

NORDIC BOLOGNA PROCESS OFFICIAL SEMINAR



**FINAL PROGRAMME**

**THE NORDIC BOLOGNA PROCESS OFFICIAL SEMINAR**

Oslo, 28 – 29 September 2006

***“Looking out! Bologna in a global setting”***

**THE EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF THE BOLOGNA PROCESS**

**ORGANIZED BY THE NORDIC COUNTRIES:  
DENMARK, FINLAND, ICELAND, NORWAY AND SWEDEN**

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
**THE NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

Venue: University of Oslo, Georg Sverdrups hus, The University Library,  
Moltke Moes vei 39, Blindern, Oslo, Norway

## **The Nordic Bologna Process Official Seminar**

The Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden – together with the Nordic Council of Ministers, have the great pleasure of inviting you to the Nordic Bologna Process Official Seminar *Looking out! Bologna in a global setting*.

The Nordic countries joined the Bologna Process from the very beginning in 1999. Over the past two years more intensive steps towards the establishment of the European Higher Education Area have been made. Following the mandate of the 45 Ministers in Bergen and within the work programme set by the Bologna Follow Up Group, the Nordic countries will host a seminar on issues outside the focus of the previous seminars, e.g. competitiveness and capacity building.

On this stage of the process of making a strategy on the external dimension, we think it is of great importance to involve the outside-Bologna countries and areas more actively. Therefore, we have decided that 25 % of the expected 250 seminar participants will be invited and represent all parts of the world. In all six parallel sessions, there will be a non-Bologna commentator and the panel participants will also reflect very strongly our intention of dialogue with non-Bologna countries.

We have invited representatives from universities, university colleges, central authorities as well as organisations. It is of great importance that all participants take part in the debates and strive to contribute to the proposed strategy on the external dimension of the Bologna Process.

The working language of the seminar is English.

## **Aim and context of the Seminar**

In the Bergen communiqué the following is said on the external dimension under the headline “*The attractiveness of the EHEA and cooperation with other parts of the world*”:

“The European Higher Education Area must be open and should be attractive to other parts of the world. Our contribution to achieving education for all should be based on the principle of sustainable development and be in accordance with the ongoing international work

## NORDIC BOLOGNA PROCESS OFFICIAL SEMINAR

on developing guidelines for quality provision of cross-border higher education. We reiterate that in international academic cooperation, academic values should prevail.

We see the European Higher Education Area 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 underline the importance of intercultural understanding and respect. 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. We see the need to identify partner regions and intensify the exchange of ideas and experiences with those regions. We ask the Follow-up Group to elaborate and agree on a strategy for the external dimension.”

The BFUG has been given the mandate to "elaborate and agree on a strategy for the external dimension" in order to strengthen the attractiveness of the EHEA as a priority for its 2005-2007 Work Programme. Intercultural understanding and respect, as well as the exchange of ideas and fruitful collaboration with external partners depends of the awareness of their own cultural and historical identity and academic values.

The Working Group consists of members from Norway (chair), Denmark, Sweden, The Holy See, Greece, Germany, Portugal, France, Spain, Malta and Austria. In addition, EUA, EU, ESIB, UNESCO, The Council of Europe, ACA and EI have been consultative members, but have participated in the Working Group alongside its members.

The Terms of Reference for the Working Group were adopted in November last year. The BFUG will in turn make their proposal to the London ministerial meeting in May 2007. To provide significant input for this work, three seminars will be arranged: The first one was given by the Holy See 30 March - 1 April and the second one is the Greek seminar in Athens 24 - 26 June. The third seminar will be hosted by the Nordic countries in Oslo 28 - 29 September. Based on these seminars and the analyses following, a seminar report prepared by our rapporteur, professor Pavel Zgaga, the Working Group hopes for a strategy document equivalent to the ministerial request.

## Parallel Sessions

The Nordic seminar concentrate on six different, but not mutual exclusive parallel sessions. Together with the panel discussion we will complete some of the issues discussed on the seminars in the Vatican and in Athens, but also focus on issues not highlighted before. As the Nordic seminar is the final one, it is time for conclusions and recommendations to the Bologna Follow Up Group on what should be the content of a strategy document on the external dimension of the Bologna Process.

Every participant is asked to join one of the six parallel sessions. Be prepared to accept an alternative session in case your first choice is already fully booked.

### **1. Conditions for institutional cooperation between European and non-European higher education institutions**

Chair: Ms. Barbara Weitgruber (Austria)  
Rapporteur: Mr. Jan S. Levy (OECD)  
Commentator: Ms. Keiko Momii (Japan)

What are the advantages and disadvantages of working with institutions outside Europe? Which obstacles exist (e.g. economy, legal matters), and how do we overcome these? Do such cooperation differ depending on what institution or what part of the world one is collaborating with?

### **2. International mobility - transparency - recognition**

Chair: Ms. Lesley Wilson (EUA)  
Rapporteur: Ms. Anita Līce, (ESIB)  
Commentator: Ms. Penina Mlama (FAWE)

What is the purpose of increased mobility? What should be the EHEA policy in this field – should it be a policy to have a balanced student and staff exchange in and out of Europe, or should we aim at attracting as many students and teachers as possible to Europe? What obstacles exist, and how do we overcome them?

### **3. Recognition of different study programme structures**

Chair: Mr. Josef Mifsud (Malta)  
Rapporteur: Ms. Annika Persson Pontén (Sweden)  
Commentator: Mr. John R. Mallea (Canada)

How do European countries recognize programme structures from other regions and how is the Bologna structure recognized outside Europe? Should we develop common European systems for the recognition of higher education from outside Europe through the Bologna Process? How do we use the qualification framework system in this respect? How do we give information about the European higher education system to non European countries?

#### **4. Strategy for international cooperation**

Chair: Mr. Pedro Lourtie (Portugal)  
Rapporteur: Mr. Sjur Bergan (Council of Europe)  
Commentator: Ms. Yorleni Aguilar Castillo (Costa Rica)

How can international cooperation at the regional, national and institutional levels complement and reinforce each other? What kind of division of labour should there be? How do we make the most of the agreements already existing, e.g. the agreements between the EU and other regions of the world, and the international agreements based on common languages (e.g. Portuguese, Spanish, French)? What should be the role of the EU?

#### **5. Attractiveness/competitiveness - brain drain - capacity building**

Chair: Mr. Bernd Wächter (ACA)  
Rapporteur: Mr. Mogens Berg (Denmark)  
Commentator: Mr. Piniti Ratananukul (ASEAN University Network)

How should one handle the tension between the work to reinforce the attractiveness of the EHEA and the aim to strengthening the capacity in developing countries? Should the external dimension policy vary according to the areas of the world we are aiming at? How can Europe as a region compensate for undesirable brain drain?

#### **6. What makes the European Higher Education Area attractive?**

Chair: Ms. Birgit Galler (Germany)  
Rapporteur: Mr. Eric Froment (France)  
Commentator: Mr. Colin Walters (Australia)

What are the main European assets with regard to higher education? What changes should be made to meet the Lisbon strategy of making Europe the most innovative region of the world – particularly regarding initiatives that concern higher education/higher education institutions not already part of the Bologna process?

## **Date and Venue of the Seminar**

The seminar begins after lunch on Thursday 28 September 2006, and ends at lunchtime on the 29 September 2006. The Venue is the Blindern campus of the University of Oslo, Norway, and all sessions will take place in the University library building, the “Georg Sverdrups hus”. Information about universities and higher education in the Nordic countries will be provided in connection with the seminar areas.

## **The Nordic Countries**

The Nordic region has a population of 24.7 million. The Nordic countries consist of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. In addition, we have the autonomous areas The Faroe Islands and Greenland, which are both part of the kingdom of Denmark, and Åland, which is part of the republic of Finland.

Denmark, Norway and Sweden are all monarchies. Finland and Iceland are republics.

Regardless of the form of government, the heads of state in the Nordic countries have relatively little power. All the countries have a democratic constitution dating from the 19th century, and, with the exception of the Norwegian constitution, they have all been revised several times.

The parliaments in the Nordic countries and the autonomous territories vary in size from 30 members in the Parliament of Åland to 349 members in Sweden's parliament.

## **The Official Nordic Co-operation**

Official Nordic co-operation is channelled through two organisations: the **Nordic Council** and the **Nordic Council of Ministers**.

### **The Nordic Council - the parliamentary co-operation body**

The Nordic Council was formed in 1952 and is the forum for Nordic parliamentary co-operation. The Council has 87 members, representing the five countries and three autonomous territories. The members of the Council are members of the national parliaments, who are nominated by their respective political party, then elected by the parliament. There is thus no procedure for direct election to the Nordic Council. The Nordic Council, which is led by a presidium, has held an ordinary session every autumn since 1996. Special sessions on specific themes are organised in between. On-going political work in the Nordic Council is conducted through five committees and four party groups.

### **The Nordic Council of Ministers - the governmental co-operation body**

The Nordic Council of Ministers, formed in 1971, is the forum for Nordic governmental co-operation. The work is co-ordinated by the Nordic ministers of co-operation. Despite its name the Council of Ministers consists of several individual councils of ministers. Most of the Nordic ministers for specific policy areas meet their Nordic counterparts in the council of ministers a couple of times a year. The ministers for foreign affairs and defence are exceptions, as they hold meetings outside the formal framework of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers secretariats are located in Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Thursday 28 September 2006**

**10.00 - 13.00**    *Registration and lunch*

**Plenary session I**

**Chair:**            Director General Ms. Toril Johansson,  
Ministry of Education and Research, Norway

**13.00 - 13.20**    *Opening address*  
The Norwegian Minister of Education and Research  
Mr. Øystein Djupedal

**13.20 - 14.00**    *Presentation of the preliminary report*  
Professor Pavel Zgaga

**14.00 - 15.30**    *Panel discussion*  
Sharing our experiences of reform processes with  
neighbouring regions. We are stressing the need to identify  
partner regions and intensify the exchange of ideas and  
experiences with those regions.

Mr. Markku Mattila, chair, (Finland, EU Presidency)  
Ms. Anita Līce (The National Unions of Students in  
Europe, ESIB)  
Mr. Bernd Wächter (Academic Cooperation Association, ACA)  
Mr. Colin Walters (Australia)  
Mr. John R. Mallea (Canada)  
Ms. Keiko Momii (Japan)  
Ms. Penina Mlama (Forum for African Women Educationalists,  
FAWE)  
Mr. Piniti Ratananukul (ASEAN University Network)  
Ms. Yorleni Aguilar Castillo (Costa Rica)

**15.30 - 16.00**    *Coffee/tea*

**16.00 - 18.30**    *Parallel Sessions*

**19.00 - 21.00**    *Reception at the Oslo Town Hall*  
Hosted by the Mayor of Oslo city, Mr. Per Ditlev-Simonsen.

*The participants will be asked to choose between the following sessions:*

**1) Conditions for Institutional co-operations between European and non-European Higher Education Institutions**

Chair: Ms. Barbara Weitgruber (Austria)  
Rapporteur: Mr. Jan S. Levy (OECD)  
Commentator: Ms. Keiko Momii (Japan)

**2) International mobility - transparency – recognition**

Chair: Ms. Lesley Wilson (EUA)  
Rapporteur: Ms. Anita Līce (ESIB)  
Commentator: Ms. Penina Mlama (FAWE)

**3) Recognition of different student programme structures**

Chair: Mr. Josef Mifsud (Malta)  
Rapporteur: Ms. Annika Persson Pontén (Sweden)  
Commentator: Mr. John R. Mallea (Canada)

**4) Strategy for international cooperation**

Chair: Mr. Pedro Lourtie (Portugal)  
Rapporteur: Mr. Sjur Bergan (Council of Europe)  
Commentator: Ms. Yorleni Aguilar Castillo (Costa Rica)

**5) Attractiveness/competitiveness - brain drain - capacity building**

Chair: Mr. Bernd Wächter (ACA)  
Rapporteur: Mr. Mogens Berg (Denmark)  
Commentator: Mr. Piniti Ratananukul (ASEAN University Network)

**6) What makes the European Higher Education Area attractive?**

Chair: Ms. Birgit Galler (Germany)  
Rapporteur: Mr. Eric Froment (France)  
Commentator: Mr. Colin Walters (Australia)

**Friday 29 September 2006**

*09.00 - 10.00 Parallel sessions cont.*

*10.00 - 10.30 Coffee/tea*

**Plenary session II**

**Chair:** Secretary General: Mr. Per Unckel, Nordic Council of Ministers

*10.30 - 12.00 Report from the parallel sessions*

*12.00 - 12.30 Visions and goals towards 2010*  
The Swedish Minister of Culture, Education and Research  
Mr. Leif Pagrotsky

*12.30 - 13.30 Lunch*

*14.00 - Sightseeing by bus to The Kon-Tiki Museum, The Viking Ship Museum and The Vigeland Sculpture Park*

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