

A national policy for HEIs' full compliance with Bologna transparency tools ***The CHEER II project (2016-2018)*** <http://www.processodibologna.it/>

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Background

All HEIs who sign an ECHE to participate in the Erasmus+ program commit to use international transparency tools, like the ECTS Course Catalogue and Grade distribution tables, and the ECTS recognition procedures. National Agencies are responsible for monitoring HEIs' compliance with this commitment.

The Italian context

The Italian HE system is large and highly diversified as it includes 97 Universities and 122 Art&Music institutions, of different sizes and with different levels of international experience. After years of general promotion and individual counseling, it was found that not all HEIs were producing all the transparency tools required, the documents produced were not always of the best quality and the internal recognition procedures were not always fully consistent.

The CHEER II project (2016-2018) <http://www.processodibologna.it/> **was aimed to solve this problem at the national level.** It was coordinated by the Ministry of Education - Department of Higher Education and Research, co-financed by the European Commission under Erasmus+ KA3, managed by the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI) and supported by the group of Bologna experts

A systemic and synergic approach

Through four national Working Groups, the Project **tackled the major requirements of the ECHE** (Recognition, ECTS Course Catalogue, ECTS grade distribution tables) and the Diploma Supplement, by **targeting the whole HE system** with a centralized and well coordinated approach and **developing a strong synergy among the main national actors concerned with HE policies** (Ministry of Education, Rectors' Conference, QA National Agency, Erasmus+ Agency, Europass Contact Point, ENIC/NARIC Center, national organizations of HE teachers, students and administrators, experts in data management) who were included directly in the working groups. HEIs holding an ECTS or DS label were also actively involved in the working groups.

The working groups developed national guidelines or recommendations for the HEIs on how to produce the Diploma Supplement, the ECTS grade distribution tables and the Course Catalogue, and how to formulate internal rules for the recognition of periods of study abroad.

Advantages of this approach for transparency tools and recognition

This approach makes it possible for all the stakeholders involved to agree on a standard description - in Italian and English – of the various aspects of the national system; facilitates the integration of institutional information systems and data bases - in Italian and English – with the national one; makes use of all the expertise available in the country to improve the quality of national/institutional data and recognition procedures; makes it possible to use national and institutional resources more efficiently by using the same data for a variety of purposes; promotes the use of the transparency tools and correct recognition procedures to improve the quantity and quality of joint programs.