



PORTUGAL 2007

Lisbon Research and Policy Workshops  
on  
“Science, Technology and Social Change”

**Workshop 3**

**Revisiting polytechnic and vocational education?  
...Looking at the complex nature of diversified higher education systems and  
their relation with new challenges in science, technology and social change**

**Date: 15-16 October 2007**

Venue: Portuguese Communications Foundation, Museu das Comunicações, Lisbon

In the last thirty years we have witnessed the development of a number of non-university tertiary education institutions at national levels, namely the French “IUT”, the Dutch “HBO”, the German and Austrian “Fachhochschulen”, the Finnish and Portuguese “polytechnics”, the Swiss “Universities of Applied Sciences”, as well as distance education centres and open universities. In some countries student enrolment in these institutions may even surpass student enrolment in universities. Vocational and professional training is taking on new forms in different countries, including the establishment of new institutions and branches abroad, such as franchising educational programs. What implications at a national level of a binary system between universities and polytechnics? Are the identities, tasks and challenges defined differently for universities and polytechnics?

Most of the issues associated with the questions above have been considered at national and regional levels aiming to foster a diversified higher education system for an increasingly diversified population with access to higher education, as well as to facilitate more flexible and viable forms of teaching and learning. At the same time, the labour market is requesting specific skills and competencies from the labour force, which require training institutions and programs closely developed with the labour market and claiming for a more flexible arm of higher education. But this leads to new questions. How to identify labour market needs and how to provide the necessary skills, qualifications and technical know-how? Are non-university tertiary education institutions more regionally specific institutions and consequently in a better capacity to detect the needs of local industry and promote local and regional clusters of innovation?

Overall, one may question if we can rely in polytechnic and vocational education to enlarge the knowledge base and train the labour force, while the university system focus on research and the diffusion of new knowledge? But this leads to other questions related to equity and equality of higher education. What is the role of the polytechnics in promoting social opportunities? How to ensure that polytechnics are not viewed as a second choice for those who do not get into a university or for those with less economic means?

In order to address this broad set of questions, the workshop has been designed under the hypothesis that the mission and objective of non-university tertiary education institutions requires to be examined from a comparative and international perspective, namely at a broad European level. The goal is to discuss the need and opportunity for clarifying European reference terms for professional and vocational education, so that the institutional integrity of non-university tertiary education institutions is preserved and socially valued. Are polytechnics prepared to meet these strategic challenges? Are polytechnics equipped to undertake strategic planning exercises, to assess internal strengths and weaknesses, to define their mission, market niche and medium-term development objectives along with plans to achieve them?

The discussion will be oriented towards actions aiming to guarantee the highest European standards for non-university higher education, promoting their social and economic relevance and the change and adoption of best practices in polytechnics and related schools, to make them recognize and respond to new challenges and opportunities in Europe. In this context, the discussion should consider potential long-term collaborations among non-university higher education institutions in Europe, involving the following dimensions:

- Design and implementation of joint degree programmes (mainly first Bologna cycle);
- Student exchange and implementation of joint international projects for students, involving local companies in different countries/regions;
- Faculty exchange for joint curriculum development (mainly “short” and first Bologna cycles, including post-secondary education) and the design of teaching and learning methodologies;
- Planning and implementation of joint projects with local companies and other social and economic actors in different countries/regions, in a way to allow the integration of faculty and students in joint and international applied research activities with local relevance;
- For the performing arts, involving professional partners and public or private institutions for artistic activities and performances;

## Monday, October 15, 2007

*Registration: 15:30*

### *Session 1: 16:00-19:00*

Chair and introduction: Manuel Heitor, MCTES, PT

Invited Speakers:

- Ulrich Teichler, University of Kassel, D
- Jussi Valimaa, University of Jyväskylä, FIN

Initial Discussion by:

Abrar Hasan, UNESCO

Francisco Madelino, President, IEF, PT

*19:00 - Visit to the Portuguese Communications Foundation  
Reception and Dinner*

## Tuesday, October 16, 2007

### *Session 2: 9:30-11:00*

Chair: Teresa Patricio, MCTES

Invited Speakers:

- Jon File, CHEPS, U. Twente, NL
- Günther Schulz, President, Lauditz University of Applied Sciences, D

Initial Discussion by:

João Sebastião, CIES, ISCTE, PT

João Orvalho, ESEC-IPC, PT

Luis Soares, IP Porto

*Coffee Break: 11:00-11:30*

### *Session 3: 11:30-13:00*

Chair: Alberto Amaral, CIPES, PT

Invited Speakers:

- Elsa Hackl, University of Vienna, AU
- Ronan Stéphane, Director, l' Université de Technologie de Compiègne, F

Initial Discussion by:

Pedro Teixeira, CIPES, PT

João Francisco\*, IP Setúbal

Rui Pulido Valente, IP Portalegre

*Lunch: 13:00-14:00*

### *Session 4: 14:00-16:30*

Chair: Jean-Pierre Contzen, B

Invited Speakers:

- Julius von Ingelheim, Ferdinand Schultz, VW Autoeuropa, Palmela PT
- Maria L. Machado, Rui Santiago, José B. Ferreira, CIPES & U. Aveiro, PT
- Abrar Hasan, UNESCO

Initial Discussion by:

Carlos Seabra, SIMOLDES, PT

João Sobrinho Teixeira, President, IP Bragança

Closing: Manuel Heitor, MCTES, PT

*Reception: 17:00*

*\* To be confirmed*