



■ BOLOGNA PROCESS IN FINLAND

- Adoption of a system of easily readable and comparable degrees
 - All Finnish universities and polytechnics are obliged by national decrees to issue a diploma supplement to their students.
 - Finland has ratified the Council of Europe and UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region.



Bologna process in Finland...

- **Adoption of a system essentially based on two main cycles**
 - University degree reform will come into force on August 1, 2005 and a two-tier degree structure with obligatory bachelor's degree will be introduced to all fields of study.
 - There will be two exceptions - medicine and dentistry will keep a one-tier structure



Bologna process in Finland...

- The Ministry has directed – and will continue to do so – earmarked funding for nationwide fieldspecific projects to facilitate the transfer to the new degree structure and promote universities' cooperation in implementing the reform.



Bologna process in Finland...

■ Establishment of a system of credits

- This national credit system will be replaced by a system based directly on the ECTS from August 1, 2005 onwards, i.e. simultaneously with the university degree structure reform.
- Polytechnics will transfer to ECTS credits from 1.1.2005 onwards



Bologna process in Finland...

■ **Promotion of mobility**

- The state students' financial aid is completely portable for studies abroad. The Government gives additional national funding for the implementation of EU programmes to the National Agency and many universities and polytechnics offer top-up funding for their students who take part in international exchanges.



Bologna process in Finland...

- The Ministry of Education and the universities and polytechnics have agreed on target numbers for students exchanges and foreign degree students in the three-year performance agreements.
- In late 2001, a national strategy for promoting further internationalisation of higher education was drawn by a joint working group of the Ministry, universities, polytechnics and students.



Bologna process in Finland...

- All Finnish higher education institutions offer English-language programmes. In fact, Finland can boast a highest share of English-language degree programmes in Europe outside the English-speaking countries.
- Teaching of Finnish/Swedish for foreigners is available also, but needs clearly more funding in the future.



Bologna process in Finland...

- CIMO, the Centre for International Mobility was founded in the beginning of the 1990s to promote international cooperation between Finland and other countries.
- Extra funding for marketing of Finnish higher education



Bologna process in Finland...

- **Promotion of European cooperation in quality assurance**
 - All Finnish universities and polytechnics are obliged by legislation to evaluate themselves and take part in external evaluations. The evaluation reports are public, and many of them are published in English.
 - The Council is a member of the European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the secretariat of ENQA is currently placed in the FINHEEC. The Council is engaged in several international projects at the Nordic, European and global level.



Bologna process in Finland...

- **Promotion of the European dimension in higher education**



Bologna process in Finland...

■ Lifelong learning

- Lifelong learning is in the essence of the Finnish national education policy as defined by the Government in the Development Plan for Education and Research for 1999- 2003.
- Open University and Open Polytechnic offer courses and modules for all interested people regards of their educational background.
- Virtual open learning environments are being developed by universities and polytechnics.



Bologna process in Finland...

■ Higher education institutions and students

- Students take part in university governance as defined in University Act and Decree. Students are involved at the national level in the planning phase of all major national reforms concerning university studies and other issues relevant to students.
- Both national student unions SYL (universities) and SAMOK (polytechnics) are active members of ESIB.



Bologna process in Finland...

■ Promoting the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area

- Education through foreign languages, information services on study opportunities, good student housing system available to foreign students all add up to the attractiveness of Finnish higher education.
- There are no tuition fees for domestic or foreign students in Finland.