

# Portuguese Higher Education System

## “A View from Outside”

A follow-up reflexion based on the EUA report

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# Perceptions, Observations & Challenges



- ▶ **In late 2011**, the Conselho de Reitores das Universidades Portuguesas (**CRUP**) requested the European University Association (**EUA**) to convene a team of European experts, with a view to **appraising the Portuguese higher education** (HE) system, identifying its principal problems and making appropriate recommendations.
- ▶ The expert team visited Lisbon and Porto in **October 2012 and met with as wide a range of stakeholders** as was possible. It also monitored press coverage of HE developments from January 2012 onwards and enjoyed access to detailed data and analysis provided by the “Agência de Avaliação e Acreditação do Ensino Superior” (A3ES).
- ▶ **The final report was presented** in a public session, organized by CRUP jointly with Conselho Nacional de Educação (CNE), in Lisboa, **on the past 19 February**.

# Main Proposals - I



- ▶ **Re-Structuring the Higher Education Institutions Network**
  - ❖ Real Binary System – more independent, thus more cooperative
  - ❖ Developing the network according to the regional context
  - ❖ Interdisciplinary research & professional PhDs
  - ❖ Stimulating mergers, retaining the foundation model
  - ❖ Funding based on outputs
  - ❖ Cease the present numerus clausus system
  - ❖ Re-structuring the higher education institutions jointly with reforms in the secondary sub-system

# Main Proposals - II



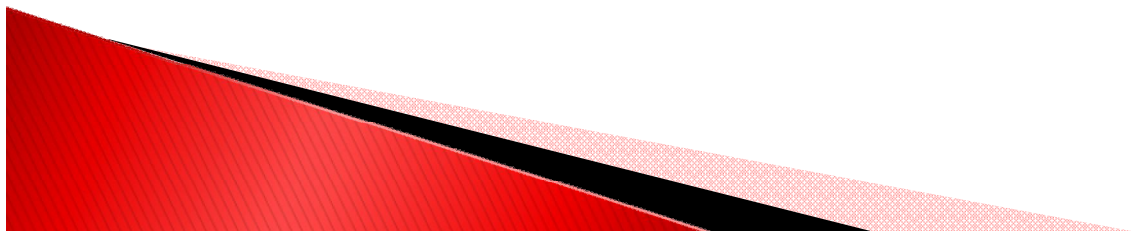
- ▶ **Rationalisation of the national course portfolio**
  - ❖ Promote Lifelong Learning (LLL)
  - ❖ Improve learning & teaching, including teacher training
  - ❖ Shift to strengthen learning assessment based on outcomes
  - ❖ Fostering internationalisation & improve the number of courses delivered in English
  - ❖ Developing a Lusophone MOOC platform
  - ❖ Promote an internal quality culture at institutional level

# From “what to do” to “how to do”



- ▶ The potential of Portuguese and indeed of most European universities to fulfill their role in contributing to Europe’s growth and development is often considered as underexploited.
- ▶ However, it is generally agreed that there is great potential for improvement.

So, the question is not just **what** but **how**



## Modernization Agenda for Higher Education – three directions



- ▶ Raising the number of graduates
  - (not the same as raising the number of students)
- ▶ Enhancing quality of teaching, research and innovation, including a great internationalization
  - (not the same as enhancing quality in each area separately without sharing objectives and goals)
- ▶ Creating funding and governance conditions to allow for HEI to reach full potential while remaining accountable
  - (not the same as granting autonomy and interfere at micromanagement level or allowing the system to run without supervision)

# The complexity of “how to”



- ▶ EU target for 2020:  
40% of Europeans aged between 30 and 34 should have a tertiary education degree.  
In 2011 only 26% of Portuguese in that age group had such a degree.

## **How to reach this target** (according to the EUA report)

- ▶ Prepare more school leavers for HE
- ▶ Promote lifelong learning

## **But what role for:**

- ▶ Enhancing quality of teaching, research and innovation?
- ▶ Creating funding and governance conditions to allow for HEI to reach full potential?

## **And what about employability?**



# The key issue is cooperation



## ▶ In Portugal, between:

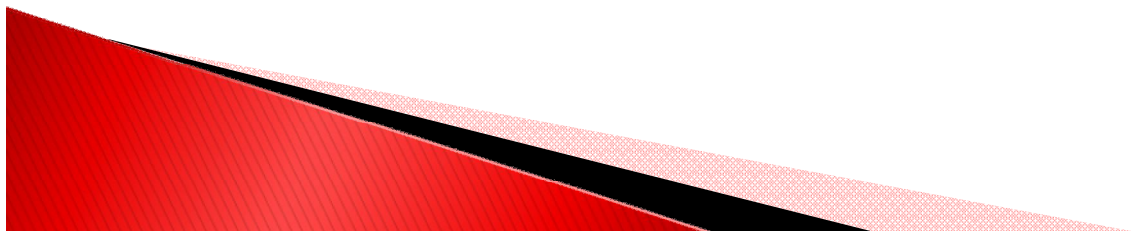
- Government
- Universities, industries and regions
- Private sector

## ▶ In EU, between:

- Erasmus for All (ex. Knowledge Alliances)
- Horizon 2020 (ex. Knowledge and Innovation Communities)
- Structural Funds



- ▶ Portuguese universities believe that, despite the crisis, the country should seize this opportunity to define a strategy for HE.
- ▶ CRUP will convene an informal group of stakeholders, mostly those who were involved in EUA study, in order to launch a debate, based on EUA recommendations aiming at contributing to define a strategy for HE involving education, research and innovation





**Thank you for your attention**

