

BFUG2 4  
27 February 2004

## **BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP SEMINARS 2003-2005**

**Document for decision by the BFUG Meeting on 9 March 2004**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Berlin Communiqué has inspired a large number of follow-up activities. The recommendations of the Communiqué are directed to national authorities, institutions and organisations. Countries and organisations should feel free to launch relevant follow-up activities in accordance with Berlin Communiqué. It is the active participation of all partners in the process that will ensure its long-term success.

Seminars were the main vehicle for the follow-up of the Prague Communiqué and will continue to be an important element in the follow-up after Berlin.

*Bologna Follow-up Seminars* may be organised by individual member countries or consultative member organisations in accordance with their own priorities and objectives, provided that the criteria for such seminars are satisfied (see below).

**Notwithstanding the guidelines below, at its meeting in January 2004 the BFUG Board considered this in the context of the amount of time available before Bergen. Assuming approval of the Work Programme by the BFUG in Dublin, it is estimated that there is about 12 months available to undertake the programme set by the Ministers in Berlin. Therefore, it is necessary to set a limit on the number of seminars to be included in the BFUG Work Programme.** These must be of general interest and applicability to all Bologna member countries and organisations.

### **2. BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP SEMINARS**

A number of proposals for seminars have been submitted to the BFUG, reflecting the various action lines of the Bologna Process. In considering these proposals, the Board found it necessary to establish guidelines for the conduct of seminars.

#### **2.1 Criteria for Bologna Follow-up Seminars**

It is recommended that in order to achieve the maximum benefit from the seminars, the sponsor of each proposal should be prepared to apply the guidelines below. This will not only ensure consistency in approach and understanding, but will also ensure that the output from the seminars can be incorporated in future communications associated with the Bologna Process.

- Bologna Follow-up Seminars may be proposed by all member countries and by all organisations being consultative members. Other organisations and individual institutions may be partners.

- As the BFUG will be in charge of the stocktaking, seminars on Bologna stocktaking should not be planned independently. The same should apply to work on developing an overarching qualifications framework for the European Higher Education Area.
- Proposals should refer to the relevant section of the Berlin Communiqué. In addition to a relevant title, a preliminary programme should be submitted, indicating the central elements and working methods of the seminar.
- A number of members have expressed concern about the number and frequency of questionnaires on matters associated with the Bologna Process. If sending questionnaires to BFUG members is considered to be essential, the BFUG should be consulted, as it may facilitate possible synergies with other data-gathering exercises.
- Dates should be given, but at the same time the possibility for adjustment should be kept open. The Chair and/or Secretariat may contact organisers to suggest adjusting dates.
- Bologna Follow-up Seminars should be planned for at least 100 participants. Invitations should be sent to BFUG members and consultative members, to ministries, national rectors' conferences and student organisations (either directly or via EUA/ EURASHE/ESIB) and to other organisations as relevant to the particular seminar.
- A rapporteur should be appointed for each seminar. The report from the seminar should be sent to the BFUG through its Chair and Secretariat, and it should also be made public through the web site for the Bergen Ministerial Conference.
- In addition to the report from the rapporteur, recommendations from the seminar may be sent to the BFUG. Recommendations should not exceed one standard A-4 page.
- Recommendations to the Bergen 2005 Ministerial Conference should be channelled through the BFUG. Reports from seminars should be clear on which recommendations are directed at the Ministerial Conference, and there should as a rule not be more than 1 – 2 such recommendations from each seminar.

**Organisers of Bologna Follow-up Seminars are asked to confirm their proposals to the Secretariat, providing information on dates and the location for the seminar. In addition to a short title and the relevant reference to the Berlin Communiqué, a preliminary programme should be submitted.** With this information available, the Secretariat will post the seminar on the calendar for Bologna Follow-up Events.

### **3. BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP SEMINARS IN THE BFUG WORK PROGRAMME**

A limited number of the Bologna Follow-up Seminars will be included in the BFUG Work Programme. For these seminars,

- the theme will be of general interest to the members and consultative members of the Bologna Process;
- when relevant, the seminar will build on previous seminars on the same theme;
- participation should be free of charge.

The various action lines of the Bologna Process, including the social dimension as a transversal action line, will be represented. Responsibility for these seminars is broadly spread among participating countries and organisations.

#### **4. UPDATING OF PROPOSALS**

At the request of the BFUG Board, the Secretariat wrote to organisers, seeking confirmation of dates and the location for each seminar. In addition to a short title and the relevant reference to the Berlin Communiqué, a preliminary programme should be submitted, and organisers of seminars relating to the same Bologna action line were asked to communicate to avoid duplication

The seminars reviewed were as follows:

1. "Joint degrees – Further development" (Sweden, workshop 6-7 May 2004)
2. "Bologna and the challenges of eLearning and distance education" (Belgium-FI, 4-5 June 2004)
3. "Learning outcomes" (UK, 1-2 July 2004)
4. "Assessment and accreditation in the European framework" (Spain, 28-30 July 2004)
5. "The social dimension of higher education facing world-wide competition" (France, 16-18 Sept(?) 2004)
6. "Public Responsibility for Higher Education and Research" (CoE, 22-24 Sept 2004)
7. "Mobility" (The Netherlands, 10-11 Oct 2004)
8. "New Generations of Laws for Higher Education" (CEPES/EUA/CoE, 4-6 Nov 2004)
9. "Co-operation between accreditation agencies" (Poland, Nov 2004)
10. "Improving the Recognition System" (Latvia, Nov/Dec 2004)
11. "Bachelor's Degree: What is it?" (Russia, Nov/Dec 2004)
12. "Opening up to the Wider World – The External Dimension of the EHEA" (Germany, 2004/5)
13. "Integrating Shorter HE in a qualifications framework" (EURASHE, Jan 2005)
14. "Doctoral Programmes for the European Knowledge Society" (Austria/Germany/EUA , Jan 2005)
15. "European Qualifications Framework" Follow-up of the Danish initiative, Jan 2005
16. ["Common standards, procedures and guidelines in QA" Outcome of ENQA project?]

#### **4.1. An updated list**

On the basis of the material received by the Secretariat, the tentative list of seminars may be updated. For a number of proposed seminars (marked \* in the list below), new information is available, see Appendix 1. However, relevant information is still lacking, in particular for seminars planned for late 2004 or early 2005. *The BFUG may consider to postpone the final decision on those seminars.*

##### **“Joint degrees – Further development”**

(Sweden, workshop 6-7 May 2004)

Updated programme received Feb. 04 \*.

##### **”Bologna and the challenges of eLearning and distance education”**

(Belgium-FI, 4-5 June 2004)

No update.

##### **“Using Learning Outcomes”**

(UK, 1-2 July 2004)

Preliminary programme received Feb. 04 \*. Dates not confirmed.

##### **“Assessment and accreditation in the European framework”**

(Spain, 28-30 July 2004)

Presentation and preliminary programme received Feb. 04 \*. It is said that the seminar is part of the UIMP university summer programme and that all European agencies for QA and accreditation will be invited. It should be clarified that the seminar will be organised according to the BFUG criteria (all parties to the Bologna Process should be invited) and that co-operation with the ENQA project will be ensured. The Secretariat has contacted the organizers about this.

##### **"The social dimension of higher education facing world-wide competition"**

(France, 16-18 Sept? 2004)

Proposal of 29 Jan. 04 \*. The proposed dates overlap with the big EAIE conference in Torino 15-17 Sept. Only a few days later (23-24 Sept. There will be a CoE seminar in Strasbourg. The Secretariat has indicated to the organisers that the dates might be reconsidered.

##### **“Public Responsibility for Higher Education and Research”**

(CoE, 23-24 Sept 2004)

Updated programme received Feb. 04 \*.

##### **“Mobility”**

(The Netherlands, 11-12 Oct 2004)

Updated description received Feb. 04 \*.

Note: Tentative date for BFUG meeting 12 Oct. (afternoon)

##### **“New Generations of Laws for Higher Education”**

(CEPES/EUA/CoE, 4-6 Nov 2004)

No update.

**“Bachelor’s Degree: What is it?”**

(Russia, 23-24 Nov. 2004)

Preliminary description Feb. 04 \*. This seminar will be important for the continuing discussion within Russian universities and international participation in the seminar will be essential. However, a Europe-wide discussion on Bachelor’s degrees should not be started anew, cf. Helsinki seminar March 2001 and follow-up in the Prague Communiqué. The Secretariat has communicated this to the Russian organisers, also indicating that it may be too early to discuss the possibility of direct transition from the bachelor's degree to doctoral studies. The first Bologna seminar on the doctoral degree will not be held until February 2005. On the other hand a continued discussion of the position of the bachelor's degree in relation to the labour market would seem to be of general interest. These proposal are being considered by the Russian organizers.

**“Co-operation between accreditation agencies”**

(Poland, Nov 2004)

Preliminary description received Feb. 04 \*. Organiser is the Polish State Accreditation Committee and the target group is accreditation committee representatives from other Bologna signatory states. The Secretariat has informed the organisers that as it stands, the seminar does not satisfy the criteria for a Bologna Follow-up Seminar. If reorganised as a Bologna Follow-up Seminar, it should take account of the Spanish seminar 28-30 July and also of the progress of the ENQA project.

**“Improving the Recognition System”**

(Latvia, 3-4 Dec. 2004)

Dates have been confirmed, no update yet on programme.

**“Doctoral Programmes for the European Knowledge Society”**

(Austria/Germany/EUA , 3-5 Feb. 2005)

Updated description Feb. 04 \*.

**“Opening up to the Wider World – The External Dimension of the EHEA”**

(Germany, 2004/5)

No update.

**“Integrating Shorter HE in a qualifications framework”**

(EURASHE, Jan 2005)

No update.

**“European Qualifications Framework”**

Follow-up of the Danish initiative, Jan 2005

No update.

**“Common standards, procedures and guidelines in QA”**

[Outcome of ENQA project? 2005?]

*In addition to the 16 seminars on the tentative list recommended by the Board meeting on 29 January, inclusion of the following seminars in the BFUG Work Programme has been proposed by BFUG delegates:*

### **”Higher Education in Ukraine and the Bologna Process”**

(CEPES/EUA/CoE, 13-14 May 2004)

Updated outline and programme received Feb. 04 \* . This seminar will be important for the further development in Ukraine and international participation in the seminar will be essential. Also seen from the Bologna Process, bridge-building to Ukraine is of high importance. Even so, the seminar on Ukraine HE was not considered by the Board to be of general interest to all partners in the Bologna Process.

### **“European Bachelor’s Programme in Chemistry”**

(Germany, June 2004)

No update. The topic is certainly relevant to the Bologna Process. However, as it focuses on a special field in Science, it was not considered by the Board to be of general interest to all partners in the Bologna Process and also outside the competence of the BFUG.

### **“Employability and its link to the objectives of the Bologna Process”**

(Slovenia, January 2005). Submitted 23 Feb. 04 \*.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

Having regard to the limited time available, the Board recommends that the following seminars be treated as central to the conduct of its work programme, in that they reflect the priorities set by the Ministers in Berlin, and have the potential of contributing most to the realisation of the European Higher Education Area. The following seminars are submitted to the BFUG for inclusion in the BFUG Working Programme 2003-2005:

1. “Joint degrees – Further development” (Sweden, 6-7 May 2004)
2. ”Bologna and the challenges of eLearning and distance education” (Belgium-FI, 4-5 June 2004)
3. “Learning outcomes” (UK, 1-2 July 2004)
4. “Assessment and accreditation in the European framework” (Spain, 28-30 July 2004)
5. "The social dimension of higher education facing world-wide competition" (France, 16-18 Sept? 2004)
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