

BFUG10 6a

Launching a discussion on European Dimension in the Bologna Process
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Over a year ago we asked for this discussion in the BFUG

1-Why this discussion?

It is one of our 10 action lines and it is rather neglected

Since Prague there has been no seminar focused on this action line. The “European dimension” as a main seminar topic or in the title has not been offered.

It’s only through discussions on joint study programmes or on the external dimension of the Bologna process that we touched upon the European dimension.

Is it not surprising for a process having as main goal “Building a European Higher Education Area” that we are so shy on this topic which might appear as a core element of working together?

2-Why such a gap between this important element and the time spent on it?

Maybe because we think that the European dimension is so obvious that we don’t need to discuss its content: we are building a EHEA and we all agree on what it means: the European dimension is the *internal dimension* mentioned in the *Strategy document for the external dimension of the Bologna process* (new degree structure- ECTS- DS- EQF for EHEA- QA etc...).

Or is it because, some would say, that the European dimension is rather clear and simple and refers mainly to *joint degrees*.

But if one looks at the Berlin communiqué (2003) on the *Promotion of the European dimension in higher education which* mentions for example -curricula with European content, the pooling of cultural tradition, linguistic diversity or students achieving their full potential for European identity, citizenship and employability- one may consider that we are facing a far more difficult topic specially if when we want to go on and discuss 2010 and beyond.

3-The need to clarify this action line when discussing Beyond 2010

It seems that:

- An agreement on the content of European dimension is needed

- It would be difficult to open any discussion on “Beyond 2010” without knowing what has been achieved and what remain to be done on all action lines - including this one - in order to ensure progress after 2010.

- But also we need to provide a clear answer on the relationship between the European dimension and the EHEA that we want to achieve.