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Updates on UNESCO-CEPES activities for BFUG, Helsinki 12-13 October 2006

In May 2006, UNESCO-CEPES together with the Institute of Higher Education Policy in Washington D.C., and the CHE - Centre for Higher Education Development in Gütersloh, organized a Second Meeting of IREG (International Ranking Expert Group). One of the main achievements of the meeting was the elaboration of the *Berlin Principles on Higher Education Institutions Ranking*, a document [see www.cepes.ro] which sets out a common and accepted framework for the elaboration and dissemination of rankings, whether they are national, regional or global in scope. UNESCO-CEPES, in collaboration with its partners, is currently assisting development of ranking methodologies in compliance with the Berlin Principles (e.g. Romania and Ukraine). The selected papers presented at the meeting will be published in No. 1, 2007 volume of the review *Higher Education in Europe*.

In the context of follow-up of the International Seminar on *Contractual Regulations and Institutional Practices related to "First Place of Employment" and Additional Teaching/Research/Consultancy Contracts of Academic Staff*, organised by UNESCO-CEPES in collaboration with the Observatory of the Magna Charta Universitatum (October 2005, Berlin, Germany), UNESCO-CEPES is finalizing papers selected for a publication in No. 3, 2006 volume of the review *Higher Education in Europe* reflecting the topics discussed at the meeting, among them:

- Staff recruitment and employment in higher education - formal procedures, criteria and practices of staff recruitment; contractual arrangements: duties, responsibilities and benefits; incentives for academic and professional development;
- Multiple employment issues and additional sources of revenue – the phenomenon of multiple roles and/or multiple employment (within and outside universities) related to: teaching; teaching and research, consulting services, participation in governing boards, etc.; regulations and practices related to additional remunerations and benefits, including those related to intellectual property rights and patents;
- Changing patterns of institutional governance and the academic collegiate model; civic engagement and value systems regarding issues related to academic integrity, academic freedom and academic career patterns.

Recently, UNESCO-CEPES initiated a project on *Demographic Trends and Life Cycles Changes: Their Impact on Policy and Functioning of Higher Education Institutions in Europe*, the main objectives of which are:

- To contribute to policy debate on the impact of demographic shifts and [observed in a majority of the European countries] and migration on higher education;
- To conduct an analysis of the current and future demographic developments in selected countries (including Poland, Romania, Hungary, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, the Baltic States, Russian Federation) by relating the key demographic indicators to various changes in life cycles/professional developments [including studies at bachelor, master, and doctorate levels];
- To undertake a comparative analysis of the impact of demographic and life cycles cultural developments on higher education institutions in the selected countries.

UNESCO-CEPES is implementing this project in collaboration with the OECD and the Institute of Knowledge Society in Warsaw, Poland and other relevant national bodies and experts. An International Conference which will be organized in fall of 2007 by UNESCO-CEPES in collaboration with the Elias

Foundation of the Romanian Academy [and other organizations].

As a continuity of the project on *Doctoral Degrees and Qualifications in the Context of the European Higher Education Area and the European Research and Innovation Area*, UNESCO-CEPES is undertaking a further reflection on how doctoral studies and doctoral schools are organized and function. In this context an International Workshop entitled *Form Follows Function – Comparing Forms of Doctoral Training in Europe and North America*, will be organized by the German Rectors Conference – HRK and UNESCO-CEPES, 8-11 November 2006, Frankfurt /Main, Germany.

UNESCO-CEPES just initiated a book series [in collaboration with the Cluj University Press] called - *Higher Education for A Knowledge Society*. First publication under this series will be a volume entitled “*The World-Class University and Ranking: Aiming Beyond Status*”, edited by Jan Sadlak and Nian Liu [jointly published by UNESCO-CEPES, the Cluj University Press and the Institute of Higher Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China]. It will be available by the end of this year.

For supplementary information on activities presented in this report, as well as on others not referred to here, please consult the UNESCO-CEPES website, <<http://www.cepes.ro>>.