

**Designing policies for mobile students
International conference 10 - 12 October 2004,
Palace Hotel, Noordwijk, The Netherlands**

WORKSHOPS

The workshops deal with the most pressing policy problems that need to be solved if we are to realise the demands for more student mobility in Europe. Just like making a journey by train and getting down the train at the most interesting places, the conference is your journey and the workshops provide interesting stops during your journey. You can choose which stops are the most relevant for you. Please make your choice on the [registration form](#).

Workshop descriptions

Station 1: EU-legislation and student support

In this workshop we will discuss the relevant community law relating student support. The European Court of Justice (ECJ) attempts to overcome obstacles to mobility by putting EU/EEC citizens and citizens of the host country more and more on an equal footing. This latter development has become clear now a number of such cases have been brought to the attention of the European Court of Justice (ECJ), for example the cases Meeusen, Grzelczyk, Ninni-Orache, Collins and currently the Bidar-case. The ECJ has proven to take a very broad view in these situations emphasising equal rights and equal opportunities for nationals and other EU-citizens. As a result, the criteria to be entitled to student support in other EU-member states (the host countries) have been considerably stretched. Such equalisation would include government compensation payments for maintenance grants for larger groups of incoming students. The liberal approach of the ECJ, which is based on the argument of non-discrimination, may prevent EU-member states to make their own systems of student support more flexible to answer the demands for more internationalisation. An important question to answer is: what groups of students fall under which system of student support?

Station 2: Comparison grant systems (CHEPS-report)

The Center for Higher Education Policy Studies has recently completed a major study - commissioned by the Bologna working group on the portability of loans and grants - on the various student support systems in the EU (and Norway). The CHEPS had made an inventory on the international aspect of the student support systems. The conclusions from this report are presented at this workshop. Central themes are: what falls under the heading 'student support'? Do the member states have experiences with portability of loans and grants from the home country? What are the experiences of claims from non-nationals on the student support system of the host country? What seem to be the most pressing problems at the moment in the various EU-countries?

Speaker: Hans Vossensteijn (CHEPS senior researcher)

Station 3: Portability of grants and loans

The first two workshops on student support should already give an overview on the problems some of the countries are facing when they want to expand the portability of grants and loans. The Netherlands has postponed its wishes to make grants and loans portable due to these obstacles. This country is also facing difficulties in the area of claims of non-nationals on the Dutch student support system. On the other hand, the Scandinavians have a long standing tradition of portability of loans and grants. Both experiences will be highlighted by officials from these countries.

This workshop will then go a step further in trying to work towards a proposal on how to deal with the obstacles that arise in the field of Europe and student support.

Station 4: Transparency of institutions/typology

As part of the Bologna process steps have already been taken to increase the transparency and comparability of educational systems. Development of an overarching framework of

qualifications for the European higher education area will be an important instrument to this end.

The information available to students must be as complete as possible and of a high quality to help them in their decision to spend part of their course in another country. This will increase opportunities both for mobility and for institutional cooperation.

This workshop will explore a valuable next step to improve transparency and comparability of the over 3000 institutions which offer higher learning. It will suggest identifying the similarities and differences between types of institutions of higher education in Europe, and to formulate a common terminology for the variation in profiles of institutions and possibly criteria for identification.

Station 5: Quality assurance internationalisation

Important notions from the Berlin communiqué for this workshop are the need to develop mutually shared criteria and methodologies for quality assurance and the encouragement to develop national qualification frameworks and an overarching framework of qualifications for the European higher education area.

The qualifications require successful completion of a programme, which is specified by learning outcomes in a particular field and/or by general descriptors indicating reference points for the skills and knowledge of graduates at the end of the first, second or third cycle.

All these elements culminate in the quality assurance of joint degrees.

The workshop takes stock of what has been accomplished to date, present some of the initiatives and discuss ways forward, in particular with respect to the quality assurance of joint degrees. It might formulate recommendations to this end.

Station 6: Information

Information will be looked at from a student perspective.

What information is available and what is lacking when choosing for, progressing through, or after having finished a programme.

Which issues are to be taken forward to the Bergen ministers meeting for further action?