



Internationalization Policies and Practices in European Higher Education: A Comparative North-South View



Authors

- Antigoni Papadimitriou, University of Oslo, Norway, antigoni.papadimitriou@ped.uio.no and antigoni@econ.auth.gr
- Leon Cremonini, CHEPS, University of Twente, The Netherlands, l.cremonini@utwente.nl
- Jani Ursin, Jyväskylä University, Finland, JanI.p.ursin@jyu.fi
- Yulia Shumilova, University of Tampere, Finland, Yulia.Shumilova@uta.fi
- Tatiana Fumasoli, University of Oslo, tatiana.fumasoli@arena.uio.no
- Jussi Vällmaa, Jyväskylä University, Finland, Jussi.p.vallmaa@jyu.fi
- David Hoffman, Jyväskylä University, Finland, david.hoffman@ktl.jyu.fi
- Lefteris Nesis, Aristotle University, Greece, neseris@econ.auth.gr



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European Internationalization Policies

The Internationalization Debate is about:

- ▶ The attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)
 - Attracting talent
 - At all academic levels
 - From all over the world
- ▶ European global competitiveness
 - European Union signatories have been asked to describe measures in their countries to implement strategies to meet European HE in a Global Setting
- ▶ Questioning the role of universities within the nation-state



Aims and Methods

- ▶ To assess policies and practices of internationalization in contrasting national settings:
 - Two Mediterranean countries (Greece & Italy)
 - Two Northern European countries (The Netherlands & Finland)
- ▶ Compare institutional internationalization policies and practices
 - A small scale comparative pilot study: one case per country (four cases)
 - Institutions are the mirror of national policies



Possible Typology of Implementation

		Key Policy Goals	
		Removal of mobility obstacles	More attractiveness
Policy Approaches	Finance & Regulations	Institutions use predominantly financial means to react to adverse conditions. For example they might increase Erasmus agreements (bursaries) and the budget for internationalization	Institutions use predominantly financial means to proactively boost their attractiveness. For example they might introduce personnel policies rewarding international engagement of teaching and other staff
	Information & Promotion	Institutions use mainly marketing and branding to react to adverse conditions. For example they might stress teaching staff capacities such as language and intercultural skills) to teach internationalized curricula (without increasing bursaries)	Institutions use mainly marketing and branding to proactively boost their attractiveness. For example they might stress the size of their internationalization office or number of joint study programmes (double or joint degrees)



Netherlands (Example)

	Key Policy Goals	
	Removal of mobility obstacles	More attractiveness
Finance Regulations	<p>Increase UT scholarships (UTs) from 50 to 100 to attract talented international students.</p> <p>Participation in the ECU «Staff Development Programme», which aims at increasing the mobility among administrative members of staff</p>	<p>Tenure-track strategy to become professor at an early stage.</p> <p>Twente Mobility Fund (for UT students going abroad –they become like the «ambassadors» of the UT)</p>
Policy Approaches		<p>Improving UT's presence in international networks and focusing on «priority countries»</p> <p>MOUs, i.e. letters of intention declaring that UT is willing to cooperate with another university.</p> <p>Each UT Faculty will offer at least one international minor programme fitting the UT profile to facilitate exchange of Bachelor students with European strategic partners</p>
Information & Promotion		

Data

	Interviews	Documents
FIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of international office • Head of academic affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bologna country report 2007–2009 • HE Internationalisation strategy 2009–2015
NL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager International Affairs • Chairman of Executive Board • Head of International Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bologna country report, 2007–2009 • UT Internationalization strategy • Ministry: Strategic Agenda for Higher Education, Research and Science • Ministry: Internationalization agenda • Websites: NVAO, Nuffic, http://www.grossroads.eu
ITA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of international affairs • Rector's delegate for international affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National report for Bologna • Strategic plan 2010–2013 • Evaluation 2010
GR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice rector of academic affairs • Director of international relation office, • Director of Department of Studies, • Administrator Quality Assurance unit • Administrator language center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bologna country report, 2007–2009 • Law 4009/2011 • Conference presentations (March 29–30, 2012)

Background information of cases

	FINLAND	NETHERLANDS	ITALY	GREECE
# of students	15,643 (1,161 International)	9,341 Bachelor: 6,067 (1,183 international) Master: 2,709 (413 international) Pre-master: 565 (55 international)	85,392	2010–2011: > 81.500 Bachelor: 67,841 (3,813 international) postgraduate 4963– (281 international) Phds. 4770 (167 international)
# of faculty	Professors 199 Teachers 377 Researchers 509	1,700 fte academic staff (2,854 fte all personnel)	3101	Teaching & Research Staff 2,138 (2–12–11) Researchers etc. 2190 Total 4328
# of departments	0	0	23	42
# of schools /faculties	9	6	0	12 schools
# of other institutes	Independent institutes 3	RESEARCH INSTITUTES+ KNOWLEDGE CENTRE: 29		14 education and research units 61 clinics 295 research lab

Reasons for being international

FIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internationalization – a mean to improve quality. "We need to have comparison with other countries in terms of teaching and research. Research is always international. In order to be internationally visible and competent. Tuition fees that are allowed to be charged now from Non EU students won't be the main source of income"
NL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reputation, positioning and visibility, income Cooperation in research (research institutes and the individual researchers who want to collaborate with similar institutes abroad). The challenge is to integrate education in the strategy for internationalization of our university. Internationalization of the curriculum, for example, is a way of doing "internationalization at home" In education: cross border (German) and in the future UK because of fees there (taking opportunities for changes abroad) Internationalization to complement internal (institutional) problems: in the future more UT students will go to the Randstad (centre of the country), so it is good to have an influx of international students at least at graduate and PhD level
ITA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being the oldest university of Europe, internationality is at the heart of its identity Being called University of "Bologna" characterises this institution as a model for internationalization for other institutions, particularly outside Europe
GR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internationalization has always been the basic element of the development strategy of our University. Reputation. International agreements and production of research projects with scholars and visibility of publications

Targets of internationalisation

FINLAND	NETHERLANDS	ITALY	GREECE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 850 incoming and outgoing mobile students per year (set by the Ministry of Education) 7% of international students in Master programmes (by 2015) A quarter of the master's programmes will be international 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase Master students to 400 (35% Master students recruited from abroad by 2014) Focus on "priority countries" for recruitment: like China, Indonesia, Turkey, India, Russia. Every UT student to have an international experience during his/her study By 2015: 10 of the UT MScs joint programmes with "excellent" partners abroad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of foreign PhD students and researchers Number of BA, MA, PhD, executive masters, summer schools in English Number of educational programs (undergraduate and PhD) with foreign universities Number of incoming and outgoing students Number of graduates with ECTS from abroad Average ECTS/month abroad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are trying to sign international agreements with important Universities from abroad, aiming at offering the best to our students and of course to our teaching and administrative staff. We are interested naturally in the European area, in South-eastern Europe, in Turkey and in the Middle East, in North America and there is the perspective of South Africa and Australia. Finally we intend to strengthen our bonds with China and Japan

Number of English programmes at different levels

FINLAND	NETHERLANDS	ITALY	GREECE
BA – 5 modules of 25 ECTS each	In academic year 2010-2011, 13 of the 34 minor programs are in English 6 of 23 Bachelor degrees are totally in English	Undergraduate 11;	Undergraduate only in Greek (by law until 2011 – from 2012 it is possible to offer courses in English)
MA – 14 programmes	Since the Academic year 2007/2008, almost all (31) masters are offered in English	Doctorate 5; Executive masters 17	Master 1 Greek-French 1 Erasmus Mundus PhD 18 special agreements

Number of Joint degrees and other international agreements

	FINLAND	NETHERLANDS	ITALY	GREECE
Joint BA	None		Tot. 59 double or joint study programs. 35 international programs 14 programs in English 10 programs Erasmus Mundus	None
Joint MA	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Joint Masters (via ECIU) Double degrees with TU Berlin, ITB Bandung and UNPAD in Indonesia 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Joint Master – (1 mundus) Phd 19 special agreements
Other agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International (bilateral) –42 Erasmus – 300 partners Other – 50 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 300 Erasmus agreements About 150 international (bilateral) 	97	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreements 594 Erasmus Bilateral agreements 102 scientific cooperation

Size and role of international office

FIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 coordinators, 1 secretary, 2 trainees + 50 international advisers in units. In charge of international education, students and staff mobility (excludes research)
NL	<p>At UT level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rector (holds the internationalization portfolio) S&C (Strategy and communication)-International S&O (Students and education)-International Office S&O –TCP (language centre) Expert groups (currently for China and Indonesia) 2 Country representatives (in Indonesia and China) 25 UT contact persons on international matters <p>At faculty level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Holder Internationalization: one per faculty Internationalization coordinator (FAINCO) per faculty Individual staff members and students: (e.g. can be members of the expert groups)
ITA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 persons work in the international relations office. It is an administrative unit of the university administration
GR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International relation office 4 persons Erasmus coordinators in each academic department European Educational Programmes Department 4 persons Greek Modern language School Center for foreigner languages

Strategies to achieve the targets of internationalization

FIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarships will be introduced in fee paying Master programmes, Invest in marketing. A centre for international education will be established at the university to coordinate all international education.
NL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UT agents abroad etc. Increase UT scholarships (UTS) from 50 to 100 to attract talented international students At bachelor level focus on regional markets (Belgium and Germany)
ITA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNIBO tries to increase constantly the number of foreign students and educational offer, agreements, etc. The priority is now to form the technical and administrative staff to cope with issues of internationalization, as well as to involve external stakeholders (industry and regional state bodies)
GR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Committee (13 academic member academic- review agreements applications) Promote networking The scholarships are offered both for Masters & PhD, for research and for learning the Greek language – which is a basic prerequisite for studying in a Greek University at any level.

Barriers for internationalization of the university

FIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student mobility is unevenly distributed with significant differences between disciplines - Not able to provide enough services for mobile PhD students so far - Lack of continuity in running the international programs due to the difficulties with funding, planning, marketing - Students admitted to international programs do not show up as they get admitted somewhere else - Some problems with student housing - No database of international alumni
NL	<p>Nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resources and Government will :the need to invest and not only cut - Weak policy on international excellence (attracting international excellence) - Tendency to refocus on the national level – HE is still a national issue <p>UT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of councilors with specific knowledge of specific systems to help UT students go abroad - Not all programmes have the internship abroad - The Supporting organization is not suit for large numbers
ITA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competition with university with English as primary language or that can leverage on foreign students fees – raise awareness among leadership and stakeholders on the complexity of internationalization – restrictive immigration policies – QA agencies are anchored to national logics – Fiscal problem: taxation of grants – Technic
GR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Universities can't select international students, international students selected by the Ministry of education then select university (only 3%) national law/ policy. - Greek language requested by law for teaching courses , recent law 4009/2011 allow and motivates universities to develop courses in English! - Budget decrease every year

Conclusion

- ▶ The **targets** for internationalization are more detailed in Northern European countries than in Mediterranean area
- ▶ **Strategies** for internationalization within HEIs are not similar – (Policy goals at National level are similar)
- ▶ The role of the **international offices** are similar in all cases
- ▶ Northern countries and Italy more programs in English.
- ▶ Greece mostly in PhD level and looking for agreements for research and publications

Thank you!
comments questions?



Primary Contacts:
antigoni.papadimitrova@ped.uio.no
l.cremonini@utwente.nl
