



Short Bio

Dr. María Ángeles Heras Lázaro

PHD Nottingham University on comparative Literature (2000) and BA University of Barcelona in Hispanic and Latin American Studies (1995).

Current position: From September 2021: Head of Service. Deputy Direction of Social, Education, Culture, Health and Consumer Affairs. State Secretariat for the EU. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU and Cooperation. Responsible for coordinating activities in the field of Education, Youth, Culture and Sport with the EU Council working groups and

Permanent Representation.

I have 21 year-experience in the field of education and research in different areas ranging from university level, to adult education and secondary school education. However, my main area of expertise is Vocational Education and Training. I have a 10-year experience in the field of VET at the EU level indifferent organisations and positions.

Prior to my current job, I was the Head of the International Unit for VET at the Spanish Ministry of Education and VET (2018-2021). I was the representative member at different EC VET committees, boards and expert groups: *Advisory Committee for VET* (2018-2021), alternate representative at the *DGVT* (2019-2021) and *CEDEFOP* Governing Board (sept. 2018-2019). I was also a national expert at the *ET2020 working group* for VET (Innovation and Digitalisation in VET). I have contributed to research and surveys in the VET field for the EC and OEDC. I have also written handbooks and guides (for Leonardo da Vinci mobility project coordinators), led assessment processes and done teacher and assessment training. I have lectured in different fields ranging from academic research to the VET field both at national and European levels.

As regards national policy reforms in the field of VET, I was the coordinator at the Ministry of Education and VET of the *Structural Reform Services Project* (DG Reform) on supporting dual VET quality improvement within the Spanish education system (2018-2021). The results of this project served the bases for a recent major reform within the IVET system in Spain.

I have a wide experience in the field of Erasmus + programme, having been the responsible for the mobility department (Leonardo Da Vinci programme) at the Spanish NA (2006-2013). At regional level I was the representative for Madrid Region of Erasmus+ and eTwinning regional coordinator for 4 years. I have also been involved in the coordination of a range of innovation projects in the field of education led by Spanish administrations at both regional and national levels.