

## *Students at the very heart of the higher education system: the example of France's recent reforms*



## Organization

- I. Quick reminder of the recent Law :  
aims and goals
  
- II. Impact on students :  
direct and collateral

# A much-needed reform

An aging system, perpetuating the historical model of *Academia*

- lack of overall governance
- split authority between faculties with no broad arbitrage
- administrative paralysis due to overnumerous boards
- prevalence of monodisciplinary structures

Inadequacy of the system to social and economic change

- massification of higher education
  - growing demand for professionalisation, need for improved services to students and greater acknowledgement of their educational needs;
  - adaptation to the realities of today's economic world
- and  
priority focus on employability

# A set of programs

UPGO

Pôle de recherche & d'enseignement supérieur

- *Investing in the Future* : €22 billion earmarked to accelerate the transformation of France's system of higher education
- *Clusters of excellence*: €15.5 billion to develop prominent campuses, dynamically managed and attuned to the ecosystem
- *Opération Campus*: €5 billion to upgrade and reinvigorate academic facilities in France
- Reorganization of higher education and research: creation of PRESs (higher education and research clusters), RTRAs (thematic advanced research networks) and competitiveness clusters (strengthen links between industry and education)

# A key reform: the LRU

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- New legislation on academic freedom and responsibility: increase the autonomy of France's universities
- New missions assigned to higher education: students orientation and employability become a priority
- New governance: University board becomes the strategic management body and the President becomes the operating decision-maker
- New responsibilities: possibility to create new structures or degrees, to launch public-private foundations, to hire external experts and professionals from the business world...

# Key word

## Enhance students success

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- A priority for strategic development
- A target for provisional programming
- A performance indicator determining budget resources

# Impact on students (1)

- Better representation: one of the Vice-President is a student, in charge of all aspects of students life
- Better recognition: compulsory creation of a service devoted to students orientation, internship search assistance, help integrating the economic world, monitored job placements
- Better studies development support: individual assistance programs, closer supervision through mentoring and tutoring
- Enlarged offer in terms of training programs: possibility to access new degrees (cross-curricular diplomas), diversify training through specializations (scientific and/or vocational)

## Impact on students (2)

- Increased support: individual tutoring for all B.A. students, introduction of reorientation semesters, creation of pathways between programs, dedicated support to failing students
- Better training conditions: downsizing classes, modernized campuses, innovative solutions (learning centres equipped with ICT, web-TV with visioconferencing learning, teaching resources dowlable through podcast...)
- Increased responsibilities: important presence in University boards, evaluation of teaching, increasing role played by associations, students « employment on campus » programs