication **"Reforms inside – Issue 4"** has been developed and published

A year after: review of HERE team activities during 2023

- Topic tackled in the new HERE edition of publication **“Reforms inside – Issue 4”:**
- „**Will my art degree be valued in the system?“ The employment challenges for graduate artists**, Sara Arianna Serhatlic, University of Montenegro
- “**Green Education for Higher Economy: Achieving Green Economy and Sustainable Development through Education**”, Prof. dr Saša Popović, University of Montenegro
- “**Inclusive higher Education in Montenegro**” Prof. Mira Vukčević, University of Montenegro
- “**Linking teaching, learning, and research in higher education**” Prof. Dijana Vučković, University of Montenegro
- “**Globalization and Brain Drain - Market Nature or a Crawling Peril?”** Danilo Bulatović, Danilo Popović, University of Donja Gorica
- “**Higher Education: Flexibility, Open Innovation And Entrepreneurship**” Prof. Sandra Đurović, University Adriatic

A year after: review of HERE team activities during 2023

- No HERE local activity has been organized yet,
- Participation of ME HERE team members at the Online HERE Network Meeting (September 2023) and SPHERE seminar “Towards the 2024 Tirana Ministerial Conference: Implications and points of interest for higher education systems in Partner Countries neighbouring the EU” (Sarajevo, November 2023)

Upcoming HERE events

TAM “Plagiarism in Higher Education - awareness, threats and consequences”

HERE roundtable “University autonomy in Montenegro: current state, upcoming challenges and potential possibilities”

HERE challenges

- HERE status - their voluntarily based work affecting their motivation,
- Governmental changes and the continuous institutional blocking procedures in the higher education landscape,
- Key issues pending: the adoption of the Law on Higher Education and the Strategy for the Development of Higher Education,
- Lack of the needed support from the decision and policymaking authorities,
- Lack of confidence among HERE team members in national authorities and that they can impact the policy system
- Some topics underrepresented

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How to foster their impact in the future?

- Disseminate the HERE expertise as much as possible during NEO promotional activities and cooperation activities and meetings with national authorities,
- Raise awareness on the importance of HERE team especially among the Ministry of Education, and encourage them to recognize their importance by involving them in working groups when developing national strategic frameworks,
- Include HERE team members in thematic events organized by NEO,
- Encourage HERE team members to communicate their HERE activities organized at the local and international level with the university management to gain the proper institutionalization of their activities,
- Disseminate the HERE activities reports, conclusions and recommendations with all the relevant stakeholders,
- Maintain regular communication and organize frequent meetings with HERE team in order to keep them interested,

How to foster their impact in the future?

- Involve HERE members in Ministry WGs
- Involve WB HERE members in WB PET platform
- More responsibility and ownership should be given to the ministries
- More ownership given to HERE in terms of planning
- Clear link with BFUG members should be made
- Work more on local level
- Come up with creative ideas!

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Impact at personal level: cultural aspects
Did you have prejudices about the nation and culture of the hosting country prior to mobility period?
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UCG

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Thank you for your attention!

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