

**Short Cycle Higher Education:**  
**Opportunities and challenges in the EHEA**

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# The European landscape for SCHE

- **A very heterogeneous picture in Europe**
  - countries with/without SCHE
  - huge differences between national systems in terms of: status (tertiary ? post secondary ?)
    - size
    - role(s)
    - links to degree (sub-degree system?)
  - not one of two pillars in « binary » systems (colleges/polytechnics, non-university HEI)
  - a no-name sector !
  - merging: a process in progress in several countries

## An important segment, but...

- **Essential social/economic functions**
  - on the labour market
  - for access
  - for non traditional learners
  - for vertical mobility
  - but are they all compatible ? Are they all wanted ?
- **little initial interest from the EHEA**
  - the least convergent segment of HE systems
  - no reference in Bologna Communiqués until 2003
  - yet, efforts in progress since Trends 1 (1999)

# Looking for a place in the EHEA

- - Bologna: « qualifications », not « degrees »
  - first stage: inclusion of colleges/polytechnics
    - from 2001: Salamanca (no explicit reference)
    - Prague (EURASHE in follow-up group)
    - Developments in QA, e.g. engineering
    - Declaration on prof. HE sent to Bergen
  - second stage: inclusion of short higher education
    - from 2003: Berlin (link to first degree ?)
    - Bergen: EQF with 3 + 1 levels
  - road to London 2007: a new window opened ?

## Future priorities for short vocational higher education in the EHEA

- **Finding a name and common denominators for the sector:** getting organised as a group
  - getting visible as a group
  - gathering all countries concerned
- **Building-up bridges to further studies**  
(vertical mobility, attractiveness of SCHE)
- **Building up mobility and internationalisation**
  - potential role of SCHE to ↑ EHEA attractiveness
  - build-up potential for vertical mobility

# Future priorities for short vocational higher education in the EHEA

- **Consolidating place in EQF:**
  - apply ECTS and Diploma Supplement
  - foster convergence on definitions
    - nomenclature
    - credit ranges (60, 120 ECTS)
- **Setting-up specific QA mechanisms:**
  - standards and guidelines
  - QA and accreditation agencies

## Future priorities for short vocational higher education in the EHEA

- **On the way to London 2007:**
  - representation: EURASHE, support from others
  - message to Ministers ahead of meeting
  - messages to Ministers during preparatory phase
- **Follow-up work at EU level:**
  - on EQF (based on Recommendation)
  - on QA Recommendation
- **Most important:** ascertain role in overall education system fit for the knowledge era

Thank you !

& Merci !