



## EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL

### **Pan-European Structure Bologna Follow-Up Group meeting, Berlin, 5-6 March 2007**

EI's Pan-European Structure has undertaken a number of activities since the last BFUG meeting in Helsinki (October 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" and the "External Dimension".

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

#### **Part Two: Organisation of the Bologna Seminar "Mobility of Staff and Students" (8-9 February 2007, London, UK)**

This was the main focus of EI's work on the Bologna Process since the last BFUG meeting in Helsinki. Following the meeting of the EI Pan-European Structure HERSC (Higher Education and Research Standing Committee) in September 2006 in Oslo, there were a series of meetings of the steering committee for the meeting, and an ongoing collaboration with UCU (University and College Union, UK) and ESIB (the National Unions of Students in Europe), for the organisation of this seminar.

The seminar took place in London, and was very well attended by a range of stakeholders at the national level. It comprised an impressive range of speakers, workshop chairs and rapporteurs (including Ministry representatives, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, EURASHE, EUA and the International Labour Organisation). Over 180 participants from 35 countries were present. We attribute a large amount of our success in attracting such wide participation to the fact that this was the first Bologna Seminar to provide simultaneous translation (in French, Spanish, and Russian) during all the plenary sessions, and one of the workshops. In preparation for this seminar, two studies on the mobility of staff and students were prepared by Conor Cradden (an independent researcher) and Sanja Brus (ESIB) respectively.

The presentation of the general report by Ann Fritzell (SULF – Sweden Association of University Teachers) was welcomed with a large degree of consensus. In short, the following were the key outcomes of the seminar: the need for data collection; the need to ease visa regulations for students and staff; the need to address economic and social conditions in which mobility takes place; a positive attitude towards staff and students taking matters into their own hands; and a suggestion that ESIB and EI undertake a project on mobility under the authority of the BFUG, for the period 2007-2009, to build on the constructive contribution made so far.

All documents and reports from the seminar will be made available by end-February at [www.ei-ie.org/highereducation/en/calendarshow.php?id=68&theme=highereducation](http://www.ei-ie.org/highereducation/en/calendarshow.php?id=68&theme=highereducation).

#### **Part Three: Promotion and Information on the Bologna Process**

EI has updated its Higher Education and Research webpage: [www.ei-ie.org/highereducation/en/](http://www.ei-ie.org/highereducation/en/). The changes made include a clearer link to Bologna issues.

In preparation for the meeting of the Pan-European Structure's Higher Education and Research Standing Committee (HERSC) in London in February, EI compiled a booklet on a number of issues that were to be discussed during the meeting. This included an update on the Bologna Process, a synthesis of the national reports on the issues of partnership and mobility of staff, and a focus on the EU Directive on an Internal

Market for Services (the 'Bolkestein' Directive) adopted in December 2006. Apart from being a preparatory tool for the HERSC, this document was also intended to be information for our affiliates to use and disseminate.

#### **Part Four: 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 with which it organised the above-mentioned mobility seminar. EUA, the Council of Europe and EURASHE all made contributions to the same seminar, and BusinessEurope was also present. EI and EUA will be collaborating to produce a section on mobility for the EUA handbook.

#### **Part Five: Recent and Ongoing activities**

Recent activities organised by EI, and activities currently being planned include:

- (4 December 2006): EI Higher Education Caucus, Luxembourg.
- (7 February 2007): EI Pan-European Structure HERSC Meeting.
- (Ongoing): EI Higher Education Caucus and 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress, planned for the period 18-28 July 2007.

EI has recently participated in a number of activities, which include:

- (12-16 October 2006): ESIB European Student Convention – "Beyond 2010", Helsinki, Finland.
- (19-20 October 2006): OECD, the future of academic research, Vienna, Austria
- (14-16 November 2006): United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) "Expert Meeting on Universal Access to Services", Geneva, Switzerland.
- (29 November-1er December 2006) UNESCO Colloquium "Universities as Centres of Research and Knowledge Creation, Paris, France
- (7-9 December 2006): Bologna Seminar on Doctoral Programmes - "Matching Ambition with Responsibilities and Resources", Nice, France.
- June 2006 to February 2007): Working Group of the Executive Board for the preparation of the Sexennial Report (2001-2006) on the contribution made to UNESCO's activities by NGOs, Paris, France.
- (12 January 2007): ESIB European Qualifications Framework Project – Stakeholders Meeting, Brussels, Belgium.
- (20-25 January 2007): 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the World Social Forum, Nairobi, Kenya
- (12-13 February 2007): OECD 5<sup>th</sup> Workshop on the Future of Universities.

#### **Part Six: Publications**

Since the last BFUG Meeting in Helsinki EI has issued:

- 2 editions of the EI Trade Education Newsletter (No.11 and 12) on Trade in Educational Services, issued in October and December 2006 respectively (Link: <http://www.ei-ie.org/en/news/show.php?id=334&theme=gats&country=global>)
- A GATS kit (December 2006), in order to help EI affiliates with lobbying at the national level (Link: <http://www.ei-ie.org/gats/en/documentation.php>)
- 3 issues of the EI Magazine 'Worlds of Education' – Nos. 19, 20, 21, issued in September 2006, November 2006, and January 2007 respectively. (Link: <http://www.ei-ie.org/en/publication/>)