

Interim Report

Working Group on Social Dimension and Data on Mobility of Staff and Students



BFUG, Berlin
March 5, 2007



Working Group on Social Dimension and Mobility (ToR)

- to define the concept of social dimension based on the ministerial communiqués of the Bologna Process
- to present comparable data on the social and economic situation of students in participating countries
- to present comparable data on the mobility of staff and students
- to prepare proposals as a basis for future stocktaking



Social Dimension – definition

- The *process* leading to participative equity in higher education
- Strategic overall objective for the Social Dimension process:

“We strive for the societal goal that the student body entering, participating in and completing higher education should reflect the diversity of our populations.”



Mobility – definition

- Mobility of students: Refers to a study period in another country than that of prior permanent residence or prior education (completed or ongoing) for a period of studies or a full degree.
- Mobility of staff: Refers to a working period in another country than that of prior permanent residence or prior employment (terminated or ongoing) for a limited or extended period.



Data collection



Recommendations – Social Dimension

- Strategic objective for the Social Dimension
- By 2009 the countries should report to the BFUG on national strategies for the social dimension, including action plans and measures to show their impact.



Recommendations – Mobility of Staff and Students

- By 2009 the countries should report to the BFUG on actions taken at national level to remove obstacles to and promote the benefits of mobility of students and staff, including measures to assess their impact at a future date.
- Countries should focus on the main national challenges: delivery of visas and work permits, the full implementation of recognition procedures and creating mobility incentives for individuals and HEIs.



Recommendations – Social Dimension **and** Mobility

The BFUG should entrust Eurostat, in conjunction with Eurostudent, with a mandate to provide comparable and reliable data on the social dimension and mobility for all Bologna countries.

This task should be overseen by the BFUG and a report should be submitted for the 2009 ministerial meeting.