



Exedra journal Special issue

European perspectives on
internationalization: sharing
policies and good practices

Edited by Susana Gonçalves





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online Edition - José Pacheco (CIC/NDSIM)

- Carla Matos Dias (CDI)

logo - Agostinho Franklim Carvalho/Pedro Coutinho

graphic project - Agostinho Franklim Carvalho/José Pacheco

EXEDRA: Revista Científica

Electronic publication of the Politechnic Institute of Coimbra (Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra) /
College of Education (Escola Superior de Educação)

Periodicity: Semestral

ISSN 1646-9526 printed version

ISBN 978-989-96927-1-8

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EXEDRA: Revista Científica

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This special issue of the Exedra Journal (paper version) has been
funded by the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) /
Foundation for Science and Technology)



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editorial

The ancient Greeks and Romans used the Exedra (a semi circular portico/ room or outdoor area with seats) for holding philosophical conversations and tertulias, what the Portuguese call the friendly open minded discussions, while savouring coffee or wine. This journal takes its name from this inspirational concept of sharing ideas and vision for a better understanding of the intriguing phenomenon of life, peoples and the world. With this special issue of the Exedra Journal, a more cosmopolitan debate has been started into this publication, a virtual exedra, by gathering authors from various countries, professional expertise, fields of interest and action. The publication of this special issue has great institutional meaning. It signals and celebrates the quick evolution of internationalization at ESEC – in only a decade, it has succeeded in becoming a widely recognized school for the vivacity of its international actions.

I feel privileged and honoured to be the coordinator and editor of this special Exedra issue. This journal is only in its infancy yet, this being its fifth edition since launch one year ago. It is a free access online publication targeted at everyone interested in Higher Education, Pedagogy and Applied Sciences. The announcement and invitation for an international issue was extremely well received by scholars, researchers and academics all over Europe. I envisage this remarkable adherence to the project (18 articles contributes by 31 authors) as a sign of confidence in the quality of our publication and trust in our ability to disseminate valuable ideas, projects, strategies and joint ventures presented in each of the selected articles.

I also see this as an incentive to go on promoting internationalization and its virtues. Internationalization is inescapable for modern day universities, evolving from the blind mechanism of globalization. Some might say that it brings risks, uncertainty, competition and unidentified dangers for institutions, faculty and students. Perhaps. However, it can also coincide with a great many set of opportunities; one of the most interesting, in my view, being the growing cosmopolitanism and the reduction of barriers, borders and impediments for us to learn from each other and to collaboratively pursuit the project of building a better and more sustainable society. Sharing scientific advancements, interrogations, intriguing data and results, negotiating decisions and adhering to joint projects are all powerful vehicles to walk along this pathway.

This volume is a modest yet valuable part of the project. It is the result of a challenge made some months ago to several European colleagues who are actively committed to internationalization and who are in some way involved in international activities. The goal was to collect examples of policies and practices, organizations and networks,

projects and strategies that might signal good and effective practices in the field of internationalization of higher education and R&D. It was also intended to disseminate such good practices, in its many facets and to propagate the examples of international organizations, such as academic networks and associations and higher education institutions in Europe.

As a whole, the collected articles illustrate the energies and synergies that are being used to create and shape the European space of education. They support the notion of a multi-dimensional internationalization of higher education. These articles also give evidence of a set of projects, programmes and practices that have been developed over the years to face the demands of a cooperative / joint space of higher education. This publication thus portrays a clever and informed adaptation of intellectuals, teachers, departments, institutions and transnational organizations to the abolition of borders, promoting the creation and diffusion of some of the most valuable goods of modern times: information, knowledge and education.

The variety of concerns addressed by the authors illustrates how complex and multifaceted the concept of 'internationalization' is. This issue includes seventeen selected articles on the following topics:

- Student and teacher mobility and international Education
- Internationalization at home and International dimensions of the curriculum
- EU and CoE programmes, such as Erasmus networks or the Pestalozzi Programme
- R&D, international cooperation and networking (the example of Cice, Businet, ETEN)
- Promoting intercultural education through internationalization
- International students' recruitment and integration
- Best practices in internationalization

The articles have been grouped in a structure of four parts: International education and networking, International curriculum development, International students and internationalization at home, and Eu policies and opportunities. Feedback from readers is very much welcome. Authors' contacts can be obtained from susana@esec.pt. I would also like to encourage further dialogue to continue our efforts and promote a responsible and valuable internationalization.

I am immensely grateful to each author for the trust deposited in this project and for choosing Exedra as a means to share their expertise and to spread their ideas, work, and research/development projects. I also want to thank the Exedra Director and Editorial Board, Margarida Paiva and the staff at ESEC/NDSIM for the cooperation, guidance and responsiveness. This was essential to reaching our goals and make this task more manageable.

Last, but not least, I would like to acknowledge and express my deep gratitude to the Portuguese Fundação para a Ciências e Tecnologia (FCT – the Portuguese government body responsible for financing and evaluating the national scientific and technological system), for the financial support given to the publication of the printed version of this issue, so increasing the visibility and access to this publication.

Susana Gonçalves,

Editor of the Exedra Journal Special Issue

'European perspectives on internationalization: sharing policies and good practices'

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