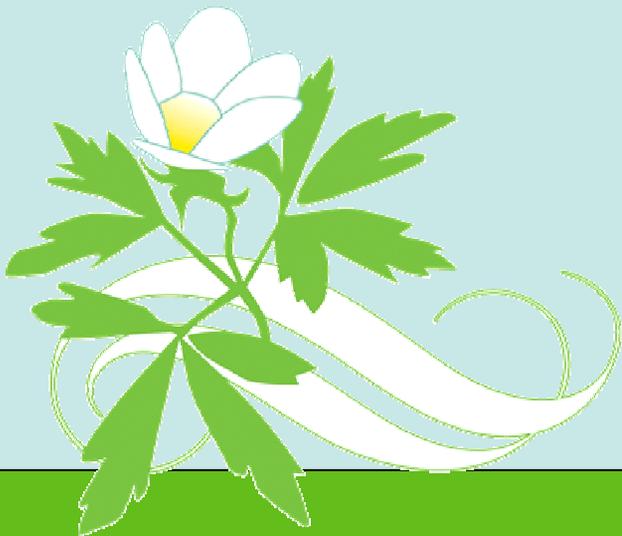


# *The Bologna Process*

## *Bergen, 19-20 May*

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## The context of higher education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- World Conference on Higher Education (UNESCO 1998)

“Higher education... is confronted with formidable challenges and must proceed to the most radical change and renewal it has ever been required to undertake.”

- Five Regional Preparatory Conferences contributed to the WCHE

- The World Conference highlighted three major concerns:
  - Relevance
  - Quality
  - International Cooperation

Follow-up meeting, WCHE +5 (2003)

- An assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the WCHE Framework for Priority Action





## The challenges of countries in transition, post conflict countries, and low-income countries in higher education

- Growing population, especially of youth
- Increasing demand for higher education
- Funding higher education
- Contributing to sustainable development and the improvement of society as a whole
- Globalization and bridging the knowledge gap
- Increasing the participation of women and their role in higher education





# Educational responses to the challenges

- An emergence of new higher education providers
  - Open and Distance Learning
  - E-learning
- Research and data analysis
- Quality and outreach of higher education systems and institutions
  - New financing sources and diversified methods and institutions





# 1. How can UNESCO contribute to the sustainability of higher education systems in the developing world?

- Promoting quality provision and capacity building in higher education with international partners:
  - UNESCO-OECD Guidelines on Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education
- Strengthening research capacities in developing countries, setting up mechanisms and structures that will contribute to brain-gain/brain-circulation instead of brain drain:
  - UNESCO forum on higher education, research and knowledge
- Echoing the Bologna Process in other regions:
  - Second Meeting of Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean (April 2005)





## 2. How can UNESCO contribute to the sustainability of higher education systems in the developing world?

- Assuring direct contribution to the Bologna Process in Central and South Eastern Europe:
  - UNESCO-European Centre for Higher Education (UNESCO-CEPES)
- Developing models of good practice:
  - UNESCO's Mediterranean Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications
    - Supported by an EU grant from the TEMPUS-Meda programme and by the Council of Europe
    - Strengthening the Euro-Arab dialogue
- Promoting inter-university cooperation and solidarity
  - UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks





## Revising regional recognition conventions and promoting a new generation of conventions

- Council of Europe/UNESCO Lisbon Recognition Convention (1997)
- New generation of conventions and revision processes in:
  - Asia and the Pacific
  - Africa
  - Arab States

Scheduled for (2006-2007)





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Thank you

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