



# Lifelong learning: Taking Bologna to the labour market

Lars Lynge Nielsen  
President of EURASHE

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## Future priorities from professional HE for Bologna post 2010

- ❖ Lifelong learning from the learner's perspective
- ❖ Quality assurance on the policy level & in its practical implementation
- ❖ Student-centred learning through LO
- ❖ Innovation to stimulate regional development
- ❖ Developing and promoting & the diversity of European HE

## Lifelong Learning: main implications

- The National Qualifications Frameworks
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- Employability
- Lifelong Learning strategies in national contexts

## National Qualifications Frameworks: findings

- Degree of implementation varies, from total lack of implementation to partial or full implementation
- Level 6 EQF: implemented on a large scale
- Level 5 EQF: non-existent in some national contexts, slightly different meanings in other

## National Qualifications Frameworks: recommendations

- Countries to finalise the development of national QFs, compatible with the EQF-LLL
- National QFs should stimulate an unhindered continuum of learning for the individual learner, up to the highest level of his or her achievement
- NQFs therefore have to be based on learning outcomes and documented through ECTS/ECVET

## Recognition of Prior Learning: findings

- RPL faces major difficulties in implementation, mainly caused by lack of sufficient knowledge or trust in this system within national contexts
- Students progress from level 5 to level 6 EQF is visibly facilitated in a context where the recognition of prior learning is trusted and employed

## Recognition of Prior Learning: recommendations

- The EQF-LLL based on LO is also to be used for assessment of prior learning
- Establish common principles for RPL at a national and European level
- Build partnerships with stakeholders through platforms, knowledge centres, etc.

## Employability: findings

- Contact between the higher education institutions and the labour market is generally maintained, through either regular or occasional contacts
- Most of the training courses offered to employees are recognized/validated through an official certificate



## Employability: recommendations

- Develop links with the Copenhagen process, in order to build a comprehensive and strategic framework for cooperation geared to employment on a European level
- Ongoing consultation with the world of employment, in both business and non-profit sectors.

## Lifelong Learning strategies: findings

- Main motivation: the widening of participation in higher education and the need to stimulate creativity and innovation through the update of the population's skills
- The main difficulties in implementation are related to the lack of coordination at national level, concerning the lifelong learning activities performed by various higher education institutions, the lack of adequate funding or the lack of academic staff with the appropriate qualifications

## Lifelong Learning strategies: recommendations

- Not to lose sight of supporting structures like QA provisions and human and financial resources of HEIs
- Need for common principles and guidelines for essential ingredients of LLL, such as recognition of degrees, RPL, involvement of stakeholders, and for a common typology & methodology of LLL

## An extensive study for 2010

- A further study to be conducted by EURASHE on strategies of lifelong learning at institutional level
- Its main focus will be to identify challenges and implications of the incorporation of lifelong learning in European HEIs
- With special attention given to RPL and to various aspects of the management & services within HEIs

## Areas to be addressed at institutional level

### **Flexibility:**

Barriers are likely to be linked to the particularities of the institutional policy or the effects of national or international legislation at the institutional level

### **Continuing Education:**

HEIs often have difficulties in reconsidering their traditional curriculum in light of current needs

## Areas to be addressed at institutional level:

- Recognition of Lifelong Learning by the labour market : analysis of the way in which employers perceive graduates of professional higher education and, more particularly, graduates of short cycle higher education, distance learning and home based learning
- Funding and governmental policy concerning LLL : extent to which recommendations made on a national/regional scale are understood, agreed upon and implemented within institutions

## References

- EURASHE LLL seminar, Prague, October 2008
- Bologna LL seminar on RPL, Amsterdam, December 2008
- %lifelong Learning: Impediments and Examples of Good Practice+, EURASHE publication, January 2009
- %Impact of LLL on higher education institutions+, EURASHE publication, October 2009