

## **Editorial**

### **Welcome to the first issue of JRIHE**

#### **How it began and the programme behind JRIHE**

The Master Programme in Research and Innovation in Higher Education (MARIHE) was established in 2012 as an Erasmus Mundus Course offered by a consortium consisting of the Centre for Educational Management and Higher Education Development, DUK (Austria), the Higher Education Group, University of Tampere (Finland), the International and Comparative Education Research Institute, Beijing Normal University (China) and the Faculty of Business Management and Social Sciences, University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück (Germany). Later in 2018 the consortium has been enlarged with two additional partners namely the Eötvös Lorand University in Hungary and the Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology in India.

MARIHE provides students with a sound understanding of higher education systems and university development around the world. Students have the opportunity to study in at least three different universities and countries. During an internship provided by international enterprises and organisations they get insights into fields of practice. As an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course, MARIHE is supported by the Erasmus Mundus Programme of the European Commission. By these standards, it is one of the leading master's programmes in Europe. MARIHE addresses university graduates that want to pursue a career in the higher education and research sector as managers, administrators, consultants, policy analysts, researchers, and decision-makers. Possible employers are higher education and research institutions, public bodies, such as ministries for science and education, enterprises specialising in education, think-tanks and non-governmental organizations. Graduates of MARIHE are able take the lead in the future management and development of research and innovation in higher education.

The MARIHE curriculum reflects on three perspectives on the change logics involved in worldwide developments in higher education and in higher education institutions:

- the perspective of ‘Systems in Transition’, focussing on general developments and on globalisation and regionalisation (Europe, Asia, Africa, and Americas) in higher education;
- the perspective of ‘System-Institution-Interaction’ (e.g. funding of research and innovation); and
- the perspective of ‘Institutional Change’ (e.g. “change management”).

Furthermore, modules on ‘Theoretical Background’ introduce fundamental issues of higher education management. Another emphasis is given to ‘Transferable Skills’ (e.g. research methods, presentation skills, and languages).

### **Programme structure**

The programme consists of four semesters. In the first two semesters, eight compulsory modules are offered. In the third semester, two compulsory modules and one specialised module is offered. The modules include: (i) General Introduction to Higher Education Studies (ii) History and Philosophy of Higher Education, (iii) Development: Theory and Practice (iv) ICT for/in Higher Education, (v) Research Methodology, (vi) Social Theory and Sociology of Higher Education, (vii) Economics and Financing of Higher Education (viii) Higher Education and Development (ix) Research Project Seminar. After completion of the compulsory modules, the students choose between four specialisation tracks: (i) Governance, Leadership and Policies of Higher Education, (ii) Planning, Administration and Management of Higher Education, (iii) Institutional Research and (iv) Teaching and Learning. The fourth semester is dedicated to the writing of a master thesis, with a chosen topic depending on the specialisation.

### **Scope of the Journal**

Globally, fundamental transition processes are taking place in the systems of research, innovation and tertiary education: from regulation to deregulation and competition, from steering to market, from administration to management. Therefore, JRIHE aims, as an international journal of ‘works in progress’ grounded in themes related to MARIHE, to:

- promote and enforce the benefits of the current changes in the knowledge triangle (innovation, research and higher education system);
- bring together innovation, research and higher education experts to be able to meet future challenges;
- link knowledge on systems and tools with a global comparative perspective; and
- discuss the improvement of research and innovation of HEIs through professional management.

JRIHE intends to provide a space for academics, researchers, students and professionals of higher education engaged in research to present their works in progress to a broad audience. The series is intended to stimulate debate and exchange of research ideas that are still unfinished and underway. It aims to apply, by and large, social sciences and management concepts and theories, and examine higher education realities across various countries. It wants to do so in a manner that is relevant to upcoming researchers, students and professionals involved in higher education. The content is based on research papers, critical reviews and interviews.

### **Launch of the Journal**

Following the philosophy of the journal of particularly promoting and supporting young and emerging researchers, the launch of the journal refers exclusively to articles that all are based on seminar papers that were developed by students in MARIHE classes taught back in the years of 2019-2022. The quality and topical diversity of themes of these seminar papers was (and is) amazing, expressing the professionalism, rich experience and engaged commitment of MARIHE students. The papers now published represent only a first sample, more papers are to follow. This shows clearly and also demonstrates, what already was reflected in the one famous quote attributed to Margaret Mead (1910-1978): “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

**Editors in Chief**

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