

# PETER J. WELLS



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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Chief, Higher Education**

#### **UNESCO, Paris, France**

(February 2016 - present)

As head of the Higher Education at UNESCO - the only United Nations Agency with a mandate in higher education – I lead the Organization's work in the field of quality assurance, equity of access and inclusion in university level education at a global level. These priorities are undertaken within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in particular SDG 4 on Quality Education for All. Current and on-going activities include the following:

#### *UNESCO Conventions on the recognition of higher education qualifications:*

- Co-Secretariat to the UNESCO/Council of Europe Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in Europe and North America
- Technical advisor on ratification and implementation processes for the Addis Convention (Africa) and Tokyo Convention (Asia-Pacific)
- Revision of the UNESCO Conventions on Higher Education Recognition for Latin America and the Caribbean (July 2019) and the Arab States (July 2020)
- Elaboration of the first UN Treaty on Higher Education with a global scope (adopted November 2019).

#### *Quality Assurance in Higher Education (QA):*

- Capacity Building in External QA in Higher Education in Africa (10 countries/USD 3 million)
- Regional Consultation Meetings on QA in Higher Education, in partnership with INQAHEE, CHEA, DAAD and the Commonwealth of Learning (5 UN regions)
- Funds in Trust project Technical Higher Education in Africa (12 institutions/USD 8million)

#### *Other Projects/research:*

- Lead on the *UNESCO Qualifications Passport for Refugees and Vulnerable Migrants* Organizer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Higher Education (2021)
- Inclusion of indigenous peoples and disadvantage groups in HED
- The uses of AI and ICTs for widening access to HED
- Revision of the OECD/UNESCO Guidelines on Cross Border Higher Education
- Preparation of a joint project on the Role and Accreditation of Private Higher Education

#### *Standing Commitments:*

- Head of the UNESCO UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs programme – involving 800+ university research projects and joint programmes in 116 countries
- UNESCO representative to the Bologna Process Follow-up Group (BFUG) and European Higher Education Area.

**Director****Bucharest Professional Training College (BPTC), Romania**

(January 2013-January 2016)

Responsible for the overall strategic management of the institution and for the expansion of academic and vocational programs to serve the needs of the communities it serves. Accountable for the quality assurance and enhancement of program, teaching and learning delivery in line with the College Council's Standards Monitoring governance policies.

**Director a.i / Higher Education Programme Specialist****UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education, Bucharest, Romania/Paris, France**

(March 2003 – December 2012)

**Programme activities /responsibilities:**

- Secretary to the ENIC-NARIC Networks of Information Centres (with the European Commission)
- Design and organization of five Workshops on Benchmarking Curriculum Development within the European Benchmarking Initiative (EBI II) - (extra-budgetary project with the European Centre for the Strategic Management of Universities)
- EU-STEP Project (Study Tours to the European HE Area), extra-budgetary project with the European Centre for the Strategic Management of Universities
- Consultative member of the Bologna Process Follow-up Groups on Employability (2008-2009) and International Openness (2009-2010)
- Editor/co-Editor (2005-2010) of the quarterly journal, *Higher Education in Europe*
- Coordinator of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs
- Establishment of the UNESCO-CEPES seminar series: *Quality Exchanges on Higher Education* (2010-2011); 1<sup>st</sup> seminar: "Visionary Leadership for Versatile institutions"
- Organizer of the International Conference: *Life after graduation: The Role of Graduate Employment and Tracking Systems for Continuous Curricula Development and Lifelong Learning Strategies* (2011)
- Organizer of the International Conference: *Eurasian Dialogues: "Europe and Its Eastern Borders – Inter-Culturality, Politics and Economy"* (2011)
- EUROSTUDENT/UNESCO-CEPES project on "Collection and Interpretation of Data on the Social Dimension in Higher Education" (2008)
- UNESCO International Conference on the "Enhancement and Dissemination of Information, Research and Knowledge on Higher Education" (2008)
- Organisation of a Workshop and the elaboration of a Benchmarking Handbook for higher education under the European Benchmarking Initiative (EBI I – 2006-2008)
- Vocational Content in Mass Higher Education (joint conference with UNEVOC) (2006)
- The Role and Functioning of Private Higher Education in Europe (2005)
- Development of a Trans-national Education (TNE) Database Network and The revision of the Code of Good Practice in the Provision of Trans-national Education (2004)
- Academic Brain Drain in South East Europe (conference and publication) (2003)

**Academic Supervisor****Higher Colleges of Technology, Fujairah, United Arab Emirates**

(September 2000 - January 2003)

**Lecturer - Management and Administration****Higher Colleges of Technology, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates**

(August 1997 - September 2000)

**Director of Studies/Management Lecturer****Oxford Brookes University/Polish Open University, Legnica/Warsaw, Poland**

(October 1994 - August 1997)

**Lecturer (p-t)**

**N.K.J.O. Institute of Education and Philology, University of Wroclaw, Poland**

(September 1995 - August 1996)

**Political Risk Analyst**

**Euler Hermes PLC, London, UK**

(October 1990 - January 1993)

**AFFILIATIONS, PUBLICATIONS AND SPEECHES**

▪ **Affiliations:**

- European Association for International Education
- Society for Research into Higher Education
- The European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction
- European Journal for Higher Education, (Editorial Board)
- Global Universities Network for Innovation (GUNI) – Advisory Board
- Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) USA – Advisory Board to the International Quality Group

▪ **Selected Publications**

Wells, P. J., (2003), "The University and Globalization", in *Higher Education in Europe*, Routledge, United Kingdom

Wells, P. J. (Ed.) (2005), "Higher Education in Turkey", UNESCO, Bucharest, Romania

Wells, P. J. (Ed.) (2006), "Higher Education in Ukraine", UNESCO, Bucharest, Romania

Wells, P. J., Sadlak, J. & Vlasceanu, L. (Eds.) (2007), "The Rising Role and Relevance of Private Higher Education in Europe", UNESCO, Bucharest, Romania

Wells, P. J., (Ed) (2008) "Quality Assurance and Accreditation,: A Glossary of Basic Terms and Definitions", UNESCO, Bucharest, Romania

Wells, P. J., (contributing Ed), (2008) "A Practical Guide - Benchmarking in European Higher Education", ESMU, European Commission, Brussels

Wells, P. J., & Loftstad, R., (2009) "Study Duration and Differences in Programme Profile as Substantial Differences?" in, *Developing Attitudes to Recognition: Substantial Differences in an age of Globalisation*, S. Bergan and S. Hunt (Eds.), Council of Europe Higher Education Series.

Wells, P. J. & Gilder, E., (2009), "Bologna 'Unplugged': Uncovering the Base Track of a Major European-Wide Higher Educational Reform Initiative", in *American, British and Canadian Studies* 12.

Wells, P. J. (Ed) (2009), "100 Voices: A Decade of Inspiration and Achievements in Higher Education", UNESCO.

Wells, P. J. (Ed) (2010), "The English Connection: 40 Years of English Studies at "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu", UNESCO Studies on Science and Culture, UNESCO.

Wells, P. J. & Zolyan, S. (Eds.) (2011) "Higher Linguistic Education From the Perspective of Reforms: New Approaches, Prospects and Challenges", UNESCO, Bucharest, Romania.

Florea, S. & Wells, P. J. (2011), "Higher Education in Romania", UNESCO, Bucharest, Romania

Wells, P. J. & Gilder, E. (Eds.) (2011) "Eurasian Inter-university Dialogues for Higher Education Development", UNESCO, Bucharest, Romania

Marope, M., Wells, P. J., & Hazelkorn, E., (Eds.) (2013), "The Uses and Misuses of Higher Education Rankings", UNESCO, Paris, France

Wells, P. J., (2014) "The DNA of a Converging Diversity: Regional Approaches to Quality Assurance in Higher Education", The Council for Higher Education Accreditation, Washington DC, USA.

Marope, M., Wells, P. J., & Florea, S., (2014) "University Rankings: The Many Sides of the Debate", Journal Management for Sustainable Development, Lucian Blaga University Press, Romania.

Well, P. J. (2014), "The Global Impact of the Lisbon Convention on Quality Assurance in Higher Education", in The Lisbon Recognition Convention at 15: Making Fair Recognition a Reality, Council of Europe Higher Education Series, Strasbourg, France.

Florea S., & Wells, P. J., (2014) "The Web is the Limit: Language, Culture and MOOCs", Journal Diversité et identité culturelle en Europe.

Wells P. J. & Florea D., "In Search of a Quality Culture: The Awkward Truths of an Indeterminate Maxim", Management of Sustainable Development Sibiu, Romania, Volume 6, No.1, June 2014.

Wells P. J., & Gilder, E., (2014) "Beaujolais Ed-Nouveau: Decanting the Importance of Life-Long Learning in the Challenging, Changing Europe of 2020", Review of Applied Socio-Economic Research, (Volume 8, Issue 2/2014).

Wells P. J. & Tortian, H. (2016), "Tertiary Education in Namibia – A policy Review", UNESCO, Paris, France. (Not for public distribution).

Wells P. J. (2016), "Quality and Students", in *The CIQG International Quality Principles: Towards a Shared Understanding of Quality*, Council for Higher Education Accreditation, Washington DC, January 2016.

Wells P. J. & Tortian, H. (2017), "Tertiary Education in Jamaica – A policy Review", UNESCO, Paris, France. (Not for public distribution).

Wells, P. J., (Introduction) (2017), "Towards a Socially Responsible University: Balancing the Global and the Local", in *Higher Education in the World (6)*, Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI), Barcelona.

Wells, P. J. & Marope, M. (2017), "Classement et responsabilisation dans l'enseignement supérieur", UNESCO, Paris, France.

Wells, P. J. & Michelsen, G. (Eds.) (2017), "A Decade of Progress on Education for Sustainable Development", UNESCO, Paris, France.

Wells, P. J. (Foreword) & Bourgas, D. (2018), "Making Sense of MOOCs – Policy Guidelines for Developing Countries: A Compendium in Four Languages [EN, FR, RU, SP]", University of Rioja, Spain.

Wells P. J. & Tortian, H. (2018), "Tertiary Education in Burkina Faso – A policy Review", UNESCO, Paris, France. (Not for public distribution).

Wells, P. J. & Bouhlal A. (2019), "UNESCO Conventions and the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in the Arab Region", in *Major Challenges Facing Higher Education in the Arab World: Quality Assurance and Relevance*, Springer.

Wells, P. J. & Portales, P. (2019), "Inclusive Quality Higher Education Should Leave No One Behind", in *The Commonwealth Education Report 2019*, UK.

Wells, P. J. (Introduction) (2019), Higher Education and the Humanities: Synergies between science, technology, and the humanities, in *Higher Education in the World (7)*, Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI), Barcelona, Spain

Wells, P. J. (Forward), 2019, *Extending the Welcome: Long term approaches to supporting refugees and at-risk scholars in higher education*, The Association of Commonwealth Universities, London, UK

Wells, P. J., & Loftstad, R., et.al, (*forthcoming*, 2020), "Quality Assurance, Recognition and Academic Mobility", UNESCO, Paris, France

Wells, P. J. & St. Vincent, S. (*forthcoming*, 2020), "Revised Guidelines the Quality Provision of Cross-border Higher Education", UNESCO and OECD, Paris, France.

Wells, P. J. & Ludeman, R. (Eds.), (*forthcoming*, 2020), "Quality Provision of Student and Academic Services: A Global Study", UNESCO, Paris, France.

▪ **Selected Presentations/Addresses:**

"Trans-national Education - Removing the Obstacles to Recognition", Vaduz (2003)

"Improving the Recognition and Accreditation System between Europe and North America", University of Riga, Latvia (2004)

"The Impact of Academic Brain Drain on Regional Growth", 12<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic Forum, Prague, (2004)

"The Importance of Student Participation for Quality Assurance Processes in the Social Sciences", University of Guadalajara, Mexico (2004)

"Universities as Service Stations or Laboratories of Universal Questions?" World Student Federation Conference, Croatia (2005)

"The University of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: New Models of Accountability", University of Novi Sad, Serbia (2005)

"From Anxiety and Confusion to Wisdom and Opportunity: Decoding the Bologna Process for Students", European Forum for Student Guidance (FEDORA), Cyprus (2005)

"Quality Assurance, Recognition and Accreditation for Student and Social Mobility", Malta (2006)

"The European Doctoral Degree and Quality Assurance", Deans and European Academics Network (DEAN) Annual Conference, Edinburgh (2006)

"The Journey to Bologna: The Bologna Process in Central and Eastern Europe", L'APPLICATION DES PRINCIPES DE BOLOGNE, Cadres juridiques, problèmes, perspectives Sofia, Bulgaria (2006)

"The Bologna Process and the Implications for Student Mobility", Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS), Sheffield Hallam University, UK (2006)

"Defining and Recognizing the Importance of Non-formal Education in the Student Learning Process", European Association of Students (AEGEE) Annual Conference, Serbia (2007)

"Modern Trends in the Marketing Orientation of Institutions of Higher Education", Poznan University School of Business and Finance, Poland (2008)

"Higher Expectations for Higher Education – The rationale and realities of reform", Turkmenistan International Experts Consultations on Quality Education Focusing on Education Planning, Science & Technology and ICTs, Turkmenistan (2009)

"Graduate Employability and the New Paradigm of Higher Education", Croatia (2010)

"Multilingualism and the Cultural Intelligence of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Graduates", Armenia (2010)

"Beyond the Crisis: Funding Research Universities in Economic Recession", Zagreb (2010)

"Creating Vision and Standards – the Role of Higher Education in Fostering Inter-Cultural Dialogue and Understanding in a Multi-ethnic Society", Skopje, FYROM (2011)

"Identifying and Defining Higher Learning Competencies for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", European Institute, Florence (2011)

"Creating Cultural Corridors for Post-Communist Societies", Legnica University of Applied Sciences, Poland (2011)

"Quality Assurance in Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific and the Tokyo Convention", 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Asia-Pacific Recognition Convention Committee, Seoul, Korea (2012)

"*The Global Campus: Learning and learners on the move*", IX International Seminar: Transformative Changes in Education - A system-wide approach, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain (2012)

"The (Re)-generation of Lifelong Learning", University of Craiova, Romania (2013)

"Are University Rankings becoming a de-facto form of International Quality Assurance in Higher Education?" (Panel Chair), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) International Quality Group, Washington DC, USA (2014)

"Implementing the Lisbon Recognition Convention at the Institutional Level", University of Vilnius, Lithuania (2014)

"A Quality Culture - The Undetermined Maxim", Romanian Society for Management Science International Conference, Danube Delta, Romania (2014)

“The Bologna Process and Regional Integration as a driver for change in higher education and quality assurance in other areas of the world”, (Panel moderator) the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) International Quality Group, Washington DC, USA (2015)

“Internationalization of Universities: Perspectives and Challenges”, First National Conference on the Future of Higher Education Studies, Imam Khomeini International University, Ghazvin, Iran (2016)

“Paradigm Shift in Tertiary Education: Improved Governance and Quality for Competiveness and Employability” MENA Regional Higher Education Program, World Bank Group/Centre for Mediterranean Integration, Algiers (2016)

“Higher education quality and employability: How internal quality assurance (IQA) can contribute”, Asia-Pacific Policy Forum, Xiamen University, China (2016)

“Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy”, Education International Further and Higher and Research Conference, Ghana (2016)

“Connecting qualification frameworks, quality assurance and recognition for mobility and employability”, Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Education 2030, Australia (2016)

“Internationalization of Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean”, Grupo de Trabajo sobre la Revisión del Convenio Regional de Convalidación de Estudios, Títulos y Diplomas de Educación Superior en América Latina y el Caribe, Colombia (2017)

“Synergizing Policies and Practices to enhance Access, Equity, and Quality in the Arab Region”, Higher Education in Crisis Situations, Egypt (2017)

“Emerging Issues in the Sciences, Climate Change, Peace and Security and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)”, International Conference on Higher Education in Eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean States, Djibouti (2017)

“The Recognition of the Qualifications of Refugees and the importance of Quality Assurance and the Lisbon Convention and Global Conventions”, Annual Conference of the European Association of International Education (EAIE), Seville (2017)

“The Connection with Quality Assurance, Recognition and Widening Access to Higher Education: The Arab States Context”, ALESCO-UNESCO Regional Consultation Conference and Working Group, Rabat (2018)

“Synergizing IQA and EQA for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)”, Working Group Meeting for the revision of the 1974 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in LAC, Buenos Aires (2018)

“The Role of Quality Assurance for International Research Projects and Joint Degree Programmes”, University of Kyoto UNESCO Chairs Symposium, Kyoto (2018)

“The Future of Higher Education to lead transformation of digital diversity to deliver 'inspirational education for all”, ICEFIL Annual Conference, University of Applied Sciences, Utrecht (2018)

“Education and the Sustainable Development Goals: Quality, Equity and Inclusion”, University of Vienna, Austria (2018)



“Higher Education and AI: Opportunities and Challenges”, World Conference on AI and Education, Beijing, China (2019)

“Developing a Culture of Institutional Internal Quality Assurance” (keynote), International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies Annual Conference 2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

“Higher Education and Rankings: A false indicator for/of development”, World Universities Network Presidents’ Forum 2019, University College Dublin, Ireland

“Quality Assurance Networks and Capacity Building for IQM”, Key Note, Pan-African Workshop on QA in Higher Education: Capacity Building for QA Officials and Establishment of a new regional QA Network for Francophone Africa, Dakar, Senegal (2020).

#### ACADEMIC WORK AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

**PhD: Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (candidate)**

“Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Romania

**Ed.D. Research (ABD): Comparative Higher Education Systems (2005-07)**

Bath University, UK

**PhD Research: Socio-Economic Reforms in Post Communist Poland (1996-7)**

Warsaw University, Poland

**M.Sc. International Relations (1994)**

Florida State University, USA

**Diplom Betriebswirtschaftslehre (1990)**

Fachhochschule Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany

**BA (Hons.) European Business Administration (1989)**

Leicester University, UK

**National Teacher Training Certificate (2013)**

*Certificat de Absolvire al programului de specializare pentru ocupatia Formator, Romania*

**Certificate in English Language Teaching for Adults (CELTA) (1998)**

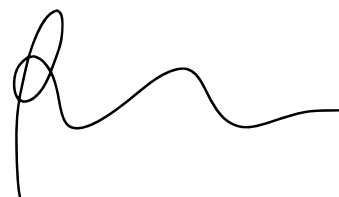
*International House, Poland*

**Diploma in Risk Management (I & II) (1991)**

*Dunn & Bradstreet Institute of Credit Managers, UK*

#### CONTACTS

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