

INTERNATIONALIZATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: THE PROJECT IntlUni

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As the European Higher Education Area expands and the internationalization of higher education develops, many Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) face new challenges. Both students and lecturers form much more heterogeneous groups than before, speaking a multitude of languages and representing a wide spectrum of cultural backgrounds. A truly international educational environment is in the making, thus fulfilling the aims and objectives of Europe 2020, Youth on the Move and, indeed, the Bologna 2020 goals. However, the change also presents challenges to the HEIs, many of which have adopted an English-only environment where English has become the foreign language of choice, and where HEIs offer their degree programs in English. This poster will present the European Erasmus Project “International University: The challenges of the multilingual and multicultural learning space” (IntlUni, 526646-LLP-1-2012-1-DK-ERASMUS-ENW). The overarching aims of IntlUni are: To identify the quality criteria (reference points) that should characterise teaching and learning in the Multilingual and Multicultural Learning Space (M&MLS): To develop recommendations for how HEIs may implement and ensure the sustainability of quality teaching and learning in the M&MLS. To this end, the objectives of IntlUni are (A): To identify the various different types of settings for the international Higher Education Institution (HEI) with a view to establishing a typology of such settings (e.g. teaching through the national language or another language to national and international students with lecturers teaching through their L1, L2 or L3); and (B): To identify the linguistic, cultural and pedagogical/didactic challenges in the various types of HEIs in the typology. As the half-way point of the project is reached, the progress to date will be discussed.

Keywords: Higher education; internationalization; quality criteria; Europe.

Biographical note

Joanne Paisana is Co-ordinator of UMinho's IntlUni team. Currently she is on the board of the language centre BabeliUM, with responsibility for the foreign language courses. She lectures English Culture at UMinho to undergraduate and post-graduate students and is also interested in Cultural Studies. She has been involved in pedagogic issues, co-authoring the new English programme for the 7th-9th years, Timor-Leste. She has served as Vice-President of the Arts and Humanities faculty, and been course director and vice-director of a number of undergraduate courses.