

UKCGE Summer Conference, St Anne's College, Oxford Wednesday 7 July 2010

Key outcomes from recent Bologna events

Berlin – 3-4 June
EUA-CDE annual meeting



Freie Universität, Berlin



Warsaw – 17-18 June: Bologna
seminar on doctoral education

Berlin: EUA Council for Doctoral Education 3rd Annual Conference

- Theme: to discuss the Salzburg Principles in the context of what institutions have learned from implementing them: [Salzburg Principles](#)
- Potential outcome: to comment on / recommend changes to the Principles
- Format: mainly presentations; one opportunity for small group discussion

Copies of presentations, together with other details about the conference, are at:
<http://www.eua.be/events/past/third-eua-cde-annual-meeting/Presentations.aspx>

http://ec.europa.eu/research/erab/publications_en.html

Highlights from plenary sessions

- Doctoral schools becoming the norm across Europe
- Europe as a whole produces more doctoral graduates than the US annually (44,000)
- Increasingly necessary to prove you can do 'deep' research (title: Dr) if you are going to be appointed to high industry position (Germany)
- 'Mentorship' essential even when doctoral candidate is independent learner

Discussion groups

- Supervision
- Researchers' careers
- International collaborations
- Quality and accountability
- Recruitment and admission
- Structures and critical mass
- Credits and outcomes

No direct mapping to the original Salzburg Principles but focus on some of the areas institutions identified as important for further discussion

Warsaw: Bologna Seminar

Doctoral studies in the EHEA

Objectives:

- To learn about latest developments in doctoral studies in Europe
- To exchange experience about models of doctoral studies
- To discuss pros and cons of introducing ECTS for doctoral programmes
- To discuss quality indicators for doctorates, possible models of accreditation and QA

Europe Unit (UUK) Briefing paper in preparation for the seminar is at:

http://www.europeunit.ac.uk/sites/europe_unit2/resources/WarsawBoISem_UKBriefing_June2010.pdf

Seminar discussion points 1

- Importance of research as part of the EU's constitutional mission (ERA Board report 2009)
- Institutional decision about use of ECTS for doctorates
- Doctoral candidate treated as colleague, not student who is taught
- With increased numbers of doctoral candidates comes a need for stronger quality measures?
- Change in emphasis in doctoral careers

Seminar discussion points 2

- Doctoral candidates' ability to focus on their research
- Critical mass: doctoral candidates need to be able to benchmark themselves with other researchers in their field
- Extent to which work has already been published before dissertation submitted?
- Assessment of doctoral candidate

Conclusions

Outcomes of both conferences concluded:

- Recognising benefits of providing structured doctoral education
- Some use of credit (ECTS) can be helpful; limited support for general accreditation of doctoral awards
- Need for institutions, sector-wide organisations and employers of doctoral graduates to work more closely together