

Competing Leadership for Reform of Higher Education in Europe

Anne Corbett

Visiting Fellow, European Institute

London School of Economics and Political Science

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By way of introduction ...

- What do we mean by European leadership in higher education? What do we mean by competition?
- Why is the issue important?
- Will higher education be affected by the new integrationist drive within the EU/eurozone?
- What would be the case for more integration - what ideas, what institutional leadership?

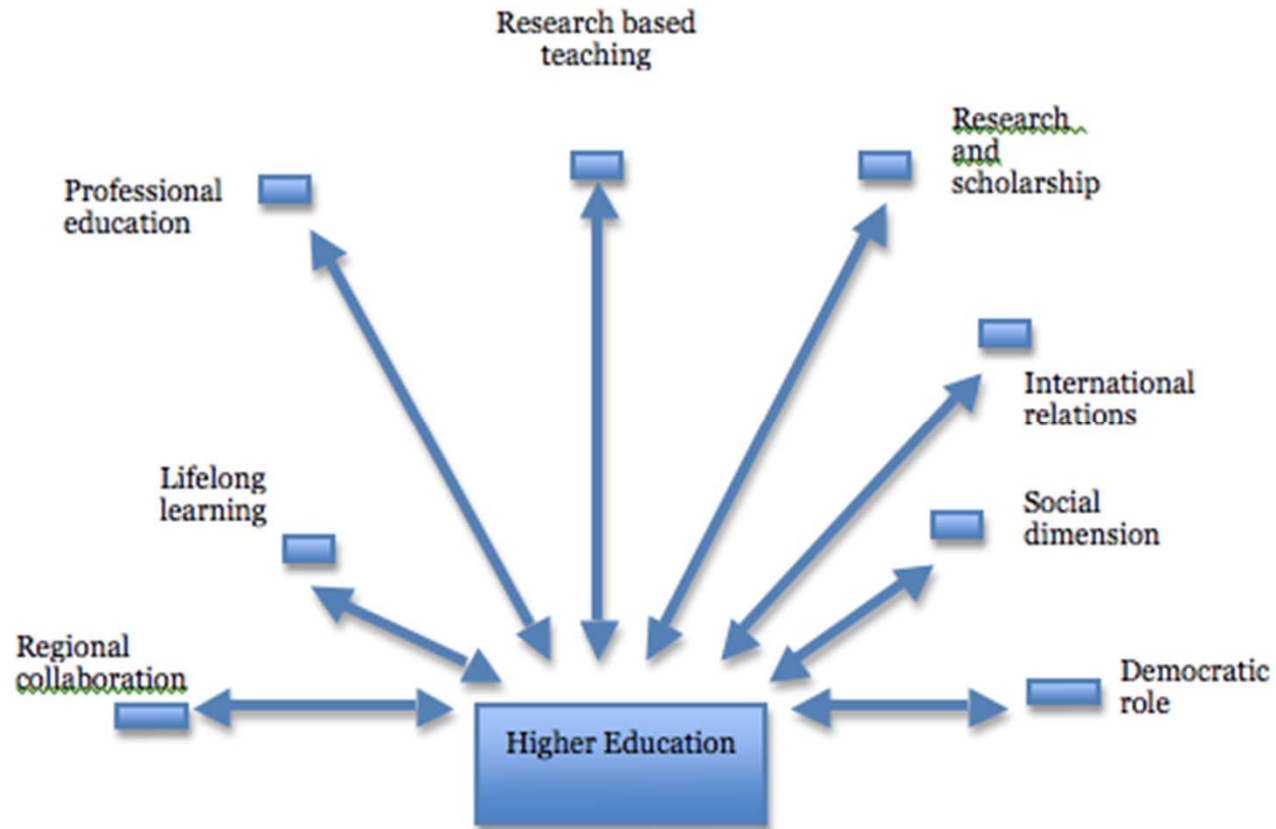
What do we mean by leadership?

- What is leadership in Europe of Bologna/EU
- Competition between organisations – international, national?
- Or the ability to shape agenda, policy options and outcome – and have the institutional and financial resources to carry policy through
- Rules on law, subsidiarity , cooperation, coordination constrain and offer opportunities

Why is the question of leadership important (i)?

- Multiple ideas are at stake - Instrumentalisation of HE to serve a global economy – macro-level interpretation
- Domination by EU growth strategy – smart, sustainable, inclusive (Europe 2020, ET2020, Innovation Union) -‘Use’ of HE to diplomatic ends
- Development of higher education scholarly and operational effectiveness, its attractiveness, democratic credentials – as decided in HE forums

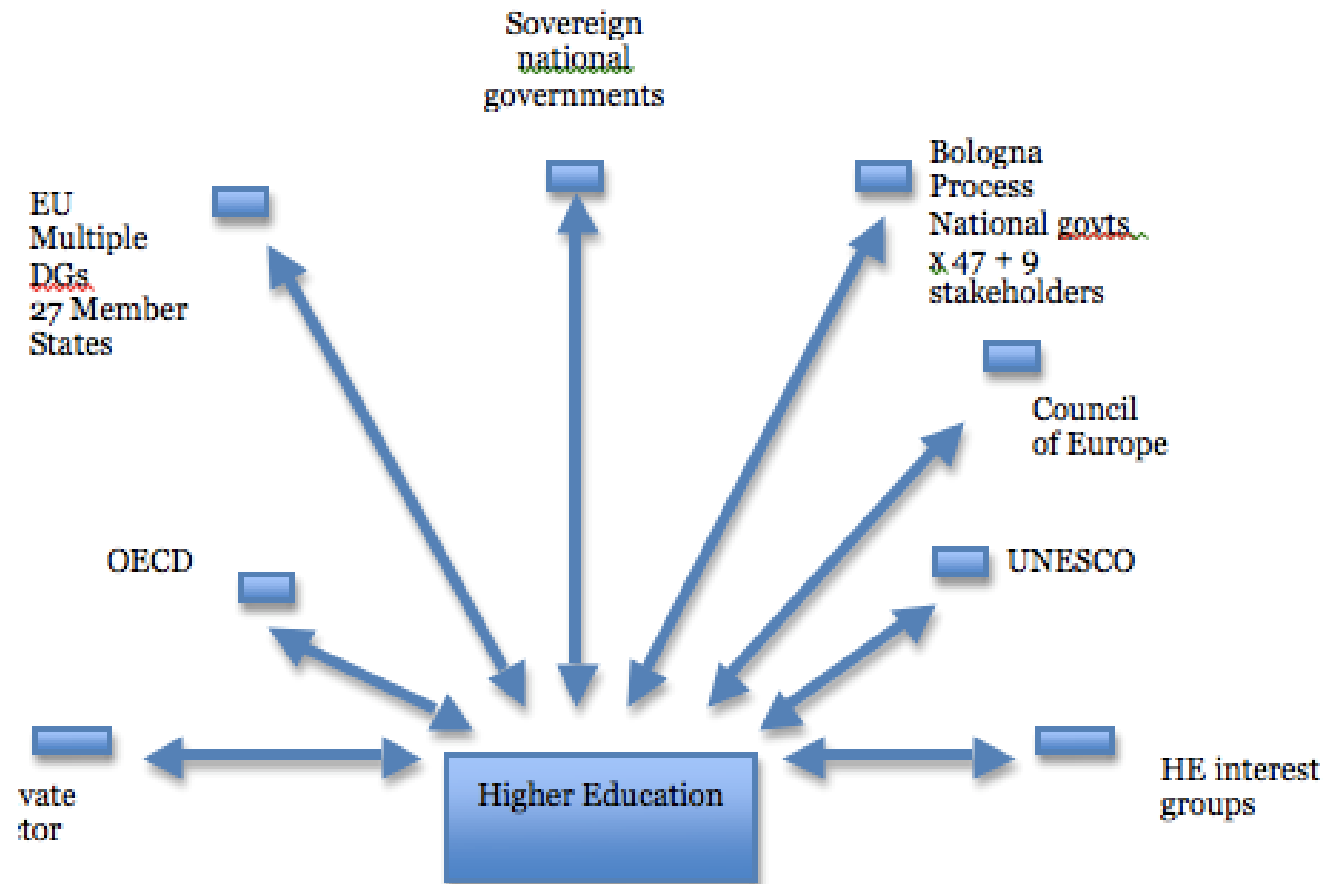
HE and Policy Ideas



Why is the issue important (ii)

- Multiple organisations are involved, each with different resources
- Many of the European settings involve these actors having to cooperate or coordinate
- Not so much ‘a battleground’ – Commission’s ‘creeping competence’ ‘Bologna has been Lisbonised?’ etc
- More a game of ping pong (Shaw , Corbett)

HE and Organisations in Policy Field



Often a competition between organisations and process

- Examples from institutions not represented on this panel:
- The EUA work to get doctoral studies integrated into Bologna, and then working on bridging the education and research division in the Commission – well before the Commission itself
- The ESU and Council of Europe work to get (a) the social dimension into the Bologna process (b) the recognition of higher education as a public responsibility

What leadership in the current context?

- Financial and economic context are leading to new integrationist ideas for EU/Eurozone: European Council (van Rompuy), Finance Ministers (Westerwelle) Commission (Barroso)
- Possible EU finance minister, possible federation of nation states, democratic legitimacy questions to the fore
- Is HE borne along in the slip stream?

How will higher education be involved?

- Experience (and theory) teach us that there are diverse national interpretations/conflicts within common policy frameworks- selection, fees etc
- Evidence also shows a welcome for more Europe-wide support – e.g. European Research Council grants, Europe-wide masters' loan scheme, EU student rights, Multirank scheme
- Is this adhoc or a strategy? Should we expect shifting alliances rather than overt competition?