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## **INTERIM REPORT OF THE STOCKTAKING WORKING GROUP**

In the period since the previous BFUG meeting the Stocktaking working group has worked to prepare the methodology for the 2007-2009 stocktaking exercise.

This work has been done in close cooperation with other Bologna working/coordination/steering groups: coordination group on mobility, working/coordination group on employability, coordination group on qualifications frameworks, E4 group, Social dimension advisory group, working group "European Higher Education in a Global Setting", steering group on data collection, coordination group on lifelong learning. Most stocktaking group members also participated in other working/coordination/steering groups thus ensuring swift communication and liaison.

In addition, the chair of the stocktaking group communicated with the chairs of other groups and personally participated in meetings of e.g. coordination group on qualifications frameworks and data collection steering group.

The stocktaking working group is grateful to other Bologna groups for their input in the stocktaking methodology through proposing, shaping or discussion of the appropriate stocktaking indicators and questions in the template for National Reports.

### **I Information sources for 2009 stocktaking**

National reports will remain the main source of information for 2009 stocktaking. The quality of national reports is of a great importance because there will be fewer sources of information: there is neither a new Eurydice Focus on Higher Education report nor a EUA Trends report planned for 2009. There is however a possibility to cross-check stocktaking results with EURYDICE data that have been published after the 2007 stocktaking report was completed. There is also an opportunity to cross-check information with the some of the new data to be gathered by EUROSTAT and EUROSTUDENT, however due the tight timing at the end of 2008/beginning of 2009 the deadlines for data analysis by EUROSTAT and EUROSTUDENT coincide with the deadlines for preparing the stocktaking report.

The stocktaking working group will continue to cooperate with the above mentioned working/ coordination/ steering groups in qualitative analysis of the appropriate issues.

### **II Stocktaking methodology**

**Indicators and qualitative analysis.** There will be ten quantitative indicators covering the degree system, quality assurance and recognition including recognition of prior learning. To cover all aspects of the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality

Assurance in the EHEA (ESG) the area of internal quality assurance inside the higher education institutions was added. However, it appeared difficult to apply quantitative measurements to this area, especially because there was a strong opinion that ESG should not be seen as a checklist. For this reason progress in internal quality assurance will be analyzed qualitatively and this analysis will be based on answers to several questions in the template for national reports. Joint degrees is another area where there will be no indicator and which will be analyzed qualitatively.

Efforts have been made to make template for National Reports more user-friendly – and reduce the burden for those completing them. Compared to previous stocktaking, the template will have a number of multiple choice questions with tick-boxes. Also, attempts have been made to provide more structured questions with a view of getting more comprehensive answers. It is envisaged that this will improve the quality of information provided by respondents and will provide a good basis for analysis in the stocktaking report.

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