



Consolidating Higher Education Experience of Reform - CHEER
Project supported by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union
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The CHEER Projects 2014-16 2016-18

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European Higher Education Area:
present achievements and future challenges

Since the very beginning of the Bologna Process in 1999, Italy has always supported it strongly as the main framework for the progress and consolidation of mutual cooperation in European Higher Education, and as a fundamental tool for spreading democratic values and enhancing dialogue among countries. These are also the reasons for the Italian candidature to host the Secretariat of the Bologna Follow up Group (BFUG) from 2018 until 2020 and to organize in Italy the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the European Higher Education Area.

2020 will be a crucial year, both for the European Agenda and for the celebration of the first twenty one years of the most relevant international process dedicated to Higher Education. The Italian CHEER projects, building on and extending the previous work of the Italian Bologna experts, have been an important tool for monitoring and improving our participation in this broad international effort. Such projects will become even more important in light of the European Commission's proposal for a European Education Area, as presented at the Social Summit in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017. I am sure that such endeavors will continue to be fundamental for addressing our common challenges until 2020 and beyond.

Maria Letizia Melina



Director General for Student Development
and Internationalization of Higher education
Italian Ministry for Education, Universities and Research



Consolidating the EHEA in Italy

The “CHEER” projects are a fundamental tool for supporting the consolidation of the EHEA reforms in the Italian higher education system:

Consolidating Higher Education Experience of Reform (CHEER): norms, networks and good practice in Italy

- *coordinated by the MIUR – Department of Higher Education and Research – General Directorate for Students, Development and Internationalization of the Higher Education;*
 - *co-financed by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ KA3 (Policy Support Action), and managed by the CRUI – Conference of Italian University Rectors;*
 - *Involving the key national stakeholders.*
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The CHEER projects

- Develop a strong **systemic synergy** among the main national actors concerned with HE policies, involving them directly in the project activities and in supporting and implementing the project results;
- maintain contacts and synergies with **international bodies** concerned with HE, in order to link national and European policies;
- enhance the quality of the **international dimension in HEIs** (Universities + Fine Arts and Music Institutions) also promoting **the widespread use** of the European transparency tools;
- valorize a **student-centered approach** in the implementation of the EHEA reforms, including those indicated in the Yerevan Communiqué.

Implement the EHEA policies and tools at national and institutional level to achieve the European reforms in a substantial – rather than in a formal – way.

Strengthen dialogue and collaboration among various actors and stakeholders.

- **Students** → participate constructively in the reform process, with awareness of their role, and through specific training.
- **Professors** → reflect more deeply on some key topics and find shared solutions to implement policies and tools.
- **HE Institutions** → implement an effective use of the transparency tools; devote adequate funds/resources to developing international strategies.

The goals of CHEER I

Actions

- Cooperation with national policy makers to define optimal implementation strategies;
- Dissemination of the most relevant EHEA documents;
- Production of guidelines, recommendations and tools for the HEIs;
- Consolidation of national networks and interaction among them.

Key topics

- Employability of graduates in Fine Arts and Music HEIs
- Joint programmes
- Quality assurance
- Recognition of qualifications
- Student-centred learning
- Student participation

The goals of CHEER II

Integrate the various aspects of the reform process into one consistent and well-functioning **learner-centered system** at the institutional, national and international level.

Guarantee and enhance the **quality** of the main **transparency tools** (DS, ECTS Course catalogue); of student and staff **mobility**; of **joint programmes**.

The correct use of transparency tools requires **clear policies** and well **organized information systems** at the institutional level. It also benefits from **guidelines** and **quality assurance** measures at the national level. At the same time, it makes international communication and collaboration smoother, thus enhancing the **quality** of student and staff **mobility** and of **joint programmes**.

Actions

To ensure a strong systemic synergy, the four topics are being developed by **4 ad hoc Working Groups**, composed of the key stakeholders, which will produce concrete tools and recommendations for both the HEIs and policy makers.

Key topics

This project focuses on **four among the main challenges** pointed out in the Bologna Implementation Report 2015:

- Diploma Supplement
- ECTS Course Catalogue
- International and joint programmes
- Mobility

Overall expected impact

MODERNIZATION OF THE HE SYSTEM:

the CHEER projects are part of an articulated set of actions planned by the Ministry for HE (MIUR) to develop and modernize the Italian HE system as a whole. The project is expected to have a major impact at the national level through the formal inclusion in the national legislation of the recommendations and tools produced by the Experts and the WGs.

MULTIPLIER EFFECT: working at different levels (national, institutional, individual) and creating mutually reinforcing positive synergies will lead to a multiplier effect on both the normative framework and its practical implementation.

Useful links

Bologna Process in Italy www.processodibologna.it
CRUI-CHEER <https://www.cru.it/home-ri.html>
EHEA www.ehea.info

