



# New Challenges for Europe in a Changing World: Knowledge as a Key Tool for a Better Europe

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# European Area of Higher Education

- Education policy: sensitive policy area, complex and interconnected.
- EU **Open Method of Coordination** (OMC): an excellent EU governance tool (compromise between common action that supports the autonomy in sensitive policy areas). Benefits: peer learning and evidence-based policy making, generator of reforms at the national level.
- Although primarily aimed at easier comparability of education systems across Europe, the outcomes of OMC include new approaches in education, shift to evidence-based policy making and learning outcomes.
- EHEA: traditionally focused on structure of HE and quality assurance. The focus should be on enhanced use of **Bologna tools**. European Qualifications Framework – not fully explored in its role as a tool for validation and recognition of skills and qualifications.



# European Research Area

- unified and coherent ERA is an **integral part of the Innovation Union** aiming to strengthen the knowledge base in Europe, attract talent and investments
- although much has been achieved, **further efforts** of the Member States and research stakeholders, in collaboration with the EC, **are needed**
- **gradual process** → to strategically coordinate and align, where possible, national strategies and research programmes and activities
- aimed at better **jointly tackling grand societal challenges** and implementing the necessary ERA reforms:
  - accelerate structural reforms of national systems and strengthen progress monitoring based on robust data provided by Member States
  - intensify efforts to raise the quality and impact of public spending on research and innovation in accordance with national and regional strategies
  - further synchronize national and European roadmaps on research infrastructures and to further pool financial commitments
  - to foster “mutual policy learning” initiatives, including peer reviews, for a better understanding of the impact of policies



# Mobility in HE and internationalization of study programmes

- Council of Ministers: EU member States invited to enhance quality of education through mobility and cross-border cooperation (measures: removing obstacles by enhanced use of Bologna tools: ECTS, DS, EQF).
- Important to develop all **aspects of internationalization**: mobility of students and teachers, internationalization of study programmes, digital learning, strategic cooperation of HEIs.
- **Strategy for Education, Science and Technology 2014-2020 of the Republic of Croatia**: objectives - 10% of outgoing student mobility, 5% of incoming student mobility. Present obstacles: lack of resources and partial recognition of ECTS earned during a mobility.



# Mobility in HE and internationalization of study programmes

- **Erasmus+**: prominent financial instrument for internationalization but not sufficient for reaching mobility indicators set by the national Strategy.
- Additional instrument: Programme Agreements concluded between MSES and public HEIs concluded in 2012 for the period 2013-2015 (cover app. 10% of funding from the State Budget). Aim: strategic, stable, long-term, performance-based funding of public HEIs. HEIs could also choose the objective of internationalization of HE.
- **Major advantages of internationalisation**: upgrading the quality of HE, notably through training of staff and development of new curricula based on learning outcomes.



# International Fellowship Mobility Programme for Experienced Researchers in Croatia – NEWFELPRO

NEWFELPRO project is additional strategic effort to invert the negative trend towards brain drain phenomenon

The **long-term objective** of the MSES NEWFELPRO project is to raise the presence of research-qualified individuals by providing them with new opportunities to gain relevant international experience, and thus contribute to the further development of international scientific networks.

NEWFELPRO Fellowship schemes (in total 83 fellowships schemes available until 2017):

1. **OUTGOING**
2. **INCOMING**
3. **REINTEGRATION**



## Positive experience with mobility of researchers

- **Young researchers** (4-10 years experience) predominate in the total number of applicants
- **Young researchers** are choosing a longer scheme of scholarships for a period of 24 months (incoming) and 36 months (outgoing)
- Outgoing mobility: Slovenia, Finland, Czech Republic, France, Spain, Netherlands, UK, Switzerland, Germany, USA, Japan.
- Incoming mobility: Germany, USA, Switzerland, UK, Netherlands.
- List of countries from which the applications were received (incoming) varied and included countries across Europe, India and Asia.



## SEE region in EHEA

- Croatia has a prominent role in the EU enlargement process to countries of SEE. MSES provides support to ministries of education in the region e.g. seminars and other peer learning/peer review activities related to recognition of HE qualifications and the role of EQF in recognition. Recognition is a prerequisite for **regional mobility** for the purpose of continuation of education and employment.
- Strategic framework: **South East Europe Strategy 2020**, adopted by the ministers of economy in 2013, Chapter 'Education and Competences' coordinated by **the Education Reform Initiative of SEE (ERI SEE)**. Its Governing Board is composed of representatives of all ministries of education in the region.
- ERI SEE – instrument for enhanced cooperation at the education policy level.





## SEE region in EHEA

- Some SEE countries should be more active in the Bologna Follow-up Group.
- Slovenia and Croatia are chairing a regional **BFUG Working Group on Recognition of Qualifications**. MSES has directed efforts to supporting SEE region to removing obstacles to recognition of qualifications and increasing regional mobility. Implementation of national qualifications frameworks and proper use of all Bologna tools will lead to the development of a mutual trust, which is a precondition for achieving the Bologna aims of comparability in the standards and quality of qualifications in Europe.
- **European Qualifications Framework** is at our disposal as an instrument for making recognition easier and more transparent and all governments should secure legislative framework in which the national qualifications framework would be a key instrument for recognition of foreign qualifications.

## SEE region in ERA

Croatia participates in **the Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation** for the period 2014-2020.

The desired outcomes are aligned with the Europe 2020 goals:

- the improvement of the research base and conditions for research excellence,
- promotion of the research-industry collaboration and technology transfer,
- enabling the business investments and start-ups
- general strengthening of governance in the area of R&I policies.

Alongside Europe 2020 Strategy, a number of projects aim to accomplish synergies with the South East Europe (SEE) 2020 Strategy and EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region and Danube Strategy.



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