

Implementing Bologna Czech Republic

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Reforms before Bologna

- **Act No: 172/1990 Col.**

reduction of the state influence - large autonomy (faculties legal entities), research and development as a part of primary mission of a HEI, institutional self-government, 1st cycle (BA) degree introduced, Accreditation Commission

Reforms before Bologna

- **Act No: 111/1998 Col**
 - broad diversification HEIs and study programmes - **public, state, private HEIs, three cycle structure**
 - **Quality assurance mechanism** – all study programmes be accredited, internal evaluation, external evaluation and peer review
 - **long term strategy of Ministry and HEIs**, total amount of state funding dependent on the long-term strategy of a public HEI and Ministry, the type and financial requirements of study programmes, the number of students,
 - **student participation in HE governance** (participation in Academic Senates)

Reforms after Bologna

- **Act No: 147/2001 Col**
 - Bologna served as a catalyst
two-cycle study programmes (BA/MA) strictly
required, provisions towards LLL

Berlin priorities 2003-05

Two/ three cycle studies

- **Introduction of BA/MA/Ph.D**
 - legislation identifies clearly 3 HE levels - does not distinguish between professional and academic;
 - Bachelor (3 to 4years)
 - Master (1 to 3 years)
In parallel traditional long Master study programmes – before the accreditation expires and if the nature of the programmes requires so - medicine, dentistry, veterinary med., pharmacy
 - Doctoral (3 years)

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Three cycle studies

- **Academic Year 2004/05**
- **1 569 programmes accredited in total**
 - Bachelor 490
 - Master 362, traditional long Master 312
 - Doctoral 405
- Most students accepted into bachelor study programmes

Berlin priorities 2003-05

Quality assurance system

- CR fulfils the criteria of Berlin Communiqué
- The system includes:
 - **self evaluation/internal quality assessment** - regularly, given by the Act - each HEI
 - **external evaluation/peer review** - Accreditation Commission or HEIs can apply for international evaluation (EUA)
 - **accreditation** - awarded by the Ministry; based on previous evaluation by Accreditation Commission (negative veto) - all study programmes, state approval for establishment a private HEI, appointment of docents and professors

Berlin priorities 2003-05

Recognition

- **CoE/UNESCO Lisbon Recognition Convention ratified in 2000**
- **Implementation** - has been improving
 - **HEIs** competent authorities - possible appeal to the ministry
 - **DS** - working group - recommended principles – some universities already delivered to all graduates automatically since 2005
in bilingual form: Czech and foreign language (English)
 - for academic purposes as well as employment

Berlin priorities 2003-05

Recognition

- **Joint degrees**
 - **Erasmus Mundus**
 - **Related text to the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC Committee July 2005)**
Recommendation on the Recognition of Joint Degrees
- **Czech legislation enables awarding and recognition of joint degrees**

ECTS

- No legal provisions
- ECTS or ECTS compatible systems accepted at public HEIs (private HEIs relatively new – some have not introduce yet)
- Transfer and accumulation function
- Problems in transfer at national level
 - Study programmes of different nature
 - Different institutions
- Use in LLL provisions very limited – only between some TPS - HEIs
- Technical HEIs , faculties - attractiveness

Student participation in HE governance

- Main Characteristics:
 - given by the Act of 1998
 - students equal partners - one of the most progressive legislation in Europe
 - rights and duties clearly expressed;
 - high level of power to influence the every day life at a HEI
- Good co-operation with Ministry and HE representation
- Weaknesses
 - Lack of interest of students to work in Academic Senates
 - Low professionalism
 - Not fully involved in the national Bologna implementation

Student participation in HE governance

- **Role of students in HE system:**
 - **Institutional level** - high number of representatives in Academic Senates; participation at the evaluation activities
 - **State level - Students' Chamber of the Council of HEIs** - support and monitor the research and creative activities of students; preparation of and research for important national documents: HE legislation, national strategies for HE, **participation in Representative Commission**
 - Students feel necessity to improve professionalism – **Academic Centre of Student Activities** (located at Brno University of Technology)

Implementation

Steering instruments - State level

- State funding and its allocation
- State permission for new private institutions awarded by the Ministry
- Accreditation of all study programmes, accreditation of professor's appointment and habilitation procedure awarded by the Ministry

State funding and its allocation

- State budget + other income
 - state budget:
 - lump sum - teaching & research performance
 - contract based funding – Programmes of Development (PD)
 - capital investments
 - other income: supplementary activities (at some institutions cca 20% of state budget)

State funding and its allocation

- **Teaching part** – ministry
 - formula based - main part of state budget
number of students + type and financial requirements of study programmes,
 - contract based - programmes of development-PD
correspondence of the strategy of development of the ministry and particular HEI - bottom up - gradually increasing
 - others (incl. subsidy for meals and accommodation...)
- **Research part** - R&D Council of the Government and ministry
 - formula, institutional (R&D strategy), targeted money, competition

Accreditation and State Permission for private HEIs

- Public responsibility
- Accreditation /State Permission in case of private HEIs to assure minimum quality standards (awarded by the Ministry)
- State power (is balanced by the negative veto of the expert body (Accreditation Commission))

Co-operation between state and institutional level

- **High degree of autonomy of HEIs**
- **Independent academic representations:**
Council of Higher Education Institutions (CoHEIs)
Czech Rectors Conference
 - all important decisions of the Ministry must be discussed
 - ⇒ **Representative Commission** (wider participation of stakeholders: Rectors Conference, representatives of bursaries, students,...)
- **Bologna team:** in co-operation with CoHEIs (incl. ECTS promoters) + students + ministry - information, assistance

Concluding remarks

- **Strong points of Czech system:**
 - **Legislative framework well in line with Bologna**
 - **High degree of autonomy of HEIs - negotiation with HEIs and strong involvement of HEIs;**
 - **Good preconditions for students participation**
 - **Developed mechanisms for indirect steering of the system - implementation of contemporary trends in HE – smaller part of the budget**
- **Weak points**
 - **How far the principles enabled by legislation have been implemented**
 - **Complicated way of decision making - many participating bodies**

Concluding remarks

- **For the future – focus on implementation**
- **Reform of the system of state funding**
 - **support of strength of particular HEIs**
 - **support of the development of the institution based on the agreement of the state and institutional strategy**
 - **certain kind of contract - sustainable development - longer period**