

# Preface

On April 20, 2012, the Inaugural Seminar '*An Introduction to Higher Education Internationalisation*' of the *Centre for Higher Education Internationalisation* took place. The Seminar marked the start of this new Centre at the *Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*.

The *Centre for Higher Education Internationalisation* (CHEI) was initiated by UCSC in 2011 to stimulate the enhancement and understanding of the internationalisation process and activities of Università Cattolica. The aim of the centre is to promote and conduct research, training and policy analysis to strengthen the international dimensions of higher education.

The themes the CHEI will cover are:

- Emerging trends: policies, strategies, mobility, recruitment, internationalisation of the curriculum
- Existing and emerging rationales: economic drivers, political factors, social/cultural motives, education rationales
- International education and institutional development: university internationalisation strategy development, the impact of mainstreaming and comprehensiveness of internationalisation, using research to develop the University's policy of international education, incorporating at home and abroad dimensions into the institutional strategy, and using trends and data to shape institutional strategy
- Impacts and outcomes of internationalisation; quality assurance and assessment of outcomes and impacts on institutions, programmes and stakeholders.

In fulfilling its purposes the Centre designs, conducts and commissions research, organises seminars, conferences, training courses and workshops, and disseminates results through electronic and print publications.

This publication is the result of its first Seminar and by that also its first publication. The Centre will continue to organise these kind of activities, and intends to have a series of seminars and publications follow this one in the coming years. The second seminar of CHEI, organised on 6 September

2012, focussed on the theme *‘Teaching in English: the only pathway to internationalisation of Italian higher education?’*, a topic which is covered also in the first chapter of this publication.

Under the leadership of its director, Professor Hans de Wit, an international scholar on internationalisation of higher education, and a Scientific Committee with leading experts from within Università Cattolica and internationally, chaired by Professor John K. Hudzik, the Centre will contribute to the strengthening of the international aspirations of the University and its international reputation. In my capacity of President of the Management Board of CHEI and Delegate of the Rector for Internationalisation of Università Cattolica it is my great pleasure to introduce you to this publication.

The book *‘An Introduction to Higher Education Internationalisation’* is written by members of the Scientific Committee and Management Board of CHEI, and provides an informative introduction to the key issues and trends in higher education internationalisation in three parts. The first part deals with internationalisation, meaning and rationales, and includes three conceptual articles introducing the concept of internationalisation in the context of the global knowledge society we live in, as well as two chapters giving concrete examples of international strategies from Northern America. The second part deals with internationalisation of the curriculum and contains four chapters on different aspects of how to improve the internationalisation of our curriculum. In the final part of this book the focus is on internationalisation and Italian higher education. One chapter deals with the important question of how Italian employers value international education. Another chapter outlines a model of analysis of the drivers of inbound student mobility and considers the Italian case against other European countries. The third chapter discusses the current state of internationalisation at Università Cattolica within the context of higher education globalisation, indicating that to compete with outstanding universities at the global level, additional actions should be taken. The CHEI and this publication are intended to contribute to that objective.

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