European Commission

Higher education policy reform for Impact HERE Annual Conference

4-5 December - Barcelona

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SPHERE
Centralised Support to the Network of Higher Education Reform Experts

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HERE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY
REFORM FOR IMPACT

About

The Annual Conference of the Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) is an important element of community building, networking, practice sharing and reflection for this action. HERE are nominated by their governments in EU Neighbourhood countries and appointed by the European Commission to play a catalytic role in inspiring higher education reform. They are also provided with training opportunities by SPHERE (Centralised Support for Higher Education Reform Experts) related to higher education policy trends and opportunities in the EU and the European Higher Education Area.

Objectives

The objectives of the 2023 Annual Conference are:

- Provide a space for reflection and assessment related to the re-launch of the SPHERE contract in 2023, notably in relation to the policy topics identified and the types of events and activities organised.
- Provide a specific focus on the topic of greening in higher education, presenting and discussing the preliminary results of a study that SPHERE has been requested to produce by the European Commission.
- Offer an information and practice sharing space for current reform priorities linked to the HERE Team annual work plans, as well as a space for promoting relevant EU projects connected to these reforms.
- Forecast the 2024 SPHERE work plan and overarching theme and assess the interests and needs of the HERE.

Venue and contact information

The HERE Annual Conference will tale place at the University of Barcelona.
Address: Gran via de Les Corts Catalanes, 585, 08007 Barcelona

For details and queries regarding the programme and event, please contact Nicole Font, SPHERE Project Manager, nfont@obreal.org

AGENDA

Monday, 4 December 2023

Room: Aula Magna

Time	Session	
08:00 - 09:00	**Registration and Welcome Coffee**	
09:00 - 09:45	**Welcome and introduction session**	
	Elizabeth Colucci	SPHERE Team (Chair)
	Filip Van Depoele	Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission (Online)
	Michael Gaebel	SPHERE Team
	Representative of the Rector of the University of Barcelona	
09:45 - 10:20	**Keynote 1: Innovation and digitalisation of learning and the impacts on internationalisation**	
	Elizabeth Colucci	SPHERE Team (Chair)
10:20 – 11:15	**Panel 1: Innovation and digitalisation of learning and the impacts on internationalisation**	
	Elizabeth Colucci	SPHERE Team (Chair)
	Maria Ceropita	HERE Moldova
	Mira Vukčević	HERE Montenegro
	Q&A - Discussion	
11:15 – 11:45	**Coffee Break**	
11:45 – 13:00	**Panel 2: Protracted impacts of the Covid-19 crisis: What has transformed and what has remained the same**	
	Nicolas Patrici	SPHERE Team (Chair)
	Joan Guàrdia	Rector of the University of Barcelona (Keynote 2)
	Mirlan Chynybaev	HERE Kyrgyzstan
	Khadija Hariri	HERE Morocco
	Q&A - Discussion	
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch Break**	

14:00 - 15:30	**Keynote 3: Flexibilisation of learning, micro-credentials and the role of universities**		
	Michael Gaebel	SPHERE Team (Chair)	
	Mitchell Peters	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)	
	Svetlanta Sirmbard	HERE Kyrgyzstan	
	Q&A - Discussion		
15:30 - 16:00	**Plenary 1: Preliminary findings of the SPHERE Study in Greening in HE**		
	Howard Davies	SPHERE Team	
16:00	**Official Photo**		
16:30	**Guided tour: Explore the Historic Building of the University of Barcelona**		
20:00	**Dinner offered by SPHERE Team. Flamant Restaurant. Carrer d'Enric Granados, 23, 08007 Barcelona**		

End of day 1

Tuesday, 5 December 2023

The second day will start with the breakout rooms. The distribution list will be available at the registration desk, and the SPHERE team will guide you to each room.

08:00 - 09:00	**Registration**		
09:00 - 10:30	**Breakout sessions: Debating the findings of the SPHERE Study on Greening**		
	Howard Davies	SPHERE Team	Break out 1: Room Aula Magna
	Elizabeth Colucci	SPHERE Team	Break out 2: Room Ramon i Cajal
	Nicole Font	SPHERE Team	Break out 3: Room Gabriel Oliver
10:30 - 11:00	**Coffee break**		
11:00 - 11:30	**Reports from the breakout groups** Room: Aula Magna		
	Elizabeth Colucci	SPHERE Team (Chair)	

11:30 - 12:00	**Introduction session: Trends in HERE Work Programmes**	
	Elizabeth Colucci	SPHERE Team
12:00 - 13:00	**Panel 3: Enabling HERE Teams and their impact on policy making**	
	Howard Davies	SPHERE Team (Chair)
	Franco Burgio	EACEA
	Chafic Mokbel	HERE Lebanon
	Olena Koziievska	HERE Ukraine
	Vanja Drljević	NEO Montenegro
	Q&A - Discussion	
13:00 - 14:00	**Lunch Break**	
14:00 -15:45	**Plenary 2: European Education Area and implications for international partnerships**	
	Nicolas Patrici	SPHERE Team (Chair)
	David Crosier	Eurydice, EACEA (Online)
	Q&A	
	Panel discussion: Policies and implications for HERE countries. Small group discussions and reactions from:	
	Michael Gaebel	SPHERE Team
	Franco Burgio	EACEA
15:45 - 16:00	**Closing Words**	
	Nicolas Patrici	SPHERE Team (Chair)
	Joan Guàrdia	Rector. Unversity of Barcelona
	Michael Gaebel	SPHERE Team

End of the conference