

From Glasgow to Lisbon: Implementing Bologna in Institutions

EUA's Contribution to the Bologna Process 2005 - 2007

1. Introduction

EUA's Glasgow Declaration¹ (2005) underlines that *"Europe needs strong and creative universities as key actors in shaping the European knowledge society through their commitment to wide participation and lifelong learning, and by their promotion of quality and excellence in teaching, learning, research and innovation activities"*.

The Declaration continues by saying that *"Bologna reforms are refocusing on higher education institutions, now that the legislative framework is largely in place" and that "Universities willingly accept their responsibility to drive forward implementation in the next five years and urge governments to accept that the process needs time, and financial and human resources, to ensure long-term sustainability"*.

The purpose of this text is to describe the main activities EUA is presently undertaking in order to keep the commitments made in the Glasgow Declaration and to respond to the priorities outlined in the Bergen Communiqué. The universities formal statement to the 2007 Ministers' Conference in London will be prepared at the 4th Convention of European Higher Education Institutions that will be held in Lisbon from 29-31 March 2007.

2. Overarching activities

The following activities have a broad focus and are intended to support the implementation of the process in institutions by:

- Analysing trends and challenges as well as identifying success factors and problems to be addressed in the future
- providing urgently needed information for academics and students.

¹ http://www.eua.be/eua/jsp/en/upload/Glasgow_Declaration.1114612714258.pdf

- *Trends V*

Trends V combines the methodology of Trends III and IV and has been launched by addressing a questionnaire on different aspects of the reforms to higher education institutions in all 45 Bologna countries. This questionnaire is based on, and thus allows comparison with the results of the 2002 questionnaire. Over 900 institutions have now responded. Following an analysis of the data received the next phase will involve the organisation of institutional site visits in the second half of the year in a wide range of countries. Focus-group discussions on emerging issues will also be organised. Specific attention will be paid to addressing the situation of universities in countries that have recently joined the process.

http://www.eua.be/eua/en/policy_bologna_trends.jsp

- *Publication of a Bologna Handbook (together with Raabe Publishers)*

The objective of this handbook is to create a practically-oriented and flexible tool which will support higher education professionals - academics and administrators at institutional, faculty and department levels - in understanding, introducing and implementing all aspects of the Bologna Process. The publication will include articles on the full range of Bologna action lines written by practitioners and leading experts in each field that focus on the implementation of specific elements of the Bologna Process in higher education institutions and on the identification of examples of good practice. Designed as a hands-on tool the Handbook will be in A4 looseleaf binder format. The first edition will appear in mid 2006 and will be followed by four annual updates.

http://www.eua.be/eua/en/Bologna_Handbook.jsp

- *Bologna Promoters - coordination and training (EC contract - 'Information Project on Higher Education Reform')*

In the context of this contract EUA's remit is to coordinate and organise training seminars and materials for the national teams of Bologna Promoters set up in the EU25 and other Socrates countries. EUA will also involve Bologna Promoters' teams in other Bologna countries, in as far as they exist. The specific objective is to prepare materials and case studies and to organise a series of training seminars which will provide a European dimension and a comparative perspective on key Bologna issues. EUA will make sure that the materials prepared are made available to all its members. EUA will implement this project together with EURASHE, ESIB, the Tuning Project and the EAIE.

- *Priority for South Eastern Europe*

As a continuation of ongoing support to universities in South Eastern Europe, together with the University of Vienna and under the auspices of the Austrian Presidency, EUA organised a conference on higher education and research in the Western Balkans from 1-3 March 2006. The recommendations resulting from this meeting that focus in part on the importance of implementing the Bologna reforms were transmitted to the 16 - 17 March meeting of European Ministers of Higher Education where they were presented by the EUA President. http://www.eua.be/eua/jsp/en/upload/SEE_Statement_Vienna_030306_Final.1141985288957.pdf

3. EUA activities in relation to specific Bologna Action Lines

- Degree system/qualifications frameworks

The Glasgow Declaration includes commitments on behalf of universities *"to increasing their efforts to promote student centred learning, to introduce learning outcomes in curricular design, to implement ECTS and to ensure the flexible adoption of modularisation. Governments should include universities in the continuing efforts to develop national and European qualifications frameworks. These must be sufficiently broad and transparent to promote institutional innovation, and be given time in order to be developed adequately and to agree a common terminology."*

EUA has been an active partner in the development of an overarching Qualifications Framework for the EHEA. Convinced of the importance for universities of the development of national qualifications frameworks EUA continues to contribute to the work of the BFUG working group on this issue. EUA's goal is also to clarify the articulation of the QF for the EHEA with the proposed EQF for LLL and has therefore adopted a policy position on this issue as a contribution to the ongoing European debate. EUA continues to promote the use of and further development of ECTS in this context. http://www.eua.be/eua/jsp/en/upload/EUA_Statement_EQFLLL_1612005.1134729712517.pdf

- Quality assurance

Since the beginning of the Bologna process the EUA has underlined the importance of the establishment of an internal quality culture in institutions as well as sound internal and external quality assurance measures. The Glasgow Declaration commits *"to a dialogue and a partnership, at European level in the "E4" (comprising ENQA, ESIB, EUA and EURASHE) in order to enhance accountability procedures that would strengthen the overall quality of Europe's universities. EUA supports the ENQA report for Bergen, including the standards and guidelines for quality assurance, the establishment of a*

European register of quality assurance agencies and the European Register Committee."

EUA is therefore:

- Pursuing E4 cooperation in relation to the establishment of the Register and Register Committee
- has taken the lead in launching the Quality Forum, cf. below - with financial support from the European Commission
- Continuing its own quality working group both to underpin its work in the E4 and as a platform for developing other initiatives of importance to universities

Furthermore, EUA has launched following projects in order to reach its goals of developing, embedding and mainstreaming an internal quality culture in European universities that fits each and every institution's own mission and objectives.

- *Creative Universities (EC funded project)*

The objective of the project is to enhance the creativity of universities in Europe by identifying and benchmarking good practices in governance that foster creativity. The project is targeted at university leaders, academic and administrative staff in different types of institutions. As with the Quality Culture project in the past, the work is being done by higher education institutions working together in networks.

- *Quality Forum (EC funded project)*

The QA Guidelines adopted in Bergen include reference to the establishment of a European Forum for Quality Assurance. This forum - an EUA proposal - is intended to provide the QA and HE communities and stakeholders with an annual opportunity to discuss key higher education trends and their implications for quality assurance in order to develop a shared understanding of a European dimension for quality assurance. The Forum will meet for the first time from the 23 - 25 November 2006, in Germany (TU Munich).

- *EMNEM ("European Masters New Evaluation Methodology") (EC funded project)*

National QA procedures often do not cover the particularities of Joint Master programmes. Therefore there is an obvious need for a European perspective on assuring internal and external quality for Joint Masters. The EMNEM project will help to close this gap. The main aim of the project is to develop a European methodology especially tailored to joint degrees suitable for the improvement of internal quality mechanisms and their external evaluation. The final report will be available shortly.

<http://www.eua.be/eua/en/EMNEM.jsp>

- *Quality Culture (EC funded project)*

The third round of EUA's quality culture is now in its final stage. The project has aimed at supporting institutions establishing an internal quality culture. Institutional representatives have cooperated in small networks which have focused on a variety of Bologna related issues, e.g. Implementation of Bologna Reforms, Learning Outcomes, Joint Programmes.

http://www.eua.be/eua/en/projects_quality.jspx

In addition to these EC funded projects EUA continues supporting its members by offering institutional evaluations aimed at strengthening institutions capacity to change:

- The *Institutional Evaluation Programme* continues to grow as one of EUA's flagship activities. The programme supports institutional development by looking at the institutions' capacity to adapt to a changing environment and is managed independently by its own Steering Committee. In addition to continuing to respond to individual institutions' request for evaluation (17 institutions in 2006), agreements have been reached with the Ministries and Rectors' Conferences in Slovakia and Portugal to review Slovak and Portuguese universities and other higher education institutions over the next two years.

http://www.eua.be/eua/en/membership_evaluation.jspx

- Higher education and research

- *EUA Follow-Up Report on Doctoral Programmes for the London Ministerial Conference*

The Bergen Communiqué asks EUA to prepare a report on doctoral programmes for the London Ministerial meeting in 2007. Working together with the Austrian and French governments, EURODOC and ESIB, EUA will follow up the Salzburg recommendations prepared for Bergen by focusing on (1) issues related to programmes, e.g. transparency, supervision and assessment, research progress/duration, transmission of skills & competences etc. (2) the role of institutions, e.g. creating critical mass, structured doctoral programmes, promoting interdisciplinarity etc. and (3) the role of the state, in relation to funding issues, the changing profile of PhD students, and improving the attractiveness of research careers. Finally, the groups will investigate horizontal issues such as mobility and the European dimension, and the importance of 'joined up' governmental thinking in improving doctoral programmes and enhancing career perspectives.

Workshops on these issues will be organised throughout the year and a final conference hosted by the University of Nice from 7-9 December 2006. More information is available in the separate report to the BFUG on this issue.

This activity links to various other EUA actions in this area and in particular to the DG Research supported *Doc Careers* project which explores the relation between doctoral training, career development and employability prospects for young scientists especially outside of academia.

4. EUA action in other priority areas

- Attractiveness/External Dimension

As international cooperation belongs to the core business of universities and continues to grow in importance, thus promoting the “external dimension” of the Bologna reforms is increasingly playing a role in EUA’s work. EUA’s mission is defined as including a responsibility to:

- Inform and explain developments in European universities to international partners
- Communicate the achievements of European higher education and contribute to enhancing its attractiveness
- Consolidate partnerships and promote dialogue with universities and university associations at international level

Specific actions taking place this year include:

- Organisation of a Transatlantic dialogue with the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Canadian Association of Universities and Colleges (AUCC), in October 2006, on the topic “access, funding and affordability”;
- Organisation with the American Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) of a Europe/US graduate education summit in September 2006; this will be followed by the launching of a global dialogue on ongoing reforms in graduate education and doctoral training in 2007;
- Consolidation of EUA - Latin American interuniversity cooperation through a Conference being organised in Oviedo, Spain, in April 2006, as input to the EU-LAC summit being organised under Austrian Presidency in May 2006.

- Funding of Higher Education

While funding of higher education is not one of the actions lines or priorities of the Bologna Process, it is evident that without a sound financial basis institutions will not be able to make the European Higher Education Area a reality. For this reason EUA has established a *Working Group on funding of higher education and research in Europe*

that will prepare EUA's contribution to the policy debate on this topic. The group is concentrating initially on reviewing institutional funding systems in different national settings and on addressing transparency issues, taking account of recent UK experience. In addition, the subject of EUA's Spring Conference 2006 is "Funding Strong Universities: Diversification, Student Support and Good Governance" (University of Hamburg, 30 March – 1 April).

- *University Leadership and Management*

Similarly, the Bologna reforms will only be successful if universities have the necessary professional expertise to introduce and manage the reforms in a proper way. EUA is therefore intensifying its efforts to organise activities targeted at strengthening professional leadership and management competence in higher education institutions by:

- Further developing the workshop series "Managing the University Community" with an event on fundraising (February 2006) and a second event planned for December 2006
- Organising two leadership seminar modules for senior managers, (part of the development of which will receive EC support in 2006)
http://www.eua.be/eua/en/membership_services.jsp

5. EUA's 2007 Convention in Lisbon "The Responsibility of European Universities in a Global Environment"

EUA's 2007 Convention will take place in Lisbon from 29 – 31 March 2007, hosted by the Portuguese Rectors' Conference (CRUP) and by the Lisbon universities. As in Graz and Glasgow, this will be the opportunity for university leaders from 45 countries to come together with stakeholders to discuss key issues and concerns related to the broader context of universities' role in society, and specifically to prepare universities' input to the London Ministerial Conference. The Convention will build upon the EUA conference programme over the previous two years, and on the projects and activities carried out by EUA for its members as described above. The implementation of the Bologna process will be considered in the broader context of the wave of higher education reforms and the challenges facing universities in Europe.

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