

BOLOGNA FROM OUTSIDE „Recent Developments in the Bologna Process in Europe “

Barbara Weitgruber
Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and
Research
Chair of the Bologna Working Group
„European Higher Education in a Global
Setting“

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Recent Developments in the Bologna Process (BP) in Europe

Focus on:

- The European Higher Education in a Global Setting in view of the upcoming Bologna Ministerial Conference in Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve and the first Bologna Policy Forum

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Context: The Bologna Process

Overarching aim:

- A European Higher Education Area (EHEA); internationally competitive and attractive
How?
- By facilitating greater comparability and compatibility between the diverse HE systems and HE institutions (HEI) across Europe and by enhancing their quality
- In close cooperation of governments, HEI, students and other stakeholders

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Members in the Bologna Process

- 46 countries (all party to the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe)
- European Commission
- 8 consultative members: EUA (European University Association), EURASHE (The European Association of Institutions in HE), ESU (European Students' Union), Council of Europe, UNESCO-CEPES (The European Center for Higher Education), ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education), BUSINESSSEUROPE; Education International – Pan-European Structure

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EHEA in a Global Setting

Berlin Communiqué in 2003:

“Ministers welcome the interest shown by other regions of the world in the development of the European Higher Education Area and . . .

. . . encourage the co-operation with regions in other parts of the world by opening Bologna seminars and conferences to representatives of these regions”.

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EHEA in a Global Setting

Bergen Communiqué in 2005:

“We see the EHEA as a partner of higher education systems in other regions of the world, stimulating balanced student and staff exchange and cooperation between higher education institutions”.

“We look forward to enhancing the understanding of the Bologna Process in other continents by sharing our experiences of reform processes with neighbouring regions. We stress the need for dialogue on issues of mutual interest”.

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EHEA in a Global Setting

London Communiqué:

“We are pleased that in many parts of the world, the Bologna reforms have created considerable interest and stimulated discussion between European and international partners on a range of issues. These include the recognition of qualifications, the benefits of cooperation based upon partnership, mutual trust and understanding, and the underlying values of the Bologna Process”.

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EHEA in a Global Setting

London Communiqué:

“We adopt the strategy "The European Higher Education Area in a Global Setting" and will take forward work in the core policy areas: improving information on, and promoting the attractiveness and competitiveness of the EHEA; strengthening cooperation based on partnership; intensifying policy dialogue; and improving recognition”.

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EHEA in a Global Setting: Challenges

- EHEA: 46 countries and all their HE Institutions: different interpretations / different pace of implementation
- Many objectives to be implemented in a coherent way
- Growing interest in the Bologna Process (BP)/ EHEA in many parts of the world
- No standardized information until mid-2008

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EHEA in a Global Setting: Working Group (2007-2009)

Mandate:

- To take forward work in the core policy areas:
 - Improving information on, and promoting the attractiveness and competitiveness of the EHEA
 - Strengthening cooperation based on partnership
 - Intensifying policy dialogue
 - Improving recognition
- To prepare a draft report on the developments at the European, national and ¹⁰

EHEA in a Global Setting: Information

- Up-date & extension of the Bologna Website: information for international students & researchers for all 46 countries; information on thematic issues
- First Brochure on the BP in June 2008

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EHEA in a Global Setting: Information

Recommendations:

- Mandate to the Bologna Secretariat to provide tailor-made information on the EHEA to interested countries (including information visits)
- Provision of structured information on scholarships (national databases) with a view to creating an EHEA-wide online information system on scholarships

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EHEA in a Global Setting: Promotion

- National promotion not yet wide-spread in the EHEA
- Little information on activities at level of HEI
- European level: Global Promotion Project (e.g. “Study in Europe”- portal); HE fairs

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EHEA in a Global Setting: Promotion

Recommendations:

- To set up a network of national contact points for information and promotion activities
- To map promotion activities based on a sample of HEI
- To organize a round table of main actors in HE promotion in Europe

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EHEA in a Global Setting: Cooperation based on partnership

- Common practice in HE and research (mutual understanding & joint action)
- The core of international cooperation (according to national reports)
- Many programmes & initiatives at different levels

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EHEA in a Global Setting: Cooperation based on partnership

Recommendations:

- Enhance and increase balanced bi- and multilateral cooperation based on partnership with partners across the world
- Crucial: availability of funding instruments at national and European levels

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EHEA in a Global Setting: Policy Dialogue

- Two-way process at all levels (governments, stakeholders) on HE reforms in general or on specific thematic issues
- Some initiatives already exist
- Exchange of best practice and experience
- Making best use of existing fora (Challenge: EU 27 - EHEA 46)

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EHEA in a Global Setting: Policy Dialogue

Recommendations:

- Bologna policy forum: at ministerial level and at the level of stakeholders with countries that are not party to the European Cultural Convention involving policy dialogues on specific topics or HE reforms in general
- Invitation to Bologna related conferences and seminars and projects in the Bologna Follow up Group (BFUG) Work Programme
- Contribution of BFUG to relevant projects in other parts of the world

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EHEA in a Global Setting: Recognition

- ENIC and NARIC networks: main European platform for recognition policy and practice
- Work on „substantial differences“ (Lisbon Recognition Convention)
- Working Group: Recognition within a Global Setting

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EHEA in a Global Setting: Recognition

Recommendation:

- Making use of the Council of Europe/UNESCO Recognition Convention and its subsidiary texts as a guide to good practice also in the assessment of qualifications from countries that are not legally bound by the Convention and as a basis for dialogue on recognition policy

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April 2009: Ministerial Conference and Bologna Policy Forum

- EHEA in a global context: Report on overall developments at the European, national and institutional levels
- Recommendations reflected in the Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué
- First Bologna Policy Forum at ministerial level: Dialogue with countries not party to the European Cultural Convention

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Further Information:

European Bologna Website:

www.bologna2009benelux.org

Barbara.Weitgruber@bmwf.gv.at

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