

BOLOGNA 2020 SEMINAR
Ghent University, 19-20 May 2008

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS' DEBATE
ON THE GENERAL RAPPORTEUR'S TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) The discussion on the future of the Bologna Process is not closed after the Ghent seminar. In the coming months the draft report on the future of the Bologna Process will receive more focus through further contributions and discussions. The issues put forward by the rapporteur are not intended as a comprehensive list but can serve as starting points. This does not mean that all topics mentioned are main priorities for action and/or that consensus is already reached on the formulation. In particular, more in-depth discussion is needed on the issue of funding of higher education, the realisation of an international labour market for academics and the classification/ranking of higher education institutions in relation to transparency.
- (2) In the last decade the Bologna Process has been focusing on structural reforms. In the next stage the focus will shift to the learning process itself (more student-centred approach and blurring boundaries between disciplines). In a rapidly changing world, it is important to keep a sense of "contingency" and to go beyond structural issues. The main question for the next decade is to consider how higher education through the EHEA can help develop European societies as we want them to be. This question is closely linked to that of the added value and underlying values of the Bologna Process. As opposed to unrestrained competition within Europe and in the global arena, solidarity and cooperation are among the values that should underpin the EHEA and the European contribution to the global public good.
- (3) Employment remains an important goal of any higher education policy. It is also highly relevant for society as an aspect of responsible citizenship.
- (4) In the future report sufficient attention should be paid to the involvement of stakeholders and international organisations to the Bologna Process.
- (5) Notwithstanding the important contribution of the European Commission to the Bologna Process, it is important to ensure that future strategies remain relevant and attractive to both EU and non-EU countries in the EHEA, in order to avoid a two-speed process.