

ESIB Bologna Process & Lisbon Agenda Closing Conference:

EHEA: Attractive at what Cost?

A Student Conference on the Attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area and the External Dimension of the Bologna Process

11th – 13th April 2007

The Radisson Bay Point Hotel - St Julian's

Malta

Supported by:



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Conference Synopsis

The conference is the closing symposium in a series of conferences dealing with the Bologna Process and Lisbon Agenda as we move closer to 2010. The Malta Conference will deal with issues related to the External Dimension of the Bologna Process and the Attractiveness of the EHEA as promoted by the Lisbon Agenda. Emphasis will be given to the perspective of other international actors as well as to the issue of International Students and the problems they face with regards to tuition fees, integration and social needs, amongst others. The Conference is also intended as a platform for student representatives to air and develop their views on implications of the Lisbon Agenda and on the external dimension of the Bologna Process.

Working Methods

- Each day will consist of approximately **7 hours of work**. Participants will have time to have breakfast in the morning (sessions will start at 10am) and will have an hour to 'cool down' before dinner.
- Two rapporteurs will take care of recording the conference proceedings and will be in charge of producing the **final general report**.
- With regards to **presentation techniques**, innovation and interactivity will be of key importance. The Conference will centre around the following presentation techniques:
 - **Key-Note debates** [*1st and 2nd Day*]: Speakers will be given a theme, fifteen minutes to present their views and then a moderator will lead a 45 minute debate on the issue. The session will involve a mixture of questions from the moderator and questions from the audience.
 - **Parallel Interactive Workshops** [*1st and 2nd Day*]: Participants will be divided into various workshops (15-20 people each) where they will be able to discuss specific issues and put forward concrete proposals. Two workshop chairs and a rapporteur will take care of the workshop proceedings. The topics discussed will be as follows:
 1. Mobility of students: balancing the North-South and East-West equilibrium.
 2. International trade in the provision of Higher Education
 3. Developing the Student Movement: Representing and protecting the rights of foreign students.

4. Pedagogical Barriers to the Internationalization of Universities
5. The Future of Higher Education in a Globalizing World
6. The Social and Economic perspective of the External Dimension

Training and Simulation Event [3rd Day]: Participants will be split into fictitious political parties, each having a specific brief, and will then proceed to discuss a motion. This will be a whole day event with the morning sessions being dedicated to preparations [this will include a 2 hour session spent with MEPs (Members of the European Parliament)]. Then in the afternoon, each MEP will lead and direct a party within a parliamentary debate which will conclude with a fictitious vote. The MEPs will lead the various parties taking part in the debate. The resolution being proposed will be related to European Union educational policy (probably vis-à-vis international students studying in Europe). The MEPs will be expected to perform two main roles:

- To advise the discussions at the party meetings, giving their personal perspective on the resolution and how they would address it in the Parliament
- To make a contribution during the plenary debate. All participants will have speaking rights during the session, moderated by a speaker. It is expected that each MEP makes at least one contribution to the session, thus intermingling MEP contributions with those of students.

Outcomes

From the perspective of delegates, the Conference aims to deliver the following outcomes:

1. Becoming familiar with the debates surrounding the external dimension and commercialization of HE through internationalization, and how these issues tie in with the Bologna Process and the Lisbon Agenda.
2. Familiarizing themselves with the perspectives on internationalization of education as seen from representatives of different countries and continents.
3. Garnering best practices, through the sharing of experiences and working methods, with regards to how student unions deal with the problems faced by international students in their countries.

4. Gaining valuable lobby and argumentation experience and practical lobby-training on dealing with the European Parliament and its members, as well as garnering an insider's view of its workings.

Key Note Speakers

We aim to have a broad range of opinions and views represented at each debate. Below are the speakers invited for the debates. Also invited are MEPs from the various political groupings within the European Parliament for the parliamentary session.

Odile Quintin: European Commission*

Pavel Zgaga: Rapporteur of the External Dimension WG

Bernd Wachter: ACA *

Eric Froment: French BFUG Representation

Joseph Mifsud: Maltese BFUG Representative [External Dim WG]

Sander Van Der Eijnden: President of Nuffic, (Dutch organization for international cooperation in higher education) *

David Robinson (Education International (EI))

Simon Busuttil (MEP EPP)

Joseph Mifsud (MEP PES)

Also addressing the conference are:

- International student representatives
- MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) from the various political groupings within the European Parliament

()- Attendance not as yet confirmed.*

The Venues

We have reserved rooms and conference facilities at the Radisson Bay Point Resort (5 Star Deluxe) in St Julian's Malta.

The Maltese Parliamentary building and the Aula Magna (old University building) will also be used on the third day of the conference. Various

restaurants, clubs and other external venues will host the social programme of the conference.

Social Programme

On each of the conference nights, participants will be able to experience the richness of Maltese cuisine, culture and history. Later on in the night, participants will also be able to enjoy the lights and attractions of Maltese nightlife.

Each night will have a distinct theme, ensuring that every participant will sample every aspect of Maltese life. Additional social programmes will also be organized for Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th for those who wish to extend their stay in Malta.

Draft Agenda

10th April: Arrivals

All Day Sightseeing opportunities for those who arrive early

11th April: Setting the Scene

10.00 Opening Speeches

10.45 Debate1:
Steering Europe to success – attractiveness & the EHEA

Method: 15 minute Presentation from 2 key note speakers & 45 minute interactive debate. Presentations will be asked for beforehand in order for questions to be prepared.

Outcomes: Delegates will: receive an overview of the policy direction the EU is taking in order to make the EHEA the most attractive in the world; Discuss how the EU's policy can be improved, how Europe is fairing on the global scene and what is the EU doing wrong. Delegates will also receive a good overview of the political agenda and global setting with regards to the EHEA.

12.15 Debate 2: **Policy Making – The External Dimension**

Method: 15-20 min Presentation from Pavel Zgaga, followed by a 5-10 min reaction from Eric Froment and other guest speakers. Moderator will then proceed to pose various questions to get the debate going.

Outcomes: Following a more technocratic discussion on the focal points of debate within the External Dimension and the debate, delegates will receive an overview of the status of the External WG's work so far and discuss whether the strategy is lacking in any ways

- 13.30 Lunch – at Hotel
- 15.30 Workshop Sessions 1
- 19.00 Free Time
- 20:00 Dinner – at Restaurant
- 21:30 Social Programme

12th April: Developing the Political Agenda

- 10:00 Debate 3: **Are we good neighbours?**

Method: This session will be done in an interview fashion with the moderator posing questions to the panel.

Outcomes: What do students and other speakers from other regions think about the EU and its promotion of the EHEA. What about cooperation and competition? What about brain drain? Would they adopt the Bologna Process? This session aims at getting feedback from other Regions on the EHEA in a Global Scene.

- 11.30 Debate 4: **Universities and International Students**

Method: Each speaker will be allotted 10 minutes for their presentation which will be followed by an interactive debate lasting 1 hour. Presentations will be asked for beforehand in order for questions to be prepared. A 10 min video presentation might be prepared to introduce the debate – this will contain interviews done to international students studying in Malta.

Outcomes: What are the realities faced by the EU and universities due to the internationalisation of HE? Are International students treated fairly [social and economic perspective] or are seen merely as a source of income? What kind of service are European Universities offering outside of Europe? How is this benefiting students compared to bringing them over to Europe? This debate will address the issue of international students – this is generally left out on discussions on the External Dimension.

13.00 Lunch – at Hotel
15:00 Workshop Sessions 2
19.00 Free Time
20:00 Dinner
21:30 Social Programme

13th April: Debating the Issue

09:15 Buses leave
10.00 Preparations for Parliamentary session in Valletta (Aula Magna)
This will include:

- Presentation of Concept & Division of Parties
- Presentation of Motion & Background (Hacks)
- Lobby Training

12.30 Lunch - Valletta
15:30 Party Meetings (Aula Magna Valletta)
16:30 Parliamentary Session (Parliament Valletta)
18:45 Presentation of Conference Outcomes
19:00 Closing Remarks:
20.30 Dinner
22:00 Closing Party