The European Higher Education Area
Goals Achieved & Outlook towards 2010

Gottfried Bacher, Austrian Bologna Contact Point,
Federal Ministry of Science and Research

BOLOGNA SURVEY
Sorbonne 1998, Bologna 1999

Biennial Ministerial Conferences:
2001-Prague; 2003-Berlin; 2005-Bergen
2007-London; 2009-Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve
2010 - Budapest/Vienna – 10th-Anniversary Event

BOLOGNA CREDO
Boosting internationalization by enhancing the
quality and attractiveness of European higher
education

* Concrete objectives
* Partnership approach

BOLOGNA OBJECTIVES I

• New Degree Structure
• ECTS and Recognition
• Quality Assurance
• Mobility Enhancing Measures
• Life Long Learning
• Attractiveness of EHEIs / Global Setting
• European Dimension
• Social Dimension
BOLOGNA OBJECTIVES II

New Degree Structure

• Ba/Ma – mission achieved in number of degree courses but not students!
• National Qualification Frameworks – 2010 + beyond
• Access to the next cycle – add. requirements
• Employability – lack of employer-univ. exchange

BOLOGNA OBJECTIVES III

ECTS and Recognition

• ECTS – insufficient linking with learning outcomes and student work load
• Diploma Supplement – automatic, free of charge and widely-spoken lang.: appr. 50%
• Lisbon Recognition Convention – wide interpretation of “substantial difference clause”

BOLOGNA OBJECTIVES IV

Quality Assurance

• European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)
• EQAR-European Quality Assurance Register
• External/Internal QA, Student Participation
• International Participation in QA

BOLOGNA OBJECTIVES V

Mobility Enhancing Measures

• EC mobility programmes: LLP
• ERASMUS MUNDUS; Joint Study programs
• Transportability of Grants and Loans
• Results of Mobility Campaign
BOLOGNA OBJECTIVES VI

Lifelong Learning

• Flexible learning paths; re- and further training
• Answering to the needs of ever-faster changing labour markets and demographic development
• Recognition of prior learning

BOLOGNA OBJECTIVES VII

Attractiveness / Global Setting

• No Fortress Europe / vivid interest by 3rd countries
• Bologna Policy Forum
• Bologna-related initiatives (tuning, fairs..)

Present and Future Challenges I

• Paradigm shift to student-centred learning, credits and learning outcomes
• Challenge of widening and deepening simultaneously
• Mobility of students, staff, and researchers as part of the overall strategy and mission of a HEI

Present and Future Challenges II

• Establishing trust between HEI by adoption of the European Standards and Guidelines
• Recognition of prior learning to boost LLL
• Fair recognition procedures following the LRC (substantial difference clause)
Present and Future Challenges III

- Avoiding tightly packed, mobility-strangling bachelor curricula; equipping them with an integrated option for a study-stay abroad
- Relevance of (bachelor) qualifications to the needs of the wider world of work; employer-business dialogue and cooperation

Bologna is here to stay ..........

Bologna sceptics often accuse the Process of being hands in glove with the forces of globalization. Students, at the beginning, spoke of “commodification” of HE. Yet it is common understanding by European academic communities and governments alike that HE is a public good, not to be subjected to the forces of the market.

The Europeanization of Higher Education rests upon the pillars of trust, transparency, and stakeholder partnership. These concepts embody the true spirit of Bologna. It constitutes a vital and urgently needed action to equip our students with a holistic education and with the competencies they need to survive economic crises and international competition.

The path towards internationalization is a rocky one, and Bologna provides us with the four-wheel vehicle to master it!
Bologna is here to stay ..........

Thank you very much for your patience!

www.bologna.at
www.bologna2009benelux.org
gottfried.bacher@bmwf.gv.at
david.baldinger@oead.at