

**REPORT FROM HERE STUDY VISIT: Research based  
teaching/universities, entrepreneurship and knowledge triangle, Milano 30-31  
May, 2017**

The aim of higher education reform experts study visit in Milano, *Università degli Studi di Milano*, from 30-31 May, was to discuss the necessary synergy between research and teaching, not only as a challenge but the actual existence of such kind of practice in our countries as well. The subjects of our very dynamic discussion during the two days of meetings included dual role of a professor - as teacher and researcher, how to help him/her to meet the expectations of students, institution and society as a whole, how to provide him/her with adequate support to achieve both roles, whether the relationship between research and teaching at research university is challenging, how teaching and research can be productively organized. All of us agreed that a good level of teaching activity is an instrument for research activity, in view of the fact that being a good teacher will allow for the recruitment of high quality/excellent students for their internship required for the preparation of master and PhD theses. The point is to establish a connection between research and teaching, improve research and teaching in general and develop better interconnections. Different linkage between teaching and research depends on the level of education quality of teaching. In spite of this fact, all of us agreed that there are outstanding researchers but at the same time bad professors, good professors and good researchers, and good professors only. On the other hand, we have to be aware of the real workload of a professor performing different types of activities in his/her daily routine such as teaching, exams, meetings/congresses, dissemination activities, project writing, manuscript writing, department and faculty duties, administrative issues. Therefore, we have to ask ourselves whether they are often overloaded, and if they have enough time to achieve all that is expected of them. It is therefore necessary to establish balance in the workload between teaching and research, taking into consideration the capacities and desires of teachers. If we truly want to have high-quality researchers we have to ensure grants for researchers that also engage students, as well as to encourage researchers towards innovative teaching. Sufficient funding will provide the possibility for greater engagement of industry with HEIs on one hand, whereas on the other hand such collaboration will engage students in entrepreneurship, especially in conditions where business incubators are present, serving as a perfect link of all three sides - industry, academic community and students. Curriculum has to be more market-oriented in order to enable students to acquire more professional skills. All of the participants

agreed that we must create a learning environment in which students are participants rather than passive note takers of laboratory experiments. Universities need to provide adequate incentives, support and rewards for the time professors spend on improving their teaching, while the worth of teaching must shift from rhetoric to reality as high impact on the academic career of professors. At the system level, policy has to focus on excellence, not only universities. The link between research and teaching has to be embedded in strategy, corresponding to the mission of the university and aligned with good international practice. Internship has to be a constant tool across all HEIs, whereas entrepreneurship needs to be further developed within programs with a clear objective of graduating job creators rather than job seekers.

The speakers and presenters were professors and higher education experts, so all of us had an opportunity to develop discussion, examine new ideas and get very useful and practical advice from our presenters.

We got knowledge on how a relationship between university and business was fitted in the university priorities for education and research.

This study visit was organized perfectly. We enjoyed the hospitality of University degli Studi di Milano at every moment.

Prepared by:

Biljana Mišović, member of HERE team

Ministry of Education of Montenegro

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