

Bologna Seminar, Copenhagen 13-14 January, 2005

**Cycles, levels and credits as
elements in the EHEA framework
(*Report from Workshop 1*)**

Chair: Marlies Leegwater

Rapporteur: Bryan Maguire

Does the model of the national frameworks fitting into an overarching framework meet the ministers' objectives?

The European framework must be as simple as possible to make it readable and comprehensible to stakeholders. The structure proposed allows for diversity and complexity to be captured at the national level

Are three cycles sufficient?

- Three cycles are all that is required at the European level. With the inclusion of the shorter HE there is no need for further sub-divisions at European level. The question of an access or entry level is beyond the present mandate as it does not reflect the outcomes of HE, but may be addressed further in the overarching framework currently under development to unite HE qualifications with other sectors of education and training.

Is the short “cycle” useful?

- Shorter higher education linked to the first cycle is a vital part of the EHEA and should be included in the framework using the descriptor proposed. There are some issues regarding how these qualifications are labelled.

Do the Dublin Descriptors serve?

- The descriptors represent the best current consensus on the generic outcomes of HE. Experience has shown that they can be applied in greater detail within national systems but that it is not possible to reach multinational consensus for more detailed generic descriptors.

Is the place of credits and workload adequately specified?

- The overall discussion of workloads and credit is satisfactory but the consensus regarding the number required for a 2nd cycle qualification is overstated. There is no single agreed view on the issue of credits for the 3rd cycle - some view it as desirable for the whole cycle, some for part of the doctoral studies which are taught, and some as not necessary

Should profile be developed for the European framework?

- While the view was expressed that cycle should be an optional element in the European framework, it emerged that there was no agreement on what the profile description should look like, so it cannot be proposed at this time.

“We do not regard it as sufficient that an object fits the times; it must perforce comprise an ideal striving that goes beyond time, an attempt at cultural enhancement”

- *Poul Henningsen* quoted in Design Museum.