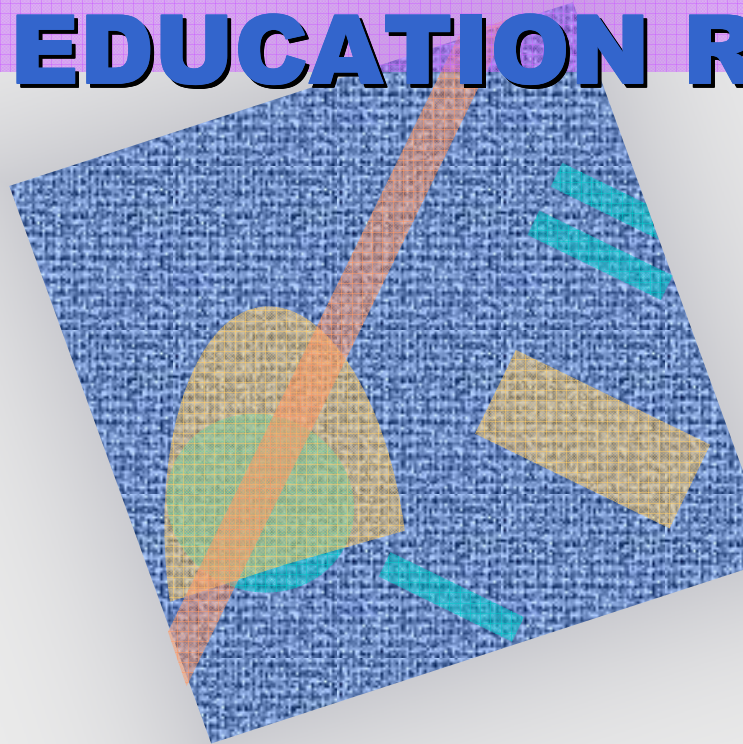


THE BOLOGNA PROCESS AS A MODEL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM?



**EURASHE SYMPOSIUM
ALMATY, OCTOBER 22 –
23, 2007**

**Sjur Bergan, Council of
Europe**

“BOLOGNA IN A NUTSHELL” I

- 46 countries moving toward the European Higher Education Area by 2010
- Actors:
 - Ministries of Education
 - Higher education institutions
 - Students
 - International organizations

“BOLOGNA IN A NUTSHELL” II

- Policies defined internationally but implemented at national level and within higher education institutions
- Not part of an existing institutional framework
- Follow up structure:
 - Ministerial meetings
 - Bologna Follow Up Group

MEETINGS OF “BOLOGNA MINISTERS”

- (Sorbonne 1998) (4 countries)
- Bologna 1999 (29 countries)
- Praha 2001 (33 countries)
- Berlin 2003 (40 countries)
- Bergen 2005 (45 countries)
- London 2007 (46 countries)
- Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve 2009
- ? 2010
- ?? after 2010

DEVELOPING THE PROCESS: 1999

- Ministerial meeting preceded by academic meeting Bologna Declaration
- Defining the goal of a European Higher Education Area by 2010 based on a few key principles
- Process of countries with some kind of relation to EU programs
- Decision on follow up structure

DEVELOPING THE PROCESS 2001

- Broadening of focus from being competitive to also include a social dimension plus the role of HE in building democracy
- Firmer link to higher education institutions
- Inclusion of student representation
- First admission of new countries

DEVELOPING THE PROCESS 2003

- Broadening the scope of the Bologna Process beyond the EU context
- Increasing conscience of the fact that 2010 is no longer so far away
- Ministers accept the principle of stock taking
- Quality assurance more firmly on the agenda



DEVELOPING THE PROCESS 2005

- The Bologna Process becomes truly pan-European with 45 members
- Guidelines for quality assurance
- Overarching qualifications frameworks
- Greater awareness of the global dimension



DEVELOPING THE PROCESS 2007

- Adoption of a strategy for the global dimension of the Bologna Process
- National action plans for recognition of qualifications
- One new member country and confirmation of the current geographical scope
- Recognition of the need to consider the EHEA beyond 2010



FACTORS OF SUCCESS

- Reformed higher education structures
- Pan-European
- Cooperation Ministries – institutions – students and staff
- Interaction European – national – institutional levels
- Movement of students and staff relatively easy within Europe



SOME CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Move beyond structures
- Look at higher education in a broader context
 - European Higher Education Area and the rest of the world
 - Public responsibility for higher education
 - Roles and functions of higher education in modern society: economy, citizenship and personal development
 - Equal opportunity
- Yet define a limited number of new goals



SOME MORE CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Face the challenge of diversity
 - Geographical
 - Achievements
 - Balance unity/diversity
- Academic mobility in an age of restricted migration
- Keep up momentum after the first decade
- Balance need for organization and lack of bureaucracy
- Find a place for institutions that take a longer view in a society dominated by the sound bite...



BOLOGNA – A MODEL?

- Adapt world trends to local circumstances...
- ... but also the other way around
- Will not work without cooperation Ministries – institutions – students/staff
- Must define ambitious yet realistic goals
- Combination top-down and bottom-up
- Interaction higher education/other areas of public policy (migration, finance)



BOLOGNA – A MODEL?

- Has attracted great interest from other areas of the world
- Model, but ...
- Needs to be inspired by, but not to be carbon copied