Bologna Process Network of Experts on Student Support

Draft notes of the meeting on 2 October 2007

1. Opening, welcome, introduction

The meeting was opened at 11h00 with a round of introduction.

Countries/organisations	Represented by:
Austria	Hermann Holubetz
Armenia	-
Belgium (Fr)	Kevin Guillaume
Denmark	Mia Wallin
England	-
EC	-
ESU	Bruno Carapinha; Anela Beso
Finland	Birgitta Vuorinen
Georgia	-
Ireland	Brian Power
Germany	Andrea Herdegen
Lithuania	Rimvydas Labanauskis
Montenegro	-
Netherlands	Aldrik in 't Hout, Anne Lena Mietens
Norway	Tone Flood Strøm
Portugal	Ana Cristina Silva, Ana Mateus
Sweden	Linda Norman-Torvang
Switzerland	-
Scotland	Kathleen Robertson

The following communications were done:

- In the Netherlands portability of student support "Worldwide" started 1 September 2007. In only 4 months the number of students first receiving portable support tripled (from 800 to 2400 students).
- Morgan and Bucher (C-11/06 en C-12/06): the ECJ announced it will rule on 23 October 2007 at 09.30 hrs.
- Another interesting ruling is done by the ECJ in case C-76/05 Schwarz and Gootjes-Schwarz v Finanzamt Bergisch Gladbach. In short: tax relief had to be granted by German authorities for the costs made by parents for a child going to school abroad on the same terms regarding the costs made by parents for a child going to school at home.
(http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=CJE/07/54&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. What will be the scope of our network?

- All sorts of support for students that contribute to their mobility, provided by the country of origin from the student.

In the meeting it was agreed upon that the Network will be a practical oriented and 'working' network. The projects should help to overcome obstacles to portability of student support and thus assist countries in the implementation of portable support.

4. Mode of operation

The network will have a combined Chair, which will structure, monitor and organise the work in the Network. The Chair will also be responsible for the general configuration of the Network.

The Chair will consist of: Scotland, Sweden and The Netherlands

Specific tasks will be worked out in project groups. The project groups shall organise their own work. Each group will have a project leader, who informs the Chair about the progress in his project group.

Further more it was agreed that two regular work-meetings will be organised. They will be hosted by one of the Chair members. Those meetings shall take two days. In those two days the project groups can work "face to face" and report to the full network which progress they have made. Afterwards they can go on with their work inside the project groups incorporating the feedback they got.

After those two meetings it was agreed that the results of the network will be presented at the conference on mobility of students, organised by the French Speaking Community of Belgium in Brussels in May 2008.
After the conference, the results can be transformed into recommendations to the Ministers for their Conference in Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve in the spring of 2009.

5. Which concrete actions?

- Information – database on student support systems in all Bologna countries
The task of this project group will be producing a template on the information which is needed to create an information database on student support systems in all Bologna countries. It will be analysed which information is needed, which questions need to be asked in order to receive the specific information and which other already existing data base could be used, in order to prevent double work. Besides defining the nature of the information, the method of collection of the information (in cooperation with other organisations!) and the method of access of the information (website, brochures etc.) are to be defined as well.

Members: Austria, Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Portugal, Switzerland, ESU and the European Commission (Euridyce).
Project leader: ?

- Pilot on data – exchange between support-disbursing agencies
This project group will deal with the fact that disbursing agencies should be able to exchange data on individual students, for example to deal with the problem of double payment of grants and loans (by both the home and the host country or the facilitating of the repayment of loans.
The people involved in this project are responsible for looking into al the relevant aspects of data-exchange including the issue of data-protection. A concrete product could be a blueprint for the implementation of data-exchange between countries.

Members: Norway, Austria, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.
Project Leader: The Netherlands (Matyi Tegzess)

- Seminar in the first half of 2008
To present the results of the network to the "European Student Support Community", the Network will organise a seminar. The people involved in this project are responsible for the organisation of this seminar, in close connection with the persons responsible for the other projects.
The French Speaking Community of Belgium is organising a conference where all different aspects of mobility in higher education in the Bologna area will be discussed. The network should present its

results in the part of the conference dedicated to the mobility of students, to be held in Brussels in May 2008.
Possibly the results from the Nordic Conference "Student mobility, student financial aid, mobility and EU-questions" can be incorporated as well.

Members: Belgium/French community, Scotland and Portugal
Project Leader: ?

6. Cooperation with other relevant networks / organisations?
It was agreed in the meeting that every project group is going to contact and work with other experts and organisations in order to prevent double work. Especially the project group on information on student support systems should work in close cooperation with EURYDICE and also Eurostudent should be contacted.

7. Which kind of experts should be involved in the network?
It was agreed that the right experts should be involved, according to the content of each project:

- Information – database on student support systems in all Bologna countries
Here mainly people from the policy area should join the project group.

- Pilot on data – exchange between support-disbursing agencies
Here mainly the experts of the student support agencies should work together. Of course they can be joined by policy advisors. Possibly they would need input from external experts.

- Seminar in the first half of 2008
Different experts on student support should work together.

8. Next meetings / time schedule:
- By the first of November a draft Project Plan of all three project groups should be send to the members of the Chair by the project leaders;
- By the First of December the Project Plans of all three project groups should be send to the members of the Chair by the project leaders;
- By the end of January 2008 the first work meeting will be organised in Sweden;
- By the middle of April 2008 the second work meeting will be organised in Glasgow (or in London);
- By the end of May 2008 the results will be presented at the Mobility Conference in Brussels.

9. Any other business

No other business.

10. Closing

The meeting was closed at 13h00.