

WORKING GROUP ON EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION IN A GLOBAL SETTING

Report prepared for the BFUG meeting of 13-14 March 2008

The working group on European Higher Education in a Global Setting has been tasked by the BFUG

- to take forward work in the five core policy areas of the strategy "The European Higher Education Area in a Global Setting" with a special focus on the priorities "improving information on, and promoting the attractiveness and competitiveness of the EHEA" and "improving recognition";
- and to prepare a draft report on the overall development at the European, national and institutional levels for BFUG by the end of 2008.

Improving information on the EHEA

Bologna website

The working group has supported the Bologna Secretariat in preparing an update and extension of the existing Bologna website to become more attractive for a global audience. The respective information (country pages, news items etc.) will have to be provided by all participating countries, the European Commission and the consultative members, as well as the chairs of the working and coordination groups. On this basis, an information leaflet, which can be downloaded, will be produced (in a short and a long version).

The EUA Bologna brochure, which – naturally – reflects mostly the higher education institutions' view, can be downloaded from the EUA website and freely used for non-commercial purposes, provided that the source is acknowledged (© European University Association). The content of the brochure is, however, the sole responsibility of EUA.

In the long run – in the context of the Beyond - 2010 discussion – one should consider a differently designed interactive website, including the necessary long-term funding. A permanent address for the website should be secured.

A set of Bologna slides

The European Commission kindly offered access to the Bologna Promoters' website and free use of the materials posted there. BFUG will be informed accordingly.

Promotion

The working group will prepare a general overview of existing activities in Europe and make suggestions on how to promote the attractiveness of the EHEA and higher education in the countries participating in the Bologna Process. Efforts are still needed to make sure that all 46 countries are covered as broadly as possible.

Recognition

The issue of recognition of qualifications has been well taken care of by the ENIC/NARIC working party on substantial differences. The Chair of the working group on European Higher Education in a Global Setting has been invited to address the 2008 ENIC/NARIC meeting (Malta, June 15 – 17).

Seminar

The seminar on transnational education organised by ENQA will take place on 1-2 December 2008 in London or Oxford. EUA, ESU, EURASHE and Education International

- among others - will be consulted in the preparations. Cooperation with OECD will be sought.

Policy dialogue

The group agreed that there was no need to set up a new policy dialogue instrument but existing fora and platforms at all policy levels should be identified and fully used.

Organisers of Bologna seminars are encouraged to invite interested partners from other parts of the world. The Bologna Secretariat has started to collect contact details of international partner organisations.

Cooperation based on partnership

This issue will be addressed at the next meeting of the working group on 2 June 2008.

Report for 2009/Liaison with stocktaking

The working group provided a proposal for a question to be included in the template for national reports regarding the attractiveness of the EHEA and the cooperation with other parts of the world (replacing the question of the 2006 template).

The analysis of the national reports, input from ESU, EUA and EURASHE for the institutional perspective and the results of the seminar on transnational education will contribute to the report on the developments at the European, national and institutional levels. A more detailed analysis of the developments at the institutional level will be taken into account in the 2010 Trends report.