

EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

The European Higher Education Area (EHEA) in a global context

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EHEA in a Global Context

The European Higher Education Area: Characteristics

- ❖ Jointly shaped in a unique partnership of public authorities, higher education institutions (HEI), staff and students together with employers, quality assurance agencies, European and international institutions and organisations
- ❖ Created since 1999 in an intergovernmental process, the Bologna Process

Officially launched on March 12, 2010

EHEA in a Global Context

The European Higher Education Area: Membership

- ❖ 47 European Countries
- ❖ European Commission
- ❖ 8 Consultative Members:

BUSINESSEUROPE, Council of Europe, Education International Pan-European Structure (EI), European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), European Students' Union (ESU), European University Association (EUA), European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE) and UNESCO



The European Higher Education Area in a Global Context:

1999 – 2003:

- ❖ Focus on intra-European cooperation
- ❖ Discussion of the further development of the EHEA in a European context

Since 2003 within the EHEA:

- ❖ Growing awareness of the global context
- ❖ Increasing interest in international cooperation and dialogue

Developments reflected in the Communiqués adopted by the EHEA ministers in charge of higher education at their Ministerial Conferences (1999 – 2001 – 2003 – 2005 – 2007 – 2009 – 2010)



Berlin Communiqué in 2003:

"Ministers welcome the interest shown by other regions of the world in the development of the European Higher Education Area and . . . encourage the co-operation with regions in other parts of the world by opening Bologna seminars and conferences to representatives of these regions."

Bergen Communiqué in 2005:

"We see the EHEA as a partner of higher education systems in other regions of the world, stimulating balanced student and staff exchange and cooperation between higher education institutions. We look forward to enhancing the understanding of the Bologna Process in other continents by sharing our experiences of reform processes with neighbouring regions. We stress the need for dialogue on issues of mutual interest."



London Communiqué in 2007:

"We are pleased that in many parts of the world, the Bologna reforms have created considerable interest and stimulated discussion between European and international partners on a range of issues. These include the recognition of qualifications, the benefits of cooperation based upon partnership, mutual trust and understanding, and the underlying values of the Bologna Process."

"We adopt the strategy 'The European Higher Education Area in a Global Setting' and will take forward work in the core policy areas: improving information on, and promoting the attractiveness and competitiveness of the EHEA; strengthening cooperation based on partnership; intensifying policy dialogue; and improving recognition."

Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué in 2009:

"We call upon European higher education institutions to further internationalise their activities and to engage in global collaboration for sustainable development. The attractiveness and openness of European higher education will be highlighted by joint European actions. Competition on a global scale will be complemented by enhanced policy dialogue and cooperation based on partnership with other regions of the world, in particular through the organisation of Bologna Policy Fora, involving a variety of stakeholders."

Budapest-Vienna Declaration on the
European Higher Education Area in 2010

"The Bologna Process and the resulting European Higher Education Area, being unprecedented examples of regional, cross-border cooperation in higher education, have raised considerable interest in other parts of the world and made European higher education more visible on the global map. We welcome this interest and look forward to intensifying our policy dialogue and cooperation with partners across the world."

Work Programme up to 2012 in the Bologna Process/EHEA:

- ❖ To take forward the priorities of the Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué and the recommendations of the reports submitted to the ministers
- ❖ Working Group "International Openness: The EHEA in a Global Context"
- ❖ Setting up the "EHEA Information and Promotion Network"



Implementation of the Priorities of the Strategy:

Information on the EHEA:

- ❖ European Bologna Website adapted for an international audience
- ❖ First Bologna Brochure issued in 2008
- ❖ Further work needed

Promotion of the EHEA:

- ❖ Not (yet) widespread
- ❖ Focus on promotion of national systems, not the EHEA
- ❖ Further work needed

Cooperation based on partnership:

- ❖ Common practice for HEI - positive further development



Implementation of the Priorities of the Strategy:

Recognition:

- ❖ Vital for international cooperation
- ❖ ENIC (European Network of Information Centres in the European Region) and NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union) networks very active
- ❖ Working party on recognition in a global context
- ❖ Inter-regional cooperation to be enhanced

Policy Dialogue on higher education reform and specific topics:

- ❖ On-going at different levels (ministries, agencies, HEI, staff and students)
- ❖ To be further enhanced



Working Group "International Openness: The EHEA in a Global Context":

Mandate:

- ❖ To take forward recommendations to further implement the strategy
- ❖ To support the preparations of the Second Bologna Policy Forum at ministerial level (dialogue on higher education between the EHEA and other regions of the world)
- ❖ To set up the "EHEA Information and Promotion Network"

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EHEA Information and Promotion Network (first meeting in May 2010)

- ❖ Open to all members of the Bologna Process/EHEA

Main tasks:

- ❖ Develop an overview of existing initiatives/activities
- ❖ Contribute to production of information material
- ❖ Contribute to the Bologna/EHEA website
- ❖ Foster exchange and best practice
- ❖ Design measures to enhance the promotion of the EHEA

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Bologna Policy Forum:

- ❖ Dialogue between the EHEA and other regions of the world

First Bologna Policy Forum at ministerial level in 2009

Second Bologna Policy Forum at ministerial level in 2010:

Participants: 70 countries and 11 organisations

Debate on the following topics:

- ❖ Role of HEI/systems in the developing global knowledge society
- ❖ Brain circulation
- ❖ Balance between cooperation and competition

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Second Bologna Policy Forum in 2010 – Follow-up

- ❖ Contact persons (flow of information; preparation of next Forum in 2012 reflecting the EHEA partnership approach)
- ❖ Policy dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders
- ❖ Provision of information and expertise on the EHEA
- ❖ Seminar on quality assurance in 2011

All documents related to the Bologna Policy Forum (Statement, speeches and presentations) as well as all documents related to EHEA in a global context are available on the Bologna/EHEA website:

www.bologna2009benelux.org



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**MANY THANKS
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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