THE BOLOGNA PROCESS AND INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORKS

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FEUP Mobility Network
23 November 2011

FEUP, Porto, Portugal

To say what I am going to say…

1 Notes about the Bologna Process
   ① From Paris 1998 and Bologna 1999 to Budapest-Vienna 2010 and beyond

2 International Networks for international cooperation
   ① How do they meet the Bologna Objectives?
   ② Networks as major tools to bring Bologna into practice
      ① In education, in research and in the third mission of universities

3 Concluding Notes
Life over the past 30 years
Driving forces for changes

- Last quarter of the 20th Century - Intense search of new routes for Europe and for the role of Europe in the World, driven by
  - Progress observed in Science and Technology, namely
    - in digital systems and communications
    - in health and life sciences
  - Political changes that took place in Europe
  - Expectations and demands of Society
    - Education for All
    - Quality requirements - The “Comfort Society”

Life Today
Facts

- Economy and market forces - driving force of Today’s Societies
- The computer and communications era - dramatic changes of the concepts of time and space - globalisation
- Decreasing demography and the increase of Expectation of Life - Social sustainability
- The need for mass education policies
- Sharp increase in standards and competition - Worldwide and within the European Space
- Significant change in the concepts of individual career management
- Job market and opportunities - a pressure for global
Life Today
A new paradigm of coexistence

- A global World living in and with a new paradigm of coexistence
- COOPETITION = COOPERATION + COMPETITION
- That requires
  - New management and transnational cooperation policies
  - Mobility of students and professionals
  - A new cultural paradigm of Education - Lifelong Learning
- Which in turn requires
  - Policies and Instruments for recognition of academic and professional qualifications
  - POLITICAL WILL

Life Today...
Just an Example of World Competition
Geographic breakdown of World chemicals sales, CEFIC F&F2004

Source: Cefic
Definition: Rest of Europe= Switzerland, Norway, and other Central & Eas (excluding the new EU 10 countries)
Other** including Canada, Mexico, Africa & Oceania

World chemicals sales in 2004 is estimated at € 1736 billion:
The EU accounts for 33% of the total
Life Today...
Just an Example of World Competition

Geographic breakdown of World chemicals sales, CEFIC F&F2007

The Treaty of Rome, 1957 - basis for the European Economic Community

- Economy
- Market & Services

The Lisbon Strategy (2000-2010) sought to make the European Union “the world’s most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustaining growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion”, by 2010

- Postponed to 2020... through the 'Europe 2020' Strategy... expectedly still ON...!
European search for a new, more competitive, model for development, with three visible dimensions

- A strategy based on Knowledge and Transnational Cooperation, where we can recognize:
  - The Economy Dimension -
    - Including the movement that converged in the creation of the EURO
  - The Social Dimension -
    - In line with the European culture of humanism, reasoning, freedom and democracy
  - The Knowledge Society Dimension -
    - Identified with the Bologna Process and the creation of the European Area of Knowledge

From Paris and Bologna to Budapest-Vienna 2010... And beyond...
The Bologna Process, 12 Years after
What it is not… What it is...

кроет

The Bologna Process is not...

- Any criticism or defeating position relatively to the past of Higher Education
- A magic solution to improve from night to day the system of Higher Education

The Bologna Process is...

- The perception of the recent past and of the present and the preparation of the future in a Global World of fast and deep changes

The Bologna Process is indeed a major dimension of the European answer to the

- CHALLENGES OF A CHANGING WORLD
The Bologna Process
What needs to be understood

- Understand the Bologna Process as one of the dimensions of the prevailing strategy for European development - based on KNOWLEDGE AND TRANSNATIONAL CO-OPERATION
- Understand the Bologna Process as having two main groups of objectives, naturally interlinked
  - Objectives of political, social, and economical nature
  - Objectives of a dominant academic nature
- Understand that indeed these objectives mean, in many countries, a major reform (... a small revolution...) in Higher Education and in Society

From Bologna to Budapest-Vienna... and beyond
Characterizing the Process Today

- Policy areas
- Structural organization issues
- The Substance - academic issues
From Bologna to Budapest-Vienna ... and beyond
Policy Areas - Political objectives and concerns

- Mobility
- Social dimension
- Employability
- Lifelong Learning
- Attractiveness or the Process in a global dimension

- Challenges posed by Global Competition - 'Borderless Higher Education Market'
- Need for International Cooperation - recognition
- The demographic challenge - new publics
- New leading roles and responsibilities
- Monitoring quality within diversity with multidimensional transparency tools
- Accessing diverse sources of funding

From Bologna to Budapest-Vienna ... and beyond
The Structure - action lines and instruments for action

- A Degree Structure -
  - Based on recognised QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS
- A System to measure work and OUTCOMES
  - The ECTS credit and accumulation system
- A way of documenting qualifications
  - The DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT
- A System to guarantee transparency
  - Building accepted QUALITY ASSURANCE procedures
- A System for recognition of qualifications
  - OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES posed by the diversity of ‘recognition cultures’
From Bologna to Leuven/Louvain-La-Neuve... and beyond
The Substance - the latecomer in the Bologna Process...

- Changes to a large extent still to occur
  - New contents... closer to more immediate Societal concerns
  - New programme structures, linked to a concept of lifelong Learning
  - New Methods - change from
    - Teacher-Centred to Student-Centred methodologies
    - Teaching based on Teacher Inputs to Learning Centred in well defined objectives - Learning Outcomes
    - Teaching Times to Student Workloads required to achieve desired Learning Outcomes

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The Core of the Bologna Reforms
Keywords characterizing Structural Issues

- The name of the game is BUILDING TRUST
- TRUST GOES WITH MOBILITY, COOPERATION, ACCREDITATION
  - MOBILITY AND COOPERATION require professional recognition
  - Professional recognition requires TRUST
  - TRUST requires transparency and readability of structures and professional qualifications
- All is achieved through:
  - COMPARABLE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS
  - And
  - RECOGNISED QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES
  - AND, through a lot of NETWORKING...!

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3. Concluding Notes
**International Networks**

I - General notes

- Networking aims at
  - Raising the productivity and competitiveness of Europe
  - Promoting mobility and cooperation
  - Generating new associations

- Institutional networks
- Sectoral networks
- Field-specific networks
- Networks for educational purposes
- Networks for research
- Networks to promote activities of the Third Mission

II - Examples of Institutional, Sectoral and Field-specific Networks

- Institutional networks
  - Eurydice - Information on Education Systems and Policies in Europe
  - The Eurydice Network provides information on and analyses of European education systems and policies.

- Sectoral networks
  - CESAER – Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research
  - Major forum for discussion of European policies in education and research in the engineering sector

- Field-specific networks
  - EC2E2N “European Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Education project”
  - This TN project brings together within a single network all actors in HE in chemistry and chemical engineering in Europe.
### International Networks
#### II - Networks for Education

- **The SOCRATES-ERASMUS Thematic Networks (TNS) have been playing a major role in the development of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)**
  - TNS Archipelagos group experts from TNS working in neighbouring fields and as such represent a further contribution to the goal of TNS
  - The first TNs Archipelago “Techno TN” was initiated by TNS existing in the Science and Engineering orientated fields

- **ENQA - The European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education**
  - Established in 2000 to promote European co-operation in the field of quality assurance
  - Transformed in November 2004 into the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)

### International Networks
#### III - Networks for Research and for the Third Mission

- **Networks for research receive strong support from the EU Commission**

- **EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)**

- **Networks for promoting the Third Mission**
  - The Business & Innovation Network (BIN@…) - Porto, Sheffield, UT Austin
  - E3M - a network of eight European institutions (U.Porto among them) aiming at creating indicators on Third Mission activities and providing a new approach on the concept of ranking methodologies.
    - Conference ‘Universities’ Third Mission - Indicators and Good Practices, 2-3 February 2012, Dublin, Ireland
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We must keep Bologna on track...

* Though the times are rough and tough, or precisely because they are rough and tough, Bologna must be kept on track
* There should be no illusion for the need of European cooperation in this global world. There is simply no better solution
* Networking is one, if not the major tool to consolidate the objectives of the Bologna Process
* The aim is to increase transparency in order to
  ✓ throw down barriers of recognition
  ✓ promote cooperation
  ✓ increase mobility of students and staff
After All... What counts...

- Mobility is a distinctive need of Today’s Global World
- Recognition of professional qualifications is a major task ahead...
- Mobility and Recognition of Qualifications are not an illusion, a dream, an objective or a target...

They are a MUST...

Required for Peace and Progress on Earth