

## OVERVIEW

Though it is the Council's custom to present the second semester volume of the journal "Calidad en la Educación" in December, on this occasion issue number 31, this is the first time that I as Executive Secretary present selected articles and why they seem relevant to include.

I cannot begin this presentation without first referring to the institutional changes that have affected the Council. The recent change of legislation, which concerns the educational system in general, establishes the creation of the National Council of Education as successor of the Higher Council of Education in all its functions, also entrusting it with a series of other tasks. The Council, together with the Ministry of Education, is part of the Quality Assurance System of Higher and School Education. Its role is of guarantor of quality, which is not trivial to this publication's objectives, which drive thought and investigation in the area of education. Therefore, it pleases us to inform that this Council will continue to develop activities in this direction, through the edition of "Calidad en la Educación", as well as through other means and media.

We are currently releasing three articles that result from preliminary findings related to studies conducted with the Council's support for the development of investigation in higher education. These works are "The segmentation circle in the Chilean education system: working assignments for recently graduated primary education teachers", by Andrea Ruffinelli and Alexis Guerrero; "Influences for schoolchildren motivation towards engineering and technological careers", by Carola Blazquez's team, and "Electronic networks in higher education institutions: the case of Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile", by Cristobal García and Alvaro Piña.

In addition to these research reports, it has been a great pleasure for the magazine's staff to receive external collaborations, both national and international; the first gathers interesting evidence related to:

“University quality: secondary school students and their attitudes and beliefs in relation to four universities in the Chilean fifth region”, by professor Guido Demicheli; the second is a work by Josep Masjuan and Helena Troiano, titled “Incorporation of Spain into the European Higher Education Area: the case of a Catalan university”.

As for the account of experiences, the work by professors Andrea Minte and Daniel Lopez shows an interesting view of the way a higher education institution responds to the stimulus that accreditation imposes, in the article “Response model to institutional accreditation. The experience in Universidad de Los Lagos”.

Finally, there is always space in our journal for thought in essay form, allowing us to reflect on the current scenarios and to project possible futures in dynamic areas such as quality assurance in higher education, for example. This volume includes contributions to this subject by Maria Jose Lemaitre, through “New approaches to quality assurance in a context of changes”; Gonzalo Zapata and Ivo Tejada, in “Considerations and suggestions on the impacts of quality assurance and higher education accreditation”; Emilio Rodriguez Ponce, Nicolas Fleet and Milagros Delgado with “The role of accreditation in producing information about quality in higher education” and finally, the team led by Mauricio Ferrari through “Evaluating faculty members on their work in research and creation”.

This edition has confronted us once again with the challenge of coordinating revision and evaluation by external peers. This process, though exhausting, fills us with satisfaction, because it reinforces the scientific and discipline-based character that the production and edition of content involves, and which we offer to our readers through these pages. This is also a good opportunity to recognize and publicly thank Paula Mena, Head of the Research and Publications Department, for her hard work, commitment and dedication; she is the fundamental pillar for the new approach this magazine has experimented in the past few years and for the careful precision of the selection process and quality of the articles included. We wish her good luck with the new challenges she is undertaking and hope to receive her collaborations, which will enrich the analysis of the

educational system from the perspective of an institution of higher education.

The editorial team that I lead would like to renew its commitment to continue offering a space for diversity in the circulation of new knowledge, discussion and exchange of ideas on the subject of education.

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National Council of Education