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HERE Impact Stories: What Worked and Why

The contribution of Higher Education Reform Experts (HEREs) to higher education reform in Kyrgyzstan

Erasmus+ Kyrgyzstan | Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE)



Role of HEREs in Kyrgyzstan

HEREs as drivers of systemic reform



Act as policy-to-practice intermediaries



Connect European higher education principles with national reform priorities



Support evidence-based policy development, institutional capacity building, and structured dialogue between Ministry and universities



Focus: long-term, sustainable reform rather than isolated interventions

Impact Story 1: Strategy and KPIs

Strategic reform and performance orientation

WHAT WAS DONE

- ✓ Contribution to a national higher education reform strategy
- ✓ Introduction of KPIs for university performance

WHY IT WORKED

- Shift from input-based to performance-based governance
- Increased transparency and accountability
- Alignment with EU reform logic (ESG, governance, QA)

IMPACT

- Aligning internal strategies with national priorities
- Foundation for monitoring and future evaluation

Note: impact still emerging – strategy adopted recently

Impact Story 2: Needs Assessment & TAMs

From evidence to capacity building



WHAT WAS DONE

- ✓ Annual needs assessment across universities
- ✓ Design of Technical Assistance Missions (TAMs)
- ✓ Joint delivery by international and national experts
- ✓ Reach: 50–100 faculty members per year



FOCUS AREAS

- Innovative teaching and learning methods
- Student-centred education
- Academic writing and publishing



WHY IT WORKED

- Demand-driven and evidence-based
- Immediate applicability
- Strong multiplier effect at institutional level

Impact Story 3: Sector Reviews

Sector reviews as a governance tool



WHAT WAS DONE

- ✓ Regular sector reviews of higher education reforms
- ✓ Thematic focus by year:
 - Ministry-led reforms (2024)
 - Research capacity building (2025)



WHY IT WORKED

- Creates shared understanding among stakeholders
- Strengthens dialogue between Ministry and universities
- Supports evidence-informed policy learning

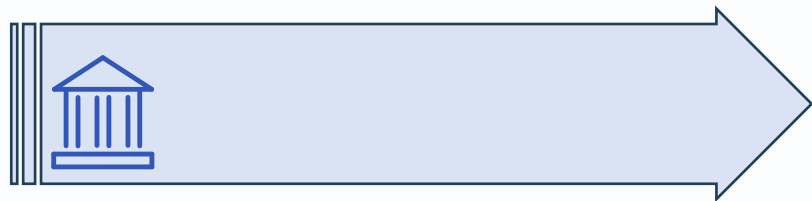


IMPACT

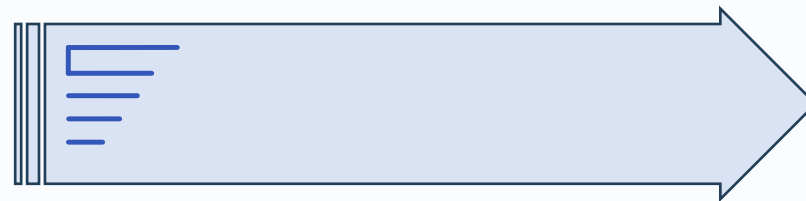
- Better coordination of reforms
- Increased ownership and trust across the system

What Worked: Key Success Factors

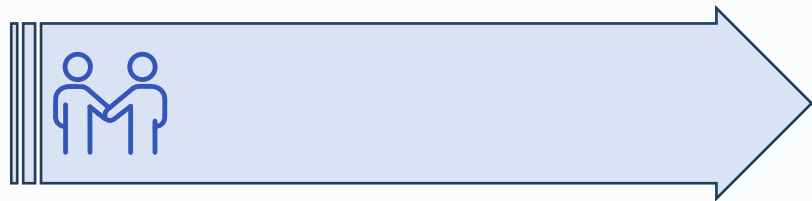
Why HERE interventions were effective



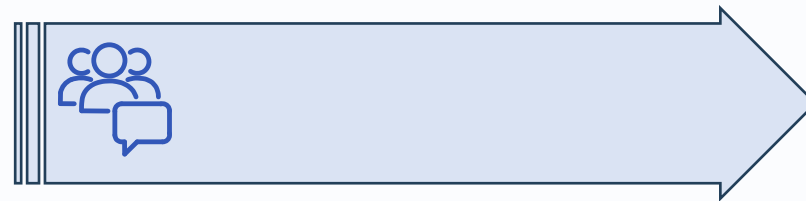
Strong alignment with national reform priorities



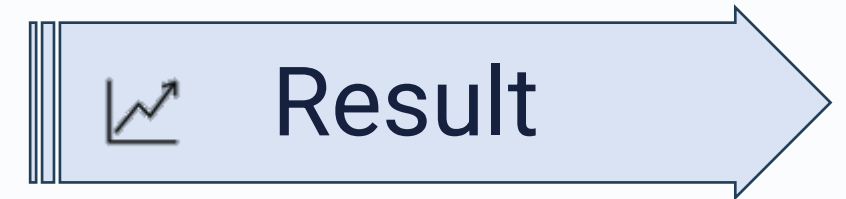
Evidence-based design (needs assessments, reviews)



Combination of European expertise and local context



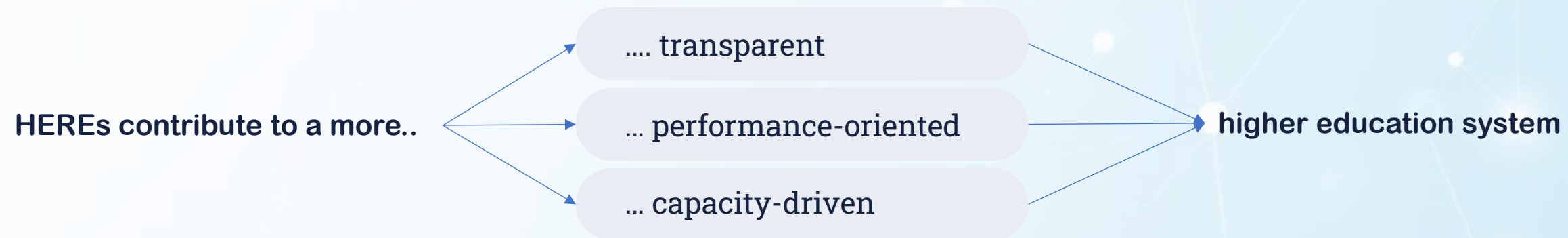
Continuous stakeholder engagement



Reforms are progressively internalised, not only adopted

Conclusion & Outlook

Towards sustainable higher education reform



Conclusion & Outlook

Towards sustainable higher education reform

EXPECTED MEDIUM-TERM IMPACT:



Improved governance



Stronger research capacity



Higher teaching quality

KEY LESSON:



Sustainable reform requires continuous dialogue between policy and practice — HEREs enable this link





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Thank you!



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