



**BFUG9
October 2006**

EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL

Pan-European Structure

Bologna Follow-Up Group meeting, Helsinki, 12-13 October 2006

EI's Pan-European Structure has undertaken a number of activities since the last BFUG meeting in Vienna (April 2006) and is currently in the process of organising a number of initiatives at European and global level, with relevance to the Bologna Process. The following is a break-down of EI's work in all Bologna-related fields.

Part One: Participation in the Bologna Structures

Working Groups: EI has continued its participation in the working groups on the "Social Dimension and Mobility"; the "External Dimension"; and the "Qualifications Frameworks".

Doctoral Programmes Project: EI has welcomed the invitation to participate in this project, and took part in a session on this in June 2006.

Bologna Seminars: EI has participated in nearly all the Bologna Seminars that have taken place since April 2006, and has even made a contribution during some of these.

Part Two: Organisation of the Bologna Seminar "Mobility of Staff and Students" (February 2007, London, UK)

EI is in the process of organising the above-mentioned Bologna Seminar. This is currently a main focus of EI's work on the Bologna Process. To this end:

- We have had a series of meetings of the steering committee for the meeting. The steering Committee includes a researcher (Mr. Conor Cradden), who is carrying out a study, and will prepare a report, on the mobility of staff for the seminar.
- We had a session on the planning of this seminar at the meeting of the Pan-European Structure's Higher Education and Research Standing Committee (HERSC) in Oslo in September. Here, Mr. Cradden outlined the basis of his study, and ESIB presented the basis of a background paper on the mobility of students which it is preparing for the Seminar. Details as to the organisation of the Bologna Seminar were discussed at this meeting.
- We are in the process of setting up the web-page for the seminar, in line with other changes that we are doing to our website.

Part Three: Promotion and Information on the Bologna Process

EI Website: We are in the process of updating our Higher Education and Research webpage, which also envisages including a link to the Bologna Process, in order to promote Bologna events. The EI Bologna webpage will also include all relevant information as regards the upcoming mobility seminar.

Reader on Bologna Issues: In preparation for the meeting of the Pan-European Structure's Higher Education and Research Standing Committee (HERSC) in Oslo in September, we compiled a booklet on a number of issues which were to be discussed during the meeting. This included a number of Bologna issues, including sections on the work of the BFUG, on

the external dimension, and on doctoral programmes and research in Europe. It also included information on other higher education issues, namely the recent EU communications on education and training; academic freedom; and ranking of higher education institutions. Apart from being a preparatory tool for our HERSC, this document was also intended to be information for our affiliates to use and disseminate.

The National Level: Several of EI's affiliates are issuing publications and holding training sessions on the Bologna Process. By way of example, an EI affiliate in Serbia (TUS – Teachers' Union of Serbia) has just published a brochure on the Bologna Process in Serbian, and has held a number of seminars on the Bologna Process. An EI affiliate in Russia (ESEUR – The Education and Science Employees' Union of Russia) will organise a conference on the Bologna Process at the end of November 2006.

Part Four: Capacity Building on Bologna

Training in Albania: In May 2006, EI held training on Bologna issues in Tirana for its Albanian affiliates. It also provided funding for ESIB's student training on Bologna issues, which took place simultaneously in Tirana. A joint EI-ESIB half-day training session was held, which brought together Albanian Teacher and Student Unions.

Project with Albanian Teachers' Unions: EI is currently considering an application made by its 2 Albanian Unions for a project which is aimed to lead to a strengthening of the Unions, as well as greater information on the Bologna Process for academic staff in Albania. This project further aims to involve Albanian academics in the Bologna Process reforms in Albania.

Australia and the Bologna Process: Since the publication of the paper entitled "The Bologna Process and Australia: Next Steps", EI has been involved in an ongoing discussion with its Australian affiliate, NTEU (National Tertiary Education Union), regarding such developments. NTEU largely saw this to be a positive development, but criticised the "Next Steps" Paper for its failure to acknowledge that staff organisations are also formally involved in the Process. In its response* to this Paper, NTEU states that changes that result from the discussions surrounding Australia's alignment with the Bologna Process, or any other international arrangements, including a Pacific Region higher education area (as proposed in the Brisbane Communiqué) will directly impact on Australian staff and students. NTEU advocates for an opportunity to provide significant knowledge and expertise to Australian discussions on the Bologna Process. It also urged the Government to include both staff and student representatives in the broader sectoral discussions, as part of the consultative process on these issues. NTEU also expressed concerns regarding the provision of resources for alignment to the Bologna Process in certain areas (particularly the provision of the Diploma Supplement, and the possibility of mobility for staff), the possible impact of the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) on curriculum development, and issues related to research and research funding.

Part Five: Cooperation with Other BFUG Consultative Members

EI has continued its ongoing cooperation with other BFUG Consultative Members. In particular, EI has cooperated closely with ESIB, with which it has organised a series of joint sessions at both EI and ESIB events, and which is also involved in the planning of the upcoming mobility seminar. EI has also cooperated much more closely with the Council of Europe. To this end, EI participated in a number of Council of Europe events, invited Sjur

* Available at www.nteu.org.au/policy/submissions/submissions06/bolognaprocess

Bergan to the HERSC Meeting in September in Oslo, and will participate at the Council of Europe INGO Groupings meeting in October. EI is also looking to strengthen relations with EUA, with which it will cooperate, in particular, for the upcoming mobility seminar (February 2007).

Part Six: Activities Organised

- (Currently) Planning EI's World Teachers' Day Round Table, to take place in Brussels on 5 October 2006.
- (Currently) Planning an EI Vocational Education and Training Round Table, to take place in Brussels on 5-7 October 2006.
- (26-28 September 2006) Meeting of the Higher Education and Research Standing Committee (HERSC) of EI's Pan-European Structure, Oslo, Norway – prior to the Bologna Seminar on the External Dimension.
- (14-16 September 2006) EI Central and Eastern European Round Table, which included a session on Higher Education, and an update on developments in higher education in Europe and the world.
- (June 2006) Meeting for EI's OECD and European affiliates in Athens in conjunction with the OECD Education Ministers Meeting.

Part Seven: Participation in External Events

- (Upcoming: 10 October) Participation in the Council of Europe INGOS session.
- (Upcoming: 27-28 September) Participation in an EU conference in Helsinki, Finland, on Lifelong Learning, Efficiency and Equity.
- (21-22 September) Participated in the Council of Europe Conference "The Legitimacy of Quality Assurance in Higher Education", Strasbourg, France.
- (18-19 September) Participated in the Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the World Conference on Higher Education, Paris, France.
- (14 September) Participated in an OECD-IMHE Seminar on Funding Systems and Their Effects on Higher Education Systems.
- (27-28 June 2006) Participated in the Meeting of OECD Education Ministers, entitled "Higher Education: Quality, Equity and Efficiency", Athens, Greece. Here, EI cooperated closely with ESIB and TUAC. EI and ESIB issued a joint letter to the Education Ministers, and EI presented an alternative scenario for the future of higher education, based on the "public service university".
- (22-23 June 2006) Participated in the OECD Conference on "The Future of Higher Education: the Stakeholder's Perspective", Istanbul, Turkey.
- (1-2 June 2006) Participated in the EU Conference on the European Charter and Code of Conduct for Researchers, at which EI also made a contribution during one of the workshops.

Part Eight: GATS and Higher Education

EI is currently working on a GATS package to assist affiliates in national lobbying over the coming months. EI will be encouraging affiliates to look out for the re-

launching of any trade talks to ensure that education services are not compromised.

EI has continued its ongoing bi-monthly issues of issue "TradEducation News", the latest one being Issue No. 10 of August 2006 (link: <http://www.ei-ie.org/en/news/show.php?id=254&theme=gats&country=global>)

EI also continued to hold lobby meetings in Geneva, having one in June and one in July.

Part Nine: Reports/ Publications

- (August) EI Report to CEART on the Implementation on the 1966 Recommendation on the Statue of Teachers, and on the 1997 Recommendation Concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel.
- (June) Final analysis of the Survey on "The impact of privatisation and the casualisation of the functioning of institutions and career development in higher education in a context of reform: Towards restructuring higher education?"