



## Centralised Support to Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE)

*SPHERE Virtual Seminar and launch event:*

***LEARNING & TEACHING in a POST-COVID Context: The Status Quo***

***3-4 May 2023***

***Links:***

Day 1: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86927152017>

Day 2: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86821078205>

The virtual SPHERE launch event will have two main purposes: (i) to welcome the NEO and HERE teams, present the SPHERE 2023 programme, explain the next steps and procedures and also frame the SPHERE initiative within the EU's policies and priorities; (ii) to offer the HERE a first thematic event related to a major topic that is of universal interest, namely new developments and trends in digital learning.

The first day will be dedicated to introducing and framing the SPHERE initiative. The European Commission will present the main policy lines and priorities that will guide SPHERE. The SPHERE Team will then introduce the main features of the new contract, centralised activities from which HERE will benefit, and the work programme for 2023. This event is the first time that HERE and NEOs will come together to discover more about this new phase. For those who already participated in the prior SPHERE contract (2015-2021), there will be an opportunity to find out what is new, communicate with peers, engage in discussions, and strengthen connections.

The second day will focus on the topic of the seminar: *Learning and teaching in a Post-Covid Context – the status quo*. A description follows in the programme below.

Day 1 is open and mandatory for all HERE and NEO. Day 2, the seminar, is open to everyone in the HE community, including ministries and national agency officials, senior managers of institutions, student representatives, academic, and administrative staff.

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## PROGRAMME

Day 1 | 3 May 2023

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86927152017>

10:00-10:30 Welcome remarks

Chair: - Elizabeth Colucci, Academic Expert, SPHERE Team

- Anila Troshani, Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
- Michael Gaebel, EUA Team Lead, SPHERE team

10:30-10:45 EU policy framework and the SPHERE contract

- Anila Troshani, Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

10:45- 11:15 Introduction to the SPHERE Contract: What to expect

- Elizabeth Colucci, Academic Expert, SPHERE Team
- Nicole Font, Lead Project Manager, SPHERE Team

11:15 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:00 Higher education reform priorities in your countries (Ice breaking activity - polls and word cloud)

12:00 – 12:20 NEO Survey Results – Priorities for 2023 and further annual planning

- Gohar Hovhannisyan, EUA Project Manager, SPHERE Team

12:20 – 12:40 TAM and follow-up events: Calls and procedures

- Nicole Font, Lead Project Manager, SPHERE Team

12:40 – 13:00 Preview of the seminar and close

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*Day 2 | 4 May 2023*

*Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86821078205>*

The World Health Organisation has not declared the pandemic to be ended. Covid persists. It can affect different regions at different times. New variants may be just around the corner. However, in Europe it has eased sufficiently for higher education institutions to resume patterns of physical attendance and mobility. Temporarily at least, European higher education is post-covid. The lessons it has learned may be instructive for other global regions. The seminar is based on this assumption.

The pandemic disrupted university operations in Europe for over two years, with well-recognised implications for learning and teaching. It brought temporary changes to the learning and teaching, but also to higher education institutions themselves and how they function. While the circumstances were not ideal, this disruption also inspired some positive innovations in teaching and learning.

In this 'post-pandemic' situation, the big questions are:

- How much transformation has taken place; is it likely to stay, and will it trigger further and sustained reforms at institutional and system levels?
- How does it impact learning and teaching?
- What are the changes for the higher education institution?
- What are the lessons learned and implications for system-level authorities and structures?

The seminar will address these issues in different sessions, from different angles. While there will be short presentations and case studies, the focus will be on participants' own experiences and observations.

*10:00 – 11:00 Introduction: Change during Covid19 pandemic - does it stay or does it go?*

*- Michael Gaebel, EUA Team Lead, SPHERE team*

*11:00 – 11:15 Break*

*11:15 – 12:15 Breakout groups on key topics (input presentation followed by discussion)*

*a. How to have more collaboration on learning and teaching within the institution? – Alison Morrisroe, European University Association*

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- b. *Student and staff well-being – Helene Peterbauer, European University Association*
- c. *Opportunities for international collaboration – Gohar Hovhannisyan, European University Association*

*12:15 – 12:45 Break*

*12:45 – 13:45 New opportunities and new challenges: Let's chat about ChatGPT*

- *Diana Andone, Director of e-Learning Centre, Politehnica University of Timisoara, Romania*
- *Michael Gaebel, EUA Team Lead, SPHERE team*

*13:45 – 14:00 Feedback, outlook & closing*

- *Elizabeth Colucci, Academic Expert, SPHERE Team*

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