



Pan-European Structure

Seminar on the Bologna Process: Beyond Bergen

*5th-6th October, 2005
Belgrade*

Recommendations

30 representatives from Albania, Croatia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia participated in Belgrade in a seminar organised by Education International European Region and discussed the State of implementation of the Bologna process and future challenges.

- They welcomed the recognition of the role of the academic staff in the Bergen Communique and the inclusion of "Education International Pan-European Structure" (European region) as a consultative member in the Bologna Follow-up group.
- They noted the significant changes occurring in the European Region with the implementation of the Bologna process and the priorities defined in Bergen for the next two years.
- They recalled that the Bologna process brings not only opportunities, but also challenges to the academic community.
- They reiterated that higher education is a public good and that it is the State's responsibility to invest and ensure equal access based on academic ability.
- They pointed out that there is a strong relationship between the qualifications and working conditions of academic staff and the quality of higher education.

The participants urged:

EI member unions to:

- Ask Governments and Institutions to recognise academic staff unions as full partners and include them in the different structures dealing with the follow-up to the implementation of the Bologna process, and support the inclusion of student's unions as well,
- Establish or strengthen working relationships with students organisations,
- Promote the UNESCO/Council of Europe Lisbon Recognition Convention,
- Advocate for the indivisible link between teaching and research,
- Demand for the right of academic staff unions to engage in collective bargaining for the improvement of terms and conditions of their employment.

Governments/Institutions to:

- Include academic staff unions in national structures dealing with the implementation of the Bologna process, following the decision of the Ministerial Conference to include Education International,
- Consult academic staff unions on the content of the national reports to Ministerial Conferences or preferably include them in the "drafting teams".
- Ensure that the Bergen Communiqué and relevant documents are translated and national reports are elaborated into the national languages,
- Implement the UNESCO/Council of Europe Lisbon Recognition Convention,
- Address issues of working conditions and mobility of staff, in particular the necessity for professional development,
- Assure training of academic staff on Bologna process for appropriate implementation of necessary reforms, allocating additional funds for this purpose,
- Safeguard academic freedom and ensure a proper balance between teaching and research,
- Allocate appropriate public finance to avoid privatisation and commercialisation of higher education.

EI European Region to:

- give a high priority to enabling the higher education and research unions to be represented on the Higher Education and Research Standing Committee (HERSC) and on the ETUCE electronic network.