



**Bologna Seminar
Bologna 2020
Unlocking Europe's potential - Contributing to a better
world
Ghent, 19-20 May 2008**

Purpose of the seminar

At the London Ministerial meeting, European Ministers in charge of higher education asked the Bologna Follow-up Group as a whole "to consider how the European Higher Education Area might develop after 2010 and to report back to the next ministerial meeting in 2009".

In this context several national and European consultations and reflection events on the "Bologna Beyond 2010" issue have been set up by national governments, consultative members of the Bologna Process, Bologna partner organisations and other international associations, each from their different perspectives.

The Ghent seminar organised by the Flemish Community of Belgium and Luxembourg in the context of the Bologna 2007-2009 work programme will also in its own way contribute to the reflection process by providing some elements which could be integrated in the future BFUG report.

This report should develop a clear vision on the challenges for European higher education for the next decade and therefore needs a fresh and critical look. In order to meet this requirement the background materials for the seminar were prepared by consultation of different stakeholders with a strong commitment to European higher education and by essays from researchers from all over Europe in the field of higher education policy. All these contributions will be made available for publication.

The organisers of the seminar highly appreciate that for this kind of creative exercise the full intellectual freedom of the contributors should be guaranteed and consequently abstained from attempts of streamlining the contributions. Some of the ideas brought forward might be provocative and will certainly challenge the assumptions always defended in the traditional Bologna fora but this is exactly the merit of such an "off the beaten track" exercise, given the fact that the context have been changing dramatically since the time of the signing of the Bologna Declaration in 1999.

The participants of the Ghent seminar will be the first to receive the texts of the contributions which will also be presented in summary by the respective coordinators.

After this presentation the seminar is structured in different plenary and group working sessions which will be aimed at one central question : how can we

translate the different visions and ideas as expressed by the contributors to the background material and by the speakers and participants to the seminar into a coherent and political strategy for "Bologna 2020" ?

The conference is open for a large public : higher education policy makers including members, consultative members and partners of the Bologna Follow-upgroup, representatives of the academic community (higher education institutions, students, staff), researchers in higher education policy and stakeholders to higher education across the European Higher Education Area. Also a few places will be reserved for interested participants from outside Europe.