

# **EUA CONVENTION of HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**General Introduction  
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European  
University  
Association  
EUA

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# Introduction : EUA's vision for the EHEA

Strengthening the role of Institutions in the Bologna process

I- From Salamanca on - preparation of GRAZ

II- Careful selection of the five themes

III- Clear definition of challenges

# I- From Salamanca onwards - preparation of GRAZ

- Key elements from Salamanca
  - Autonomy with accountability
  - Quality as a building block
- Active participation in Bologna follow-up and thematic seminars
- Preparation of documents for discussion
  - Through Council meetings and Conferences
  - Through Trends III and the realisation of a comprehensive survey of all HEIs



# I- Preparation of Graz : Bologna Seminars and pilot projects

- GRAZ is part of the Bologna process
  - This explains the mix of participants at the Convention
  - EUA has had an active role in all 8 Official Follow-up Seminars since Prague
- EUA launched 2 pilot projects through Socrates and co-ordinates 100 ECTS and DS Counsellors

# I- Preparation of Graz :Themes and Texts

- January 2002 : Vienna Council adopts Graz Themes
- Each theme discussed widely before distribution
  - N°1 : Zurich Council 2002 and Crete meeting of DGs and RCs 2003
  - N°2 : Bristol Conference 2003
  - N°3 : Roskilde Conference 2002 and Geneva Council 2003
  - N°4 : Geneva Council 2003
  - N°5 : Zürich Conference 2002, Bologna Seminars, Pilot Projects

# I- Preparation of Graz : Trends III

- Proposed by EUA as part of the Bologna follow-up; supported by the Commission through Socrates
- EUA decides to widen scope ( $\neq$  Trends II) through surveying HEIs (800 received/1800 sent)
- Therefore Trends III allows comparisons
  - Ministries, Rectors' Conferences, HEIs, Students, Employers Associations
- Authors of the report : Sybille REICHERT and Christian TAUCH



# I- Preparation of Graz : new element 2003

- Commission's Communication on "The role of universities in the Europe of knowledge"
- EUA's response :
  - prepared in Bristol through GA and Council
  - using previous declarations from EUA
  - taking into account the responses of individual Rectors' Conferences
- Now EUA's response constitutes the collective framework for our work in Graz

# I- Preparation of Graz : why such an intensive preparation ?

- Ensure that we are basing our Graz discussions on texts prepared through meetings with members
- Ensure that we have a sound basis for discussion in the working groups
- Would be helpful if comments and recommendations for action reflected not just your individual opinion but that of your institution.



## II- Why these five Themes ?

- Need to express our priorities concerning the Bologna process and to identify the next steps
- Aware that long term vision concerning HEI in Europe has to be consolidated and that wider challenges must be expressed
- Important for our members to discuss how to assume their own responsibilities in their activities

## II- Why these five Themes:

- Important to express our own priorities concerning the Bologna process and to identify the next steps
  - prioritising the Bologna Action Lines (theme 5)
  - discussing Research and Doctoral Studies (theme 2)
  - emphasising the European dimension of QA (themes 1 and 3)
  - underlining the importance of strategic action at institutional level (theme 3 and 4)

## II- Why these five Themes ?

- Aware that long term vision has to be consolidated and wider challenges be expressed :
  - Importance of research based teaching for high quality education and of strengthening institutions maintaining both activities across Europe
  - Open discussion on what a EUROPEAN Area means in a global world and to clarify the goal.

## II- Why these five Themes:

- Important for our members to discuss how to assume their own responsibilities in their activities
  - Particular role of discussions on internal quality and governance issues

# III- Challenges for the Convention

- Taking our responsibilities
- YOU have great responsibilities
  - You are leading or representing a great number of HEI, more than 300 in Graz
  - Institutions represented are in charge of educating more than 4 million students and, by the way, European citizens and future leaders of Europe (NB EUA members together, more than 10 millions)
  - EUA Institutions are in charge every year of 2 to 3 millions new students-citizens

# III- Challenges for the Convention

- The sum of Europe's universities represents a strength and a responsibility
- Graz needs to convey this reality
  - To influence EUA members' internal behaviour by sending them strong recommendations
  - To influence European Higher Education Ministers "behaviour" in Berlin by sending them a clear statement



# III- Graz Convention step by step

- Setting the scene in Plenary Sessions with our Key Note Speakers and Panels
- For Group discussions : the Graz Reader, Trends III + EUA Pilot Projects.
- Reports from group discussions on Saturday
- Preliminary Report by General Rapporteur, Prof. Christina Ullenius
- Adoption of Graz Declaration by EUA Council (4th July)
- Presentation in Berlin (Sept)