

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Yerevan, 8-9 September 2008

BACKGROUND

At their meeting in Bergen in 2005, the Ministers of Education of the European Higher Education Area adopted the overarching framework of qualifications for the Area and committed to elaborating national qualifications frameworks by 2010. Ministers reconfirmed their commitment at the Bologna Ministerial meeting in London in 2007 and they charged the Council of Europe with the task of coordinating the sharing of experience in the development of national qualifications frameworks.

The Council of Europe has provided advice on higher education reform to many countries in the region on a bilateral basis. In December 2006 an Informal conference of Ministers from the countries, which acceded to the Bologna Process in 2005, took place in Strasbourg.

TIMING OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference is to be held on 8-9 September 2008.

FORMAT

The conference will be organised in two distinct parts:

The first day will emphasise the political aspects of the development of qualifications frameworks as essential instruments of higher education reform and as an important part of the establishment of the European Higher Education Area by 2010. The participation of Ministers will underline the strong commitment of the countries of the region to higher education reform within the Bologna Process and will also make an important contribution to the preparation of the next Ministerial conference of the Bologna Process, to be held in Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve in April 2009.

The second day of the conference will be aimed at those directly involved in the development of national qualifications frameworks: Ministry officials, academics, students and possibly other stakeholders. This part of the programme will give more in-depth consideration to various aspects of the development of national qualifications frameworks.

DELEGATIONS

The following will be invited to participate in the conference: **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine.**

Ideally, each delegation should be composed of the Minister or Deputy Minister responsible for higher education as well as of 2 – 4 other participants. These should be those most closely involved in the development of national qualifications frameworks, and countries are encouraged to consider including academic and student representatives as well as Ministry officials.

Ministers should make arrangements to attend the first day of the conference and the afternoon of the second day and may also wish to make use of this opportunity to conduct bilateral discussions. Other members of delegations should make arrangements to attend the entire conference.

OBSERVERS

The delegations of **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tadjikistan**, as well as the EUA, EURASHE, ESU and EU will be invited to participate in the conference as observers and at their own expenses. The Council of Europe will nevertheless aim to cover expenses for one ESU and one EURASHE observer.

WORKING LANGUAGES

English and Russian, with simultaneous interpretation between the two

PROGRAMME

8 September

13 00 Registration of participants; coffee

14 00 Opening of the conference

Minister of Education of Armenia or his representative

Katia Dolgova-Dreyer, Secretary to the Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research, Council of Europe

15 15 Reforming higher education in Europe: the Role of Qualifications Frameworks

Mr. Mogens Berg, Denmark, Chair of the Bologna Working Group on Qualifications Frameworks 2003 - 2007

16 00 Coffee

16 30 Developing national qualifications frameworks

Each Minister or his representative will be given the opportunity to present briefly the situation and plans for the development of their respective national qualifications frameworks

18 00 End of first day

Evening social programme

9 September

09 30 Learning outcomes in national qualifications frameworks
Prof Stephen Adam, University of Westminster, United Kingdom

10 30 Designing a national qualifications framework: main steps
Mr Mogens Berg, Chair of the Bologna Working Group on Qualifications Frameworks 2003-2007

11 00 Developing a national qualifications framework: experience of Estonia
Ms Maiki Udam, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

11 30 Coffee break

12 00 Elaborating a national qualifications framework: experience of Hungary
Ms Éva Gönczi, Collegium Budapest, Hungary

Discussion

13 00 Lunch

14 30 Developing national qualifications frameworks in the Newly Independent States: the Way Forward

Discussion of the main issues

16 00 Conclusions

16 30 Closing of the conference

Representative of Armenia

Representative of the Council of Europe