

## **Stockholm 2004 Workshop “Joint Degrees – Further Development”**

### ***General Conclusions from the Workshop***

1. In most Bologna countries higher education degrees are regulated in national legislation. In some countries, higher education programmes have to be nationally approved. Many higher education institutions in the Bologna countries cooperate to deliver joint study programmes but few countries have a legal framework that explicitly allows the award of joint degrees. In some cases, double degrees are awarded.

*The workshop participants agree that:*

2. Joint study programmes and joint degree awards are important instruments to achieve the Bologna objectives. The process of developing and offering joint study programmes, at the initiative of higher education institutions and in the interest of students, is the core activity; the long-term vision, however, is to build sustainable collaborations between higher education institutions and to award joint degrees.

3. Joint study programmes and joint degree awards enhance quality, efficiency, mutual recognition, employability and linguistic and cultural diversity. The Diploma Supplement and the use of ECTS are important instruments which can help to demonstrate the cooperation between institutions and the added value of the joint study programme and/or award.

4. Lifelong learning and the possibilities for all types of students to participate should be taken into account when developing joint study programmes and joint degrees. Quality assurance procedures in accordance with national systems should be provided for within joint study programmes.

### ***Recommendations to the Bologna Follow-Up Group***

5. The Bologna Follow-Up Group should map the experience of higher education institutions and students regarding:

- a, the concepts and formats of joint study programmes and joint degrees valid for the emerging European Higher Education Area,
- b, arrangements and agreements for cooperation between the partner institutions, and
- c, agreements between the partner institutions and the student safeguarding the rights of the student.

If possible conclusions and recommendations should be reported to the Bergen ministerial meeting.

6. Each country should report on the progress made in removing legal obstacles as agreed in the Berlin communiqué to the Bergen ministerial meeting in 2005.

### ***Recommendations to the Bergen Ministerial Meeting***

7. The possibility of awarding joint degrees with national and foreign higher education institutions should be clearly referred to in national legislation. Every country should report on the progress of their work in time for the ministerial meeting in 2007.

8. The format of the Diploma Supplement should be adapted to facilitate the description of joint degrees. The Diploma Supplement should include a cross-reference when double degrees are issued.

9. Ministers should encourage the development of incentives for higher education institutions to participate in joint study programmes leading to joint degrees. Higher education institutions should give proper recognition to students and staff who participate in joint degree programmes.