

2nd International Conference on Higher Education Advances, HEAd'16, 21-23 June 2016,
València, Spain

Preface



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Abstract

The series of HEAd conferences have become a leading forum for researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas, experiences and research results relating to the preparation of students and the organization of higher educational systems. The second edition (HEAd'16) was held in Valencia, Spain during 21-23 June 2016. This preface gives an overview of the aims, objectives and scope of HEAd'16, as well as the main contents of the scientific program and the process followed to select them.

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Preface to HEAd'16

This volume contains the selected full papers of the Second International Conference on Higher Education Advances (HEAd'16), which was held in Valencia, Spain during 21-23 June 2016. After this second edition, the series of HEAd conferences have become a leading forum for researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas, experiences and research results relating to the preparation of students and the organization of higher educational systems.

The selection of the scientific program was directed by M. Cinta Vincent-Vela and Raúl Peña-Ortiz, who led a team of 140 program committee members representing 40 countries in all five continents. Following the call for

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papers, the conference received 327 full paper submissions from 54 different countries. All the submitted papers were reviewed by at least two program committee members under a double blind review process. Finally, 104 papers were accepted as full papers for oral presentation during the conference and for inclusion in this special issue of "Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences". This represents an overall full paper acceptance rate of 31%, in line with the acceptance rate of the previous edition (HEAd'15), which was 30%. This selection ensures a high-quality program which is greatly valued by the research communities. Additionally, 23 submissions were accepted as short papers and 40 as poster communications, all of them receiving high review scores and published by UPV Press. The program committee chairs congratulate all the authors for having their papers accepted in the proceedings of such a competitive conference.

HEAd'16 also featured three keynote speakers that overviewed important and actual topics: Prof. Lim Cher Ping (Hong Kong Institute of Education) talked about rethinking Higher Education teaching and learning from quality, equity and efficiency points of view. The talk by Prof. José María García Álvarez-Coque (Universitat Politècnica de València) dealt with the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and the experience they can give to trainers. Finally, Prof. Juan Manuel García Lara (Universidad Carlos III) focused on how to use teaching and student based data to answer broad interdisciplinary research questions.

The conference was hosted by the Faculty of Business Administration and Management of the Universitat Politècnica de València, which has been recently ranked as the best technical university in Spain by the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2015. Valencia is a city of culture and heritage. It is the third largest city in Spain and its location on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea provides their citizens and visitors with a privileged weather.

The editors of this special issue would like to thank all of those who made this year's HEAd a great success. Specifically, thanks are indebted to the invited speakers, authors, program committee members, reviewers, session chairs, presenters, sponsors, supporters and all the attendees. Our final words of gratitude must go to the Faculty of Business Administration and Management of the Universitat Politècnica de València for supporting, once again, the HEAd conference, making it possible to become a great event.