

Highlights from EURASHE July-September 2020

PAST EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Conclusions from EURASHE's Campaign #PHEresponse to COVID-19

In early April 2020, EURASHE launched the campaign “#PHEresponse to COVID-19”, where we have been sharing the best practices from higher education institutions, interviews with our members’ leaders and series of webinars under the title “PHE@Home Info Days”. Based on the campaign results and feedback received from the members, the online platform “PHE@Home Club” was opened once a week to all EURASHE members who wanted to share, learn, discuss and update themselves on how to respond in a systematic, structured and effective way to such challenges in the future thus keeping the quality standards high.

During the summer, the Council of Europe invited EURASHE to share the main results and conclusion from the online campaign and, on 12 August 2020, the article “Mirror, mirror on the wall” written by Dovilė Sandaraitė, Communications and Policy Manager and Michal Karpíšek, Secretary General of EURASHE, and was published in the organisation’s website. The article presented the main findings from EURASHE’s online campaign “#PHEresponse to COVID-19”, providing an insight of how European professional higher education was addressing the challenges brought by the health crisis, with a particular focus on teaching and learning activities, work-based learning, mobility, and what is next to come for the sector in a post-COVID world. What we learned is that, although it’s too early to say whether and how the current pandemic may change the sector, PHE institutions will have to adapt or create digital institutional strategies that will allow them to swiftly react to any raising opportunity and challenge. Maintaining a special relationship with the world of work will also be a crucial point in order to ensure work-based learning activities, which are the core of any professional orientated higher education institution. Finally, while many institutions were able to deliver well remotely, there is a growing need to better define what quality in online education is and develop new ways to address quality delivery in line with European Standards and Guidelines (ESG). The full article is available [here](#).

More about the #PHEresponse to COVID-19 campaign can be found [here](#).

Webinar ‘Internationalisation of Research and Innovation: where European and global experiences meet’ 23 June 2020, online

EURASHE, together with its member CEU Andalucía, organised the webinar “Internationalisation of Research and Innovation: where European and global experiences meet” on 23 June 2020, inviting representatives from the European Commission, professional higher education institutions – hereafter PHE – and the world of work to share opportunities and experiences in the field of international cooperation in Research & Innovation.

The discussion was launched by Alejandro Zurita, R&I Counsellor for Brazil at the Delegation of the EU to Brazil who gave an overview of the main cooperation activities between the Union and the Latin American country, underlying the added value that third countries like Brazil bring to European research and innovation. His presentation was followed by Rita Lecbychova, Head of Unit “International Cooperation I

(Europe, Americas and thematic coherence)” of the European Commission who presented the forthcoming Horizon Europe programme and the new features it will introduce.

Representatives from the world of work and the professional higher education sector were then invited to share their success story in the field of international cooperation.

All the speakers agreed that after the COVID-19 crisis, Europe needs to continue to be open to the world. International cooperation in the field of research and innovation remains crucial to find a common response to global challenges. We therefore need to enhance international cooperation opportunities and organise them in a more strategic and focused way, based on common interests and mutual benefits, but always being guided by European principles and values.

The recording of the discussion is available [here](#). The report of the event is [here](#).

Feedback on the European Research Area (ERA) roadmap

On the 6th of July 2020, the European Commission opened a public consultation on the European Research Area (ERA) roadmap, inviting European citizens, civil organisations and all the main stakeholders to send their feedback on the initiative, which will feed into the ERA Communication planned for autumn 2020. The forthcoming Communication will aim, in particular, at relaunching and revitalising the ERA, in order to make it future-proof and better able to address the major challenges of the digital and green transition, together with increasing Europe’s resilience following the Covid-19 crisis.

EURASHE took part in the consultation with a feedback that outlined the opportunity to integrate a renewed ERA to the European Education Area (EEA), with the aim of mutually reinforce them and bring down the barriers that prevent the realisation of a broader European knowledge strategy.

The full text of EURASHE’s feedback can be downloaded [here](#).

Webinar “Quality in Work-Based Learning: the way to maximise the value of Professional Higher Education”, 27 August 2020, Zoom

EURASHE organised the webinar “Quality in Work-based Learning: the way to maximise the value of Professional Higher Education” on 27 of August 2020 on Zoom, inviting representatives from the European Commission, professional higher education institutions – hereafter PHE – and the world of work to discuss the recent policy developments on the employability and Work-based Learning (WBL) with particular focus on the facilitation of apprenticeships in EHEA. The webinar also played the multiplier role for the ERASMUS+ KA2 project “Mainstreaming Procedures for Quality Apprenticeships in Educational Organizations and Enterprises – ApprenticeshipQ” of which EURASHE is partner.

The discussion was opened by Norbert Schöbel, DG EMPL, who introduced the participants to the most recent policy developments from the European Commission, among all the Youth Employment Support package and the renewed Skills. His presentation was followed by Vaidotas Viliunas, EURASHE, who presented the ApprenticeshipQ project’s objectives and outcomes, in particular the two Manuals developed by the project consortium to support HVET institutions and SMEs in the creation of quality apprenticeships schemes.

Partners of the ApprenticeshipQ projects and representatives of the students’, QA agencies’ and business’ perspective were then invited to join a panel discussion and share their views and experience on the topic as well as a feedback on the two Manuals developed by the project.

The recording of the discussion is available [here](#). More information about the ApprenticeshipQ project can be found [here](#).

FUTURE EVENTS

Series of webinars on the topic of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in the framework of the “RPL in practice” project, October 2020, online

EURASHE, together with its partners from the [RPL in practice \(RPLip\) project](#), is organising a series of webinars planned for the month of October 2020.

The online event will be composed of two webinars, respectively with a focus on “why validation?” and “how to validate?”, and will feature best practice examples from representatives of higher education institutions involved in the project as well as panel discussions with representatives from European institutions and other organisation currently active in the field of RPL. During the webinar, the main outcomes of the RPLip project will also be presented.

The final dates of the event and the link to register will be communicated soon. Please follow news about this event on our website [here](#).

Series of webinars on the engagement of Universities of Applied Sciences in regional Smart Specialisation Strategies, autumn 2020/winter 2021, online

Smart Specialisation Strategies – hereafter S3 – represent a unique opportunity for European regions to tackle societal and technological challenges, allowing their economies to adapt to the growing competitive environment. Bringing together all the relevant business, research, education and public actors, S3 help to identify the region’s own strengths and comparative assets, prioritise research and innovation investment in competitive areas, and define a shared vision for regional innovation.

EURASHE, as the European representation of professional higher education institutions, strongly advocates for the inclusion of Universities of Applied Sciences – hereafter UAS – in the development and implementation of regional S3. Through their profile as regional “boundary spanners” and their applied research and lifelong learning activities, UAS actively support and contribute to the competitiveness and innovation capacity of their regions and could therefore provide a crucial input and experience in all the different phases of the design of S3: from developing a shared vision and identifying the regional priorities, to implementing the action plan and monitoring and evaluating the results achieved.

Objective of the series of webinars is to discuss, together with experts from European institutions and regional authorities and representatives of Universities of Applied Sciences, the potential role of PHE institutions in the design and implementation of regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

The final dates of the event and the link to register will be communicated soon. Please follow news about this event on our website [here](#).

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