EU and the Bologna Process
American Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers
Annual Meeting
New York City, March 28-31

Margit Schatzman
margit@ece.org
Educational Credential Evaluators Inc.

Linda Tobash
Ltobash@iie.org
Institute of International Education
History

- Pre-Bologna
- Bologna Declaration 1999
- Prague 2001
- Berlin 2003
- Bergen 2005
Bologna Goals

- Adoption of system of easily readable & comparable degrees
- Adoption of two-cycle system
- Establishment of credit system
- Promotion of quality
Implementation Issues

- Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees
- Quality assurance & accreditation systems
- European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)
- Diploma Supplement (DS)
- Joint degrees
### Italy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Old</th>
<th>New</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Laurea/Dottore (4-5 years)</td>
<td>Laurea – 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Laurea specialistica – 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>180/300 ECTS credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit = 25 hours of work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma Supplement</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Compulsory (Ministerial Decree, 2001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisbon Convention</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ratified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses</td>
<td>Annual courses</td>
<td>Modular system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Admission: 13-year *Maturita*
- V.O. - *Vecchio Ordinamento* = Old system, N.O. - *Nuovo Ordinamento* = New system
- By law (Reform of 1999) all universities have first & second cycle degrees
- First cycle introduced 2001-02, Second cycle introduced 2002-03
- 38 broad classes of *laurea* degrees representing 3,200 programs; 102 *laurea specialistica* degrees representing 2,100 programs
### Netherlands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Old</th>
<th>New</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Degrees</strong></td>
<td><em>Doctorandus, meester,</em> <em>ingenieur,</em> <em>baccalaureus</em> - 4-5 years</td>
<td>Bachelor – 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
<td>40-42 per year</td>
<td>180 ECTS credits for bachelors in academic areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diploma Supplement</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Voluntary use of European Diploma Supplement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lisbon Convention</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ratified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accreditation</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Introduced in 2002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Bachelor-Master structure introduced in 2002
- One-cycle programs remain in dentistry & medicine and some other areas
- Graduates may opt for old or new names on degrees
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Old</th>
<th>New</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Bachelor – 3 years</td>
<td>Bachelor – 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master – 1-2 years</td>
<td>Master – 1-2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>Some credit systems in use,</td>
<td>Some credit systems in use,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>including Credit</td>
<td>including Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accumulation and Transfer</td>
<td>Accumulation and Transfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>System (CATS)</td>
<td>System (CATS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120 credits per year</td>
<td>120 credits per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma Supplement</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisbon Convention</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ratified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses</td>
<td>Annual courses &amp; modules</td>
<td>Annual courses &amp; modules</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Germany

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Old</th>
<th>New</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td><em>Diplom (Univ.)</em> – 4 years</td>
<td>Bachelor – 3-4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Diplom (FH)</em> – 3 + 1 years</td>
<td>Master – 1-2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>ECTS credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma Supplement</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Required in 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisbon Convention</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ratified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Hours per week</td>
<td>Modules</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Admission: *Fachhochschule (FH)* 12-year *Fachhochschulreife*
*University (Univ.)* 13-year *Abitur*

Bachelor & Master degrees represent 26.3% of degrees offered
- 2000 – 1.8% of students opted for Bachelor degree
- 2003 – 7.5% of students opted for Bachelor degree
- 2003 – 108,000 or 5.3% students enrolled in Bachelor or Master program
Admission of European Students Questionnaire

Respondents

- Over 90 U.S. & Canadian admissions professionals
- Public & private institutions
- International enrollments from 20 to 5000
- European enrollments represented less than 10 to 40% of foreign student population
Questionnaire: Summary of Results

Current domestic and foreign admission requirements

- No significant difference, except in English language requirements
- Bachelor’s degree required of both domestic and foreign students for graduate admissions

Current definition of bachelor’s degree

- Awarded by a degree-granting institution
- Other characteristics varied
- Length of domestic bachelor’s degree: four years (74%) three years (26%)
- Length of foreign bachelor’s degree: four years (68%) three years (32%)
More Questionnaire Results

Knowledge of Bologna Declaration:
- Familiar with Bologna Declaration and understand its general goals (34%)
- Have heard of Bologna Declaration but don’t know much about it (35%)
- Not familiar with Bologna Declaration (30%)

European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and Diploma Supplement:
- Majority of respondents are familiar with ECTS
- Fewer respondents are familiar with the Diploma Supplement
Survey Themes

**Hopes**

- Changes brought about by the Bologna Declaration will make credential evaluation easier
  - Diploma Supplement
  - ECTS and grading system
    - National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Academic Credentials has determined that one ECTS credit is comparable to one half (.50) U.S. semester credit
- Greater ease in obtaining information expected
- Higher level of consistency expected

**Concerns**

- Evaluation of three-year degrees for graduate admission
**Recommendations & Approaches**

- Analyze & understand your own admission & transfer policies and requirements
- Update your knowledge on changes in Europe
- Consider creative & experimental solutions
- Consider best practices of colleagues
Graduate Admission: Alternative Approaches for Students with Three-year Degrees

- Acceptance based on title
- Rejection based on length of program
- Focus on admission criteria: secondary school program, work experience, major area of study
- Existing relationships
  - consideration for exchange partners, track record of known programs
Graduate Admission: Other Options

- Admission to alternative programs
  - bridge program
  - honors diploma
  - qualifying year,
  - varied length graduate programs for varied length first degree

- Alternative admissions status
  - provisional admission
  - conditional admission
  - challenge examinations

- Holistic approach
Thank You
Resources

http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no

This is the official site for the third Bologna follow-up conference scheduled for Bergen in 2005. The site includes updates on initiatives related to the Bologna Declaration.

http://www.aic.lv/ace/

Link to the website of the Admissions Officers and Credential Evaluators (ACE) section of the European Association for International Education. Includes a useful section on the Bologna Declaration.


Detailed description of the Diploma Supplement.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/ects_en.html

Detailed description of ECTS credits and grades.
Resources

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

- [http://www.adsec.nafsa.org/ ADSECNewsletter.asp](http://www.adsec.nafsa.org/ ADSECNewsletter.asp)
  
  March issue includes an introductory article on the Bologna Declaration. May issue includes an article on a survey of admissions practices for European students.

- [http://www.nafsa.org/ practiceres/ bologna/ bologna-Background.htm](http://www.nafsa.org/ practiceres/ bologna/ bologna-Background.htm)
  
  Resources on the Bologna Declaration

- [http://www.nafsa.org/ practiceres/ bologna/ bologna-taskforce.htm](http://www.nafsa.org/ practiceres/ bologna/ bologna-taskforce.htm)
  
  NAFSA Bologna Process Task Force