

POSITION PAPER ON THE PROCESS TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A EUROPEAN AREA OF HIGHER EDUCATION ADOPTED BY EUCLID – THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

EUCLID is a European Association representing institutions of higher education in documentation, library and information science (LIS). The universities, colleges and research institutions members of our organisation, come from all parts of Europe. The Board of EUCLID, in consultation with its members, has prepared this statement for the Bergen summit in 2005.

1. EUCLID declares its willingness and ability to contribute to the Bologna process aiming at establishing a European Area of Higher Education (EHEA) by 2010. The principles laid down in the Bologna declaration and in the documents elaborating it, are in harmony with the principles laid down in our own mission statement, stating, among other things, that it is the goal of EUCLID to facilitate exchange of staff and students among its members and to encourage mutual recognition of curricula or parts of curricula.
2. EUCLID recognizes that EHEA must be built both on national and European policies as well as on *institutional* ones. Being an umbrella organization for educational institutions in LIS in all of Europe, EUCLID will mostly work with its member organizations on an institutional level promoting and facilitating
 - the development of a European curriculum and comparable degree programs in LIS throughout Europe,
 - implementation of quality assurance and credit transfer systems,
 - both students' and staff mobility
 - students' participation in the development of institutional educational policies
 - A European dimension in HE
 - Attractiveness and competitiveness of European HE

EUCLID members share knowledge and experiences, have extensive consultations, and organize workshops and conferences – such as the annual students' conference BOBCATSSS, the annual EUCLID conferences and regional and European networks of LIS education.

3. EUCLID membership is open to LIS institutions in all member states of the Council of Europe.
4. Expressing its full support to the goal set in the Bologna Declaration and documents following up this declaration, EUCLID draws the attention of European politicians responsible for science and higher education as well as the attention of researchers and educators in Europe, to the need for a closer interaction between the two European initiatives: creation of the EHEA and creation of the European Research Area (ERA) by 2010. Research and education are interrelated and integral parts of the academic processes. Coordination and cooperation within EHEA and ERA and between them will by synergy lead to the creation of a common European research and education space.

EUCLID believes that the library and information sector and, therefore, LIS-education has an important role in creating a European information society characterised by a high level of ICT-use and a high degree of democratic participation. Democracy and participation presuppose an informed public, and LIS-professionals have a crucial role in helping people navigate and find their way to information and democratise access by ICT. Library and information science is simultaneously rooted in digital technology and culture. Combining technology and culture is vital in creating identity and involvement on a European basis. LIS-education, therefore, can play a role of strategic importance..

European LIS-schools have a long tradition in international co-operation in general and in European cooperation in particular. Being a relatively small academic field, we are particularly interested in the kind of co-operation the Bologna process aims at promoting and stimulating.

EUCLID will contribute in making this co-operation a reality through measures such as:

- Initiating processes to promote curriculum development on a European scale.
- Defining core competencies which the European LIS-professional will need in the future.
- Assuring quality in research and education by developing and implementation of evaluation standards.

In order to promote such processes, a workshop on European curriculum-development within LIS is taking place in Copenhagen in August 2005.

You find more details about EUCLID at www.jbi.hio.no/bibin/euclid, and on our workshop on curriculum development at www.db.dk/LIS-EU/