

Scope of Stocktaking 2005-2007

Working paper as introduction to discussion

**Based upon on presentation by WG Chair
at BFUG meeting in Manchester, Oct 12-13 2005**

1.1. Background

The stocktaking exercise in 2003-2005 period was based upon the general Mandate given by the ministers in their Berlin Communiqué.

“(Stocktaking exercise) ...would provide reliable information on how the [Bologna] Process is actually advancing and would offer the possibility to take corrective measures, if appropriate.”

“Participating countries will, furthermore, be prepared to allow access to the necessary information for research on higher education relating to the objectives of the Bologna Process”

The continuation of the stocktaking exercise in 2005-2007 period will be based upon the general Mandate given by the ministers in their Bergen Communiqué, where they asked for

“continuing and widening the stocktaking process and reporting in time for the next Ministerial Conference.”

The ministers stated that the Stocktaking exercise should

“continue in the fields of the degree system, quality assurance and recognition of degrees and study periods”

1.2. Issues for stocktaking following from the Bergen Communiqué

Reading the Bergen Communiqué, one can notice that different aspects that should potentially be included in the stocktaking exercise are mentioned in several different ways.

1. As regards two of the three main priorities, namely **degree system** and **quality assurance**, the ministers have indicated several new aspects to be included in the stocktaking exercise. These aspects have explicit mandate by the ministers and therefore are part of the absolute “must” of the 2007 stocktaking.

It is however not clearly mentioned if and how far the 2005 stocktaking

benchmarks under these priorities should be included in the continued stocktaking for 2007.

2. As regards the **recognition priority**, the ministers have clearly mentioned it as a direction where stocktaking should continue but have not indicated in which aspects. However, in the communiqué text the ministers have indicated several issues to which they commit themselves to and which should therefore probably form the new stocktaking aspects under recognition priority.

As is the case with the other two priorities, it is not clearly mentioned if and how far the 2005 stocktaking benchmarks under recognition priority should be included in the continued stocktaking for 2007

3. There are new issues that do not belong to any of the main priority areas, but which ministers have included in the list of issues for 2007 stocktaking¹, namely **joint degrees, lifelong learning** and **social dimension**. As the above are explicitly mentioned in the communiqué text, they also belong to the absolute “must” of the stocktaking exercise.
4. The Bergen mandate is for continuing **and widening** the stocktaking exercise, while already the Berlin mandate was to provide **information on how the Process is actually advancing**. The widening could therefore be understood as inclusion of those aspects to which ministers have committed themselves to and in which reliable measurement of results is relatively easily possible, even if ministers have not explicitly request their inclusion in stocktaking.

1.3. Scorecard isn't all stocktaking report

Prior to discussion on which issues to include in stocktaking exercise, it should be useful to draw attention that the scorecard, which is, no doubt, the most visible part of the Stocktaking report, is far not all stocktaking. The Stocktaking 2007 should therefore draw on the experience of the previous stocktaking exercise, namely,

- including clearly measurable information into the Scorecard and
- reflecting on several other issues in the text of the Stocktaking report.

In such a way it would be possible to strike balance between the reliability of the information and data and the breadth of coverage.

¹ Bergen communiqué, Page 5, IV Taking stock...

2. The preliminary vision of the 2005-2007 Stocktaking exercise

In the further text the issues to be potentially included in 2007 Stocktaking exercise are listed under the three main priorities and issues mentioned in the Bergen communiqué.

Please note that:

- Issues belonging to the “absolute must” are indicated in bold.
- Previous stocktaking benchmarks are indicated - working group will have to discuss which of these benchmarks to keep in Stocktaking 2007.
- Other potential issues to which ministers have specifically committed themselves to are mentioned following the Stocktaking 2005 benchmarks
- Potential sources of information and support are mentioned under each priority/issue for stocktaking

Degree system

“Must”

- **Success in launching work on the national frameworks for qualifications (taking into account that they have to be completed by 2010)**

Stocktaking 2003-2005 benchmarks:

1. Stage of implementation of two-cycle system
2. Level of student enrolment in two-cycle system
3. Access from first cycle to second cycle

Other issues to be potentially included

- Employability of graduates with bachelor qualifications (through national reports)

Partnerships and information sources:

Cooperation with EURYDICE

Cooperation with QF working group,

National reports

Quality assurance

“Must”

- **Success in implementation of the standards and guidelines for QA (including success in introducing peer review of quality assurance agencies on a national basis)**

Stocktaking 2003-2005 benchmarks (all or part):

1. Stage of development of quality assurance system
2. Key elements of evaluation systems
3. Level of participation of students

4. Level of international participation, co-operation and networking

Partnerships and information sources:

Cooperation with E4,
Cooperation with EURYDICE (if available)
National reports

Recognition

“Must” – to be chosen from

- ***Incorporation Lisbon Convention principles in national legislation***
- ***Existence and content of national action plans to improve recognition***

Stocktaking 2003-2005 benchmarks (all or part):

1. Stage of implementation of diploma supplement
2. Ratification of Lisbon Recognition Convention
3. Stage of implementation of ECTS

Partnerships and information sources:

- Cooperation with ENIC/NARIC network
- Using national reports (and reports on improving recognition system as part of those)

Lifelong learning

“Must”

- **Success in creating flexible learning paths in higher education,**
- **Success in creating procedures for the recognition of prior learning.**

Partnerships and information sources:

- Cooperation with ENIC/NARIC network
- Using national reports (and reports on improving recognition system as part of those)
- EURYDICE (?)

Joint degrees

“Must”

- Awarding and recognition of joint degrees

Social dimension

In this issue the main actor is the working group on Social dimension and mobility. The Stocktaking WG is requested to cooperate with WG SDM. According to discussion at Manchester BFUG meeting no benchmarks should be included into Stocktaking 2007 exercise

“Must”

None

Issues

... presenting comparable data on the mobility of staff and students as well as on the social and economic situation of students in participating countries as a basis for future stocktaking and reporting in time for the next Ministerial Conference.

The future stocktaking will have to take into account the social dimension as defined above.

Partnerships and information sources:

- Cooperation with ENIC/NARIC network
- Using national reports (and reports on improving recognition system as part of those)
- EURYDICE (?)

3. Action

Working group is invited to discuss the scope of the 2007 Stocktaking exercise

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