



EUROPEAN UNION

An Observatory of the European Higher Education Sector

Why? What? How?

Benedetto LEPORI | EHESO Scientific Director

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Higher education

Why? The policy context

Higher Education Institutions as lighthouses of the European way of life

- Key actors for achieving public goals (equity, inclusion employment, economic development, SDG) and European values (democracy, cohesion)
- Under pressure in a tight economic landscape and global competition

European and national policies have a key role in sustaining HEIs' role

- Policies and public debates need to be informed by data, indicators relevant for these questions, and analyses
- Beyond a 'market'-based data and indicators system

Why? The data context

A tradition of data and indicators to compare countries (EUROSTAT; OECD)

- Still highly relevant, but does not address growing HEI diversity and the creation of a European higher education

The emergence of HEI-level data (ETER and U-Multirank projects)

- First complete picture of HEIs in Europe, but key dimensions not covered (digital and green transition)

New data from international databases (patents, publications) and specific projects (EUROSTUDENT, EUROGRADUATE)

- Growing availability of data, but limited interoperability and sometimes availability

Why? The needs

Data not interoperable (for example lacking common identifiers)

- Harmonize and standardize data at different granularity levels (EU, country, HEI, study field)

Data on different platforms, with different formats, and licensing conditions

- Improve data accessibility to users through a one-stop shop platform

Data too complex for many users and to serve policy needs

- Mobilize data to develop indicators and analytical tools providing specific views

What? EHESO goals



A supporting initiative to the European Strategy for Universities



Leverage on existing data and data tools to develop a set of tools to: a) Assess the achievement of the ES4U goals b) Allow scholars, institutional managers, students to be able to benchmark HEIs in Europe and c) Provide integrated data access for users, such as policy analysis and scholars



Integrate, streamline and enhance data sources on European Higher Education on a single data platform

What? Tools serving diverse user needs



Comparing national systems: the European Higher Education Sector Scoreboard (> next presentation)



Finding and comparing similar HEIs by dimension: the new EHESO Benchmarking Tool (summer 2005)



Developing a Student Observatory (2026)



Analytical reports and data analysis (see later in this conference)



Strategic Transformation Toolbox

What? Data access

Data access is core for

- Advanced data analysis (also by policy analysts)
- Data quality and methodological development
- Transparency and trust

Provide a one-step access point to data and indicators

- At the country, HEI and, possibly, field level

Allow for interoperability through stable identifiers and matching tables

- To build an open system that can be enriched over time

How? A stepwise approach



Build on the legacy data and tools from ETER and U-MULTIRANK



Introduce a new identity: European Observatory on the NPP website



Develop new tools (Country-level Scoreboard)



Integrate new data sources & new data collections: country-level indicators released with the Scoreboard and New releases of micro-data in March (publications, patents) & September (data from the institutional survey)

How? Current main data sources



Official statistics (EUROSTAT), country-level



HEI-level statistical data: ETER data collection from national statistical authorities



Information from an HEI institutional survey



Student and graduates' surveys at the European level (EUROSTUDENT & EUROGRADUATE)



Data from international databases (publications, patents, EU projects).

How? Engaging stakeholders

Involvement of Stakeholders key to EHESO

- Providing advice on methodological choices, tool design, cooperating in data collection and analysis
- Institutional stakeholders (OECD, EUROSTAT, EUA), country representatives, scholars, institutional managers, student representatives, initiatives such as EUROGRADUATE, EUROSTUDENT, EQAR
- Through EHESO Policy & Strategy Advisory Board and working groups

This conference is also meant to give you a voice, provide feedback and identify new needs!