

[M. C. Lourenço, 2005. *Between two worlds: the distinct nature and contemporary significance of university museums and collections in Europe*. PhD dissertation, Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, Paris]

## Appendix A1: Number of university museums and collections in Europe

The precise number of university museums and collections existing in Europe today is unknown. With a few exceptions, there are no surveys, statistics or even simple lists. In January 2005, attempts were made to obtain information on the number of public higher education institutions in Europe (of all types)<sup>187</sup>, in order to make an estimate of the total number of university museums and collections in Europe (to be understood as geographical Europe, i.e. not only EU; cf. *The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, 1999, London).

Due to their divergent history and traditions, higher education systems in Europe are not homogeneous. For example, in a small country like the Netherlands:

The higher education system is a binary system and consists of 13 universities and 44 *hogescholen* (polytechnics). Besides the 13 traditional research universities, a number of small "designated institutions" are part of the university sector: a university for business administration, four institutes for theological training and a humanistic university, as well as several international education institutes. These are formally part of the higher education system, but are usually not included in the educational statistics and only to a limited extent are they influenced directly by overall higher education policy. Apart from *hogescholen* and universities, higher education in the Netherlands is also provided through the Open University. Two of the universities are legally private but they are treated as public universities (Frans Keiser, *in litt.* 12 April 2005).

Portugal also has a binary system, though different from the Dutch. In some countries, such as the UK, the polytechnics were already integrated or transformed into universities in the 1990s. Countries like France and Germany have even more complex higher education systems. Across Europe, there is significant debate on the transformations required to make the systems compatible and to facilitate mobility of researchers and students (which, ironically, was easier in the 14<sup>th</sup> century than it is now).

*First step: The official route*

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<sup>187</sup> Speaking at the University of Turin in September 2004, Viviane Reding, then European Commissioner for Education and Culture, said that Europe had roughly the same number of universities as the USA, although it is not clear which Europe she had in mind, the 25 countries of the European Union or geographical Europe (Reding 2004).

The obvious place to obtain information regarding the number of higher education institutions in Europe would seem to be bodies concerned with higher education at a European scale, the more important of which are:

- i) the European Union – including the European Commission, its statistical office *Eurostat* (established in 1953), and the European database for education *Eurydice*;
- ii) the Council of Europe;
- iii) the European University Association (EUA), a body representing both European universities and the European conference of rectors;
- iv) the European Higher Education Society (EHES), devoted to higher education management issues and based in the Netherlands;
- v) UNESCO-CEPES (European Centre for Higher Education), founded in 1972 and based in Bucharest (Romania);
- vi) OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development).

None of the information sought could be obtained from the offices of the European Union. The European Commission appears to be mostly concerned with the mobility of students and corresponding exchange programmes (e.g. Erasmus, Socrates). *Eurostat* does not collect this information and I was referred to the European database *Eurydice*<sup>188</sup>. *Eurydice* is a non-user friendly database, difficult to navigate and search. Information is organised per country in big chunks of text and in many cases not translated. The EUA did not have the information and referred to the IAU (International Association of Universities). The IAU did not have the information either, but suggested that I buy their *International Handbook of Universities* for £225 (listing 8,200 institutions in 181 countries worldwide). The EHES did not reply and neither did UNESCO-CEPES, which only gathers statistical data for Central and Eastern European higher education systems (which was eventually used, see table below). The OECD replied saying that they do not collect data on the subject.

The difficulties in getting to know how many universities exist in Europe (or in the EU for a starter) were quite unforeseen. One would have expected a simpler access to information, particularly given the fact that Europe is presently engaged in two major challenges involving coordination at the tertiary education level – the so-called Bologna Process (involving 47 countries) and the Lisbon Strategy (involving the 25 EU countries), respectively. In marked contrast, the number of American universities can be found through several sources (both governmental and associative) by a simple Google search that takes less than three seconds – there are c. 4,000, public and private. This simple example speaks volumes about the long way the EU still has to go before achieving the Bologna and Lisbon targets.

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<sup>188</sup> See [http://www.eurydice.org/accueil\\_menu/en/frameset\\_menu.html](http://www.eurydice.org/accueil_menu/en/frameset_menu.html).

*Second step: The 'old-fashioned' route*

The only option left was to try and find the number of universities for each country. There exist two worldwide databases of universities online – the *Database of World Universities at Canadian Universities*<sup>189</sup> and the *Database of Universities Worldwide*<sup>190</sup> – however, for the sake of reliability, I decided to make direct inquiries to each one of the national conferences of rectors.

The result is in Table A1.1. Data for one country (Bosnia-Herzegovina) could not be found. For the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Cyprus, Spain and Malta data obtained from the *Database of Universities Worldwide* and the *Database of World Universities (Canadian Universities)* were used, because of difficulties in contacting relevant national bodies or lack of response from the national conference of rectors.

The total number of public higher education institutions in Europe appears to be **2,935**, of which 1061 (36%) in the EU.

*Step 3: Estimate of the number of university museums and collections in Europe*

The only country for which there exists credible and relatively up-to-date information on the number of university museums and collections is the UK, where systematic and consistent surveys were carried out between 1989 and 2002. These surveys found an average of 4.4 museums and collections per university.

Applying the same ratio to Europe as a whole (including Russia), we get a figure of **12,914** university museums and collections (**10,032** excluding Russia). The estimate for the number of university museums and collections in the EU is **4,668.4**.

Obviously, this estimate only serves as an indication of the real numbers. It would need refinement when other factors are taken into account (such as the ratio between old and new universities and past dispersals). Clearly, more countries need to conduct surveys on their university heritage, with consistent definitions and coherent methodologies to allow for comparable data across Europe.

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<sup>189</sup> See [http://www.canadian-universities.net/World\\_Universities/index.html](http://www.canadian-universities.net/World_Universities/index.html).

<sup>190</sup> See <http://univ.cc/>

Country	Number of public HEIs	Source	Data from	Observations
Albania	11	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>Austria</b>	21	Austrian Rectors Conference (Österreichische Rektorenkonferenz)	2004	
Belarus	43	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>Belgium</b>	15	Flemish Interuniversity Council & Conseil Interuniversitaire de la Communauté française de Belgique	2004	9 in Wallony, 6 in Flandres
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Unknown	-----	-----	-----
Bulgaria	37	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
Croatia	84	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>Cyprus</b>	1	Database of World Universities (Canadian Universities)	2004	
<b>Czech Republic</b>	28	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>Denmark</b>	17	Danish Rectors' Conference	2002	
<b>Estonia</b>	13	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>Finland</b>	21	Finnish Council of University Rectors	2004	
<b>France</b>	120	"La Maison des Universités"	2003	<a href="http://www.amue.fr/Universites/Default.asp">http://www.amue.fr/Universites/Default.asp</a> Includes universités, écoles normales supérieures, grands établissements, INSAs & Institut National de Recherche Pédagogique
<b>Germany</b>	235	Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK)	2004	
<b>Greece</b>	18	Synodos Prytaneon Ellinikon Panepistimion (Greek Conference of Rectors)	2003	
<b>Hungary</b>	30	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
Iceland	6	University of Iceland website ( <a href="http://www.hi.is/page/HE_in_Iceland">http://www.hi.is/page/HE_in_Iceland</a> )	2004	Total of 9, of which 3 are private but run with State support.
<b>Ireland</b>	7	Conference of Heads of Irish Universities (CHIU)	2004	
<b>Italy</b>	69	Conferenza dei Rettori delle Università Italiane (CRUI)	2004	77 in total (public and private)
<b>Latvia</b>	20	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>Lithuania</b>	30	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>Luxembourg</b>	1	European University Association	2004	
FYR Macedonia	31	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>Malta</b>	1	Database of World Universities (Canadian Universities)	2004	
Moldova	60	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>Netherlands</b>	14	Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)	2004	
Norway	10	Norwegian Council for Higher Education (UHR)	2004	
<b>Poland</b>	125	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	

<b>Portugal</b>	15	CRUP (Portuguese Conference of Rectors)	2004	Includes the Catholic University, which has a special statute and is government-funded
Romania	55	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
Russia	655	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>Slovakia</b>	22	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>Slovenia</b>	62	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>Spain</b>	50	Database of World Universities (Canadian Universities)	2004	+ 24 private (CRUE)
<b>Sweden</b>	36	Association of Swedish Higher Education (SUHF)	2004	15 universities, 18 university colleges and 7 university colleges of art
Switzerland	50	Conférence des Recteurs des Universités Suisses (CRUS)	2004	
Ukraine	822	UNESCO-CEPES	2003	
<b>UK</b>	91	Universities UK	2004	
FR Yugoslavia	9	Database of Universities Worldwide	2004	Including University of Prishtina (Kosovo)

Table A1.1 – Number of public higher education institutions in Europe, per country. In bold, the 25 EU countries.

## Reference

- V. Reding, 2004. *Speech on the award of the honoris causa*. University of Turin, 9 September.  
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/394&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>, accessed 5 December 2004.

