

EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION REFORMS: EXPERIENCE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGIES

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The Bologna Declaration, signed by 29 European countries in 1989, and currently adopted by 42, aimed at creating, in ten years, a cohesive European Higher Education Area, promoting the mobility of students and teaching agents, and the employability of the graduates, incrementing the free circulation of citizens and the competitiveness of the European Higher Education system. The main consequences for Higher Education Policies and Institutional organization are: a) The promotion of national evaluation systems, in the programmatic and institutional dimensions, with internal and external evaluation, encompassing the student's participation and the public dissemination of the results, together with accreditation processes. b) The implementation of a two cycle system, with a new understanding of the new qualifications. The design of compatible and comparable national qualifications frameworks, expressed in workloads, learning objectives, competences and profiles. c) to improve the degree and study periods recognition system, making effective the recognition of degrees among the signing countries, the delivery of a Diploma Supplement to all the graduates, and the effective adoption of a universal credit system (ECTS), used not only to ease the transfer of credits but also as a system of credit accumulation. This framework, where the mobility, flexibility and comparability attributes are the most relevant, leads to a set of interpretations, potential benefits and difficulties, which, in the context of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon (FCUL), have been addressed in diversified ways, from scientific domain to scientific domain. This talk describes the Lisbon experience in this process and promotes the discussion on the organization and structure of the higher education in Science and Technology.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/bologna/bologna_en.html - European Commission

<http://www.eua.be> - EUA European Universities Association

<http://www.dges.mctes.pt/Bolonha> - Min Ciência, Tecnologia e Ensino Superior, Portugal

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