

Expert Network on Portability of Grants and Loans

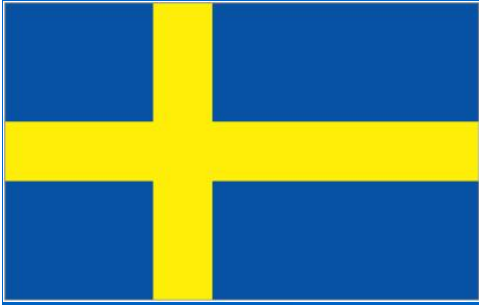
A Presentation of Members of
the Expert Network

Background

- 2004 Conference in Noordwijk on grants and loans
- 2005 Bergen Communiqué:
[...] Commitment to facilitate the portability of grants and loans.
- Working group on student financial support
- 2007 London Communiqué:
[...] To set up a network of national experts to share information, and help to identify and overcome to portability of grants and loans.
- 2007 Expert Network on portability of grants and loans

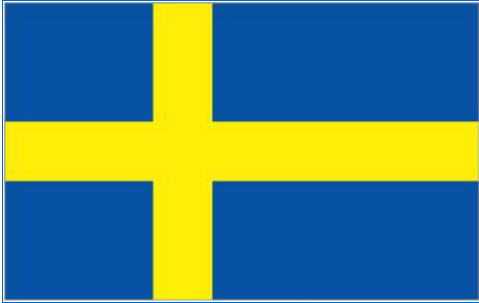
Outline

- Country's situation concerning portability
- Past and present developments
- Why member of the Expert Network



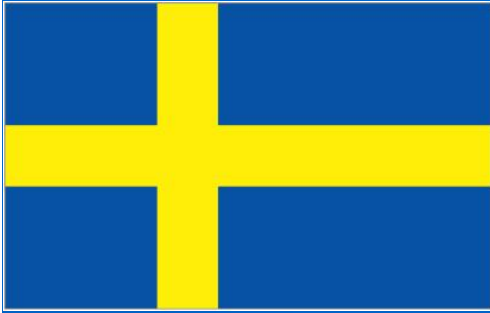
Situation concerning portability

- Sweden offers portability of study support for studies abroad
 - for a short period of time or for a full degree
 - with no geographical limitations
 - the size of the loan varies depending of the host country
 - a supplementary loan can be awarded for tuition fees, travel expenses and insurance
- The student as well as the host education institutions must meet certain conditions
- Portability for foreign students



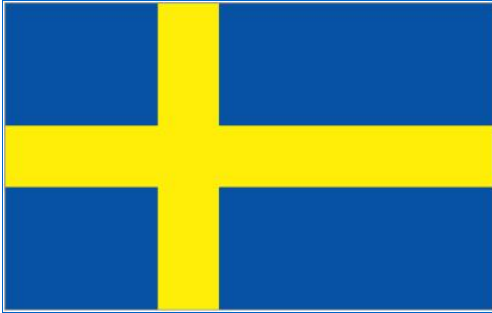
Situation concerning portability

- Total number of students that receives Swedish student support: approximately 900 000
- Total number of students in post-secondary education with Swedish study support studying in Sweden: approximately 300 000 (60% women, 40% men)
- Number of students in post-secondary education with Swedish study support studying abroad: approximately 27 000
 - Free movers: 62%
 - Participants in an exchange program: 23%
 - Non-academic language course: 15%



Past and present developments

- The Bologna process
 - Berlin, Bergen and London communiqués committed to facilitate portability of loans and grants and identify and overcome obstacles
- Sweden's situation – small country, a need to broaden one's horizons, get a global perspective, international experience
- Swedish aim: create a framework that facilitates mobility and exchange, remove obstacles to internationalisation
 - portable study support is an important part



Why member of the Expert Network

- Committed through the Bologna process
- Important to have a forum for discussion for both policy and delivery experts
- Contacts
- Sharing experiences
 - Nordic cooperation
- Information exchange
 - to avoid double claims



Situation concerning portability

- Mixed support of grants and loans
 - A basic grant for each student
 - Additional grant for students with parents that can't afford to contribute
 - A loan for living cost
 - A loan to pay for tuition fee
 - Free public transportation either during weekdays or weekends



Situation concerning portability

- Portable to all countries
 - If all normal requirements to receive support are fulfilled
- And:
- Student has lived 3 out of the last 6 years in The Netherlands
 - Quality and level of the foreign program is sufficient



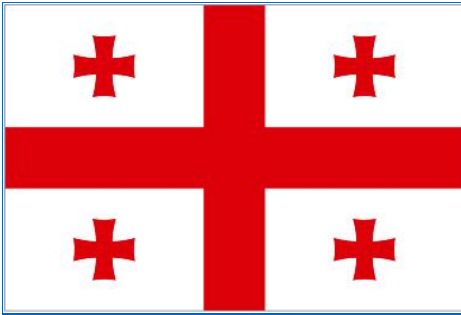
Past and present developments

- 2004 Dutch presidency of the European Council
- 2005-2007 Chair of the Bologna working group on portability of grants and loans
- London communiqué
- May 2007 change of the Dutch student financial support law
- 1 September 2007 students could take grants and loans for a full study abroad



Why member of the Expert Network

- Promoting this instrument for more student mobility in Europe
- To create a flexible and easy system to control portable grants and loans
- Share experience with other countries
- Contacts with countries for multi- and bilateral agreements in the field of portability of grants and loans



Past and present developments

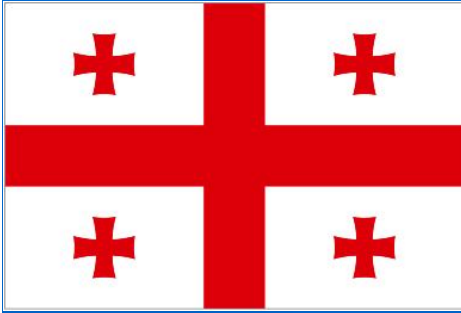
Past: 2005

- The MoES initiated HEI funding reform
- Georgia joined Bologna Process

Present:

Recognizing the need for further change

- National HE financing policy to be revised and
- National mobility strategy to be developed



Why member of the Expert Network

Future: 2008-2009





Situation concerning portability

- Scotland has approximately 285,000 students in higher education in college and university
- Scotland supports students to participate in Erasmus, Socrates etc - 1000 students
- Scotland is an importer of students - 8000 from non UK EU countries; 40,000 from overseas



Past and present developments

- Bergen Communiqué (2005): commitment to facilitate the portability of grants and loans
- Scottish Government's aims:
 - International Framework - recognises international activities contribute to creating a more successful country, increasing sustainable economic growth
 - International Lifelong Learning Strategy – aim to support universal employability of all our students



Past and present developments

- Scottish Ministers are committed to investigating the feasibility of introducing portable student support for Scottish students studying outside the UK in Europe and world wide and at least a pilot model introduced by 2010
- Encourage Scottish students to gain experience of living and studying overseas; encourage a wider outlook; develop skills that will make them more employable.



Past and present developments

- Have project in place to consider feasibility
 - Financial, statistics, experience from other countries
- Ministers approved detailed consideration of two proposed models
 - Mirroring support currently given to students studying in (1) Scotland and (2) Rest of UK



Why member of the Expert Network

- Support the Network focus on both policy and delivery experts.
- Network of student support policy experts
 - supported initial advice to Ministers to gain commitment for feasibility study,
 - share policy experiences of countries with or thinking of, introducing portable student support – financial, legislative, benefits of policy



Why member of the Expert Network

- Network of student support delivery experts
 - share experiences of countries with portability – administrative issues, IT systems, IAG.
 - as support model develops shared experience will influence design
 - once up and running network of contacts will support information on courses, qualifications etc in countries Scottish students studying in.

Questions?

Contact information

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