

Progress Report

Working Group on Social Dimension and Data on Mobility of Staff and Students



Helsinki

October 12, 2006



Working Group on Social Dimension and Mobility (ToR)

- to define the concept of social dimension based on the ministerial communiqués of the Bologna Process
- to present comparable data on the social and economic situation of students in participating countries
- to present comparable data on the mobility of staff and students
- to prepare proposals as a basis for future stocktaking



Recommendations – Social Dimension



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- Strategic overall objective for the Social Dimension:
“The student body entering, participating in and completing higher education should reflect the diversity of our populations.”

Continued work – National level

- To develop national strategies for the social dimension of higher education for mobile as well as non-mobile students, including an action plan with measures for following up the impact of the plan.



Recommendations – Social Dimension

Continued work – BFUG level

- To address the identified data gaps.
- To enhance the comparability and reliability of student survey data and to complement them with contextualised information.
- To continue developing established contacts with statistical organisations and information networks.



Recommendations – Mobility



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Continued work – National level

- To encourage and strengthen the national efforts to remove legal, administrative, financial, linguistic, cultural and other obstacles to mobility for students and staff.
- To focus on the main national challenges in order to promote mobility, such as visa regimes, the full implementation of established recognition procedures and creating incentives for mobility for both individuals and higher education institutions.
- To address the institutional attitude towards and responsibility for mobility.
- To focus on the social dimension of mobile students.



Recommendations – Mobility

Continued work – BFUG level

- To address the identified data gaps.
- To enhance the comparability and reliability of data on actual mobility.
- To continue developing established contacts with statistical organisations and information networks.
- To establish a working group to identify obstacles for mobility of staff and ways to overcome them before the ministerial meeting in 2009.