



## Speaking notes for the Budapest and Vienna Ministerial conference, 11-12th of March 2010

### 3. Social dimension

The Bologna Process aimed at the creation of a European Higher Education Area. But why we want to have a common space? Is not so that the full potential of our future citizens benefits from the European diversity and cultural heritage? Is not so that more European citizens are able to succeed in their personal and professional lives? We would argue that the social mobility function of higher education has as a tool national social dimension strategies that will make the diversity of our populations reflected in the national student bodies.

[CS] But let's see how important the social dimension really is... In our members' view it is a crucial priority for the students. But this is not the case for all governments and higher education institutions that seem to largely not prioritise this Bologna action line as students do. And it is quite obvious when we look at the lack of comprehensiveness of the national action plans for social dimension that should have been submitted by last year for the Leuven/ Louvain la Neuve ministerial conferences. There were even answers saying that some countries do not have underrepresented groups, which is sociologically very unlikely. Now, a new commitment was made in 2009: that all 46 Bologna countries would define their underrepresented groups and set measurable targets for widening overall participation and increasing participation of underrepresented groups in higher education, to be reached by the end of the next decade. ESU feels that if this is not a reality by 2020, the process will lose its relevance and real potential for societal transformation.

[CS] The picture of expenditure in HE institutions per full time equivalent student is worrying. We talked a lot about unlocking Europe's potential. The young generation will bear the burden of the economical and social recovery after the economic and values crisis. Are we making sure that we are investing enough in properly aiding that every student is able to reach its full potential? We would say that the upcoming demographic challenges put the pressure on the new active population that needs to not be afraid of choosing some educational paths because of their costs.

Student protests across Europe are pointing the finger at Bologna for the worsening of their study and living conditions. And we believe that in order for ESU to keep saying that Bologna does not come about with a catastrophic effect over their study opportunity and quality, we need to ascertain that promises in the field of social dimension are kept. And on this, you can be sure all eyes are on you, distinguished ministers. ☺

[CS] Thank you!



# Social dimension



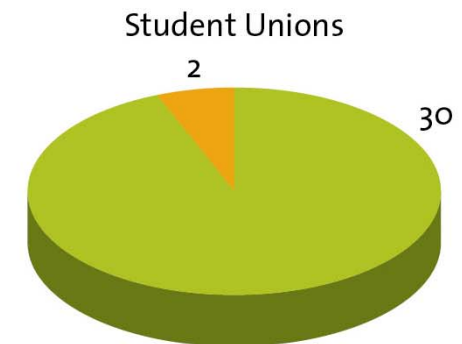
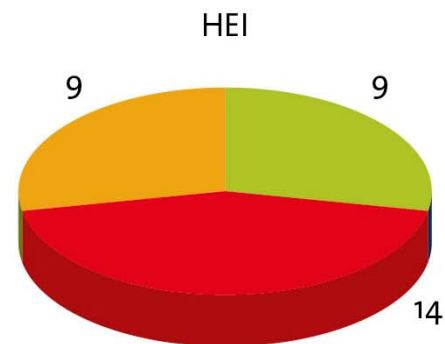
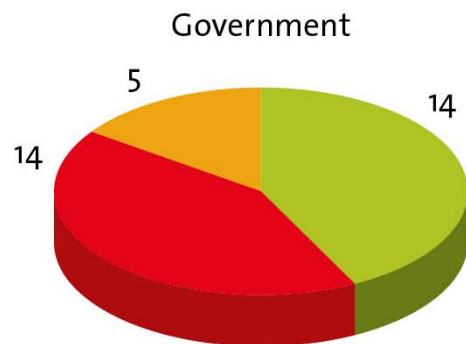
Ligia Deca, ESU Chairperson

Budapest and Vienna Ministerial conference, 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2010

# Social dimension – a Bologna priority?

*fig. 1—Is the social dimension a priority, according to the student unions, for the government, the higher education institutions and the student union?*

- Yes
- No
- Some degree



Ligia Deca, ESU Chairperson

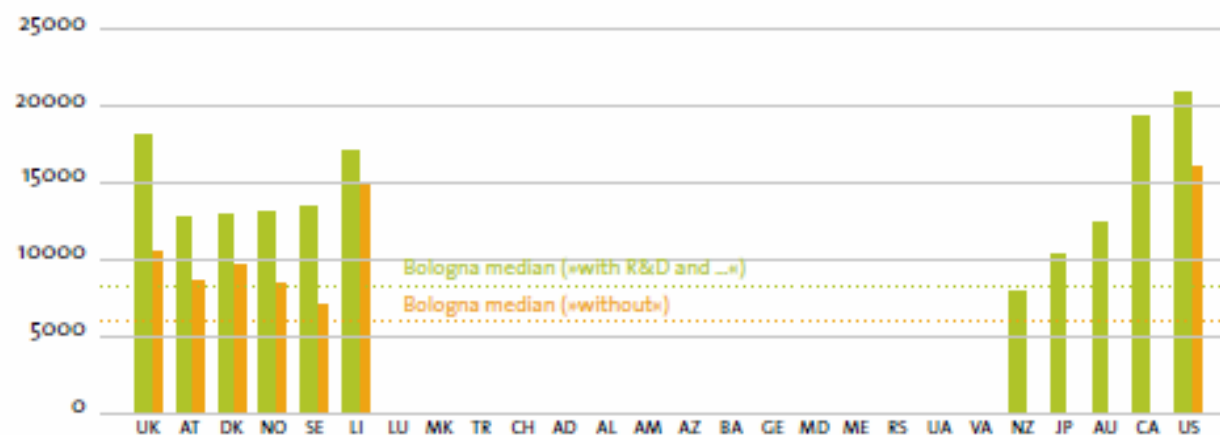
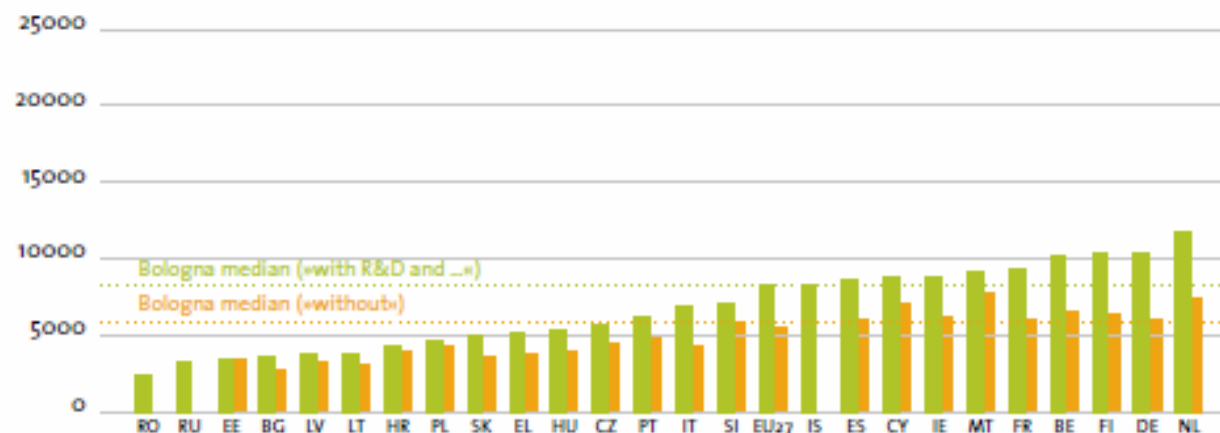
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# The reality check...

fig. 16—Annual total expenditure on tertiary education institutions per full-time equivalent student (in EUR PPS) including and excluding expenditure on research and ancillary services

EUROSTAT 2009:79, Acknowledgement to Eurostat and eurostudento, for granting permission to use its graphs on this chapter.

- without (core expenditure)
- with R&D and ancillary services



Ligia Deca, ESU Chairperson

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# Thank you!



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