

The Bologna Process and the EU Modernisation Agenda

Barbara Nolan,
European Commission, Head of Unit Higher Education
and Erasmus,
University of Sydney, 5 March 2009



Outline

- **The Bologna process – background**
- **The challenges for higher education**
- **The Bologna Action Lines**
- **Bologna in the next decade**
- **Bologna and the Erasmus Programme**
- **EU Modernisation agenda**
- **EU instruments and tools**



Bologna Process - background



- **Bologna Declaration from 1999**
- **Who: 46 countries, EU Commission and relevant stakeholders e.g. European University Association**
- **The Basis : the Cultural Convention of Council of Europe (1954)**
- **Aim: European Higher Education Area; Mobility, Employability, Quality**



Bologna Process - challenges



- **Not enough young people in HE**
- **Curricula are not up to date**
- **Higher education is fragmented, over-regulated and under-funded**
- **Not enough adults take part in lifelong learning**



The Bologna Process - content

- **Shared Agenda between 46 countries**
- **Bologna reforms in place by 2010**
 - **3 cycle system**
 - **Modernised curricula**
 - **Trustworthy QA**
- **Increase the level of mobility of students and researchers**



The Bologna Process – content (2)



- **Speed up academic recognition**
- **European Qualifications frameworks: Learning Outcomes**
- **Optimize regulatory framework for university-enterprise cooperation**
- **Develop generic skills and entrepreneurial mindset**



Bologna Process - success



- **Shared Agenda**
- **Joint instruments (ECTS, Recognition, QA, Erasmus)**
- **European dimension – diversity and cooperation**
- **Global Dimension – Bologna Policy Forum**



Bologna in the next decade

- **Excellence (over-arching priority)**
- **Social Dimension – equitable access and completion**
- **Universities and lifelong learning**
- **Employability**
- **Student-centred learning**
- **Education, research, innovation (link)**
- **More Mobility**



Bologna in the next decade (2)

- **International openness**
- **Data collection and transparency instruments**
- **Funding**



Bologna and Erasmus

No Bologna without Erasmus – EU Mobility Programme- 5 action lines in Bologna were inspired by Erasmus :

- 1) Transparent degree system**
- 2) ECTS**
- 3) Mobility**
- 4) Quality Assurance**
- 5) European Dimension**



EU Modernisation Agenda



- **Governance reform – autonomy and accountability**
- **Funding reform – diversified funding mechanisms**
- **Curricula reform – the Bologna Process**



EU programmes and initiatives supporting HE reforms

- **Lifelong Learning Programme/Erasmus**
- **Projects in ranking and mapping**
- **New skills for new jobs - better match curricula – labour market**
- **Bologna Experts-speed up reforms**
- **European Institute of Innovation and Technology**
- **University - Business Forum**
- **Erasmus Mundus**



Thank you !

barbara.nolan@ec.europa.eu

