



Ministry of Science, Education and Sports



International Seminar on the 2nd Bologna cycle

Organized by the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports
and the University of Zagreb within the framework of Irish and Croatian
co-chairmanship of the Bologna Follow-Up Group

Venue: Ministry of Science, Education and Sports

Donje Svetice 38, 10000 Zagreb

Zagreb, Croatia

12th April 2013

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

Seminar on the 2nd Bologna cycle

Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Zagreb 12th April 2013

As stated in the *Bucharest Communiqué* *high quality second cycle programmes are a necessary precondition for the success of linking teaching, learning and research.* The Seminar builds on the previous work of the EUA¹ by addressing the question of coherence and transparency of the **second cycle qualifications**, focusing on various and sometimes questionable forms of degree structure deviating from the Master degree being the major, though not only, academic award within the second cycle.

While *keeping wide diversity and simultaneously increasing readability*, the Ministers of higher education agreed in Bucharest to *explore further possible common principles for master programmes in the EHEA, taking account of previous work.*² Therefore, taking into account agreed objective of making second cycle degrees more readable and comparable between European countries, the purpose of the Seminar is to boost discussions and examine a possibility of establishing possible common principles for Master programmes in the EHEA serving as the basis for the improvement of doctoral education.

Issues to be raised here relate to examination of **learning outcomes** - based study programmes as a way of recognizing quality differences in terms of demonstrable competences acquired after obtaining various second cycle qualifications. On the other hand entrance requirements in terms of competences required to enroll into a study programme need to be discussed together with good examples of sustainable and flexible solutions.

Furthermore, in the context of **binary systems** distinguishing between university-based programmes and professional programmes, the Seminar will also focus on possibility of progression between the two (for example, to what extent and under what conditions is a route leading from Professional Bachelor degree to Academic Master degree opened and acceptable in different European countries).

In this context, a notion of establishing and implementing **qualifications frameworks** will be explored. In that respect, the learning outcomes descriptors as determined in national qualifications frameworks corresponding to the Bologna second cycle generic descriptors as envisaged in the QF-EHEA and to the descriptors of the EQF level 7 should reveal and make national specificities more recognizable thus removing some of the complexity of the system and subsequently enabling recognition of qualifications.

The issues outlined above will be taken upon as drives for rethinking ways of providing common reference points for making Master programmes in the EHEA more readable and transparent.

¹ European University Association (2009): Survey of Master Degrees in Europe (Howard Davies)

² Bucharest Communiqué (2012)

PROGRAMME

Facilitator: Ana Tecilazić Goršić, MoSES

9.00 – 9.30	Registration and Welcome coffee
09.30 – 11.30	<p>FIRST THEMATIC SESSION</p> <p>Prof. Ružica Beljo Lučić, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports <i>Introduction to policy debate on second cycle qualifications</i></p> <p>Jonna Korhonen, European University Association <i>Main developments and trends in Europe: Survey of Master Degrees in Europe</i></p> <p>Prof. Blaženka Divjak, Vice-rector, University of Zagreb, Republic of Croatia <i>University second cycle qualifications: lessons learned and future challenges</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.45 – 13:00	<p>SECOND THEMATIC SESSION</p> <p>Prof. G. Honor Fagan, Dean of Graduate Studies, National University of Ireland Maynooth <i>Entry mechanisms to the second cycle and progression routes to the third cycle Bologna qualifications</i></p> <p>Prof. Mladen Mauher and prof. Miroslav Slamić, National Council of Polytechnics, Republic of Croatia <i>Professionally - oriented second cycle qualifications</i></p> <p>Petra Radetić, European Students Union (tbc) <i>Bologna with student eyes</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 15.30	<p>THIRD THEMATIC SESSION: Academic recognition</p> <p>Ivana Krznar, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports <i>Obstacles and challenges for the automatic academic recognition: analysis of the experience from the HEIs in Croatia</i></p> <p>Dr. Stojan Sorčan, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Republic of Slovenia <i>Second cycle qualifications in the region: Finding path towards automatic recognition</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
15.30	Concluding remarks

ABSTRACTS AND SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

FIRST THEMATIC SESSION: Introduction to policy debate on second cycle qualifications

Prof. Ružica Beljo Lučić holds a position of the Assistant Minister for Higher Education at the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, and Full Professor at the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Zagreb. She also served as Vice Dean for Academic Affairs of the Faculty of Forestry (2006-2008). As an education expert, she has served in 16 committees (e.g. a chair of the Quality Management Committee of the University of Zagreb, a member of the Accreditation Council of the Agency for Science and Higher Education, a member of the Committee for Implementation of the Croatian Qualifications Framework). She has authored and co-authored more than 80 scientific and professional papers.

Abstract: Objectives and outcomes of changes in higher education should be aligned within the framework set by the Bucharest Communiqué (2012). Undoubtedly, Bologna-aligned reforms have changed the landscape of higher education across Europe, in a way that national structures are more compatible and comparable than before. But, recent report on implementation of Bologna process shows that additional efforts are needed on coherence between national policies, most notably recognition, quality assurance and qualifications frameworks. The presentation gives introduction to policy debate on second cycle Bologna / 7 EQF level qualifications with regards to international comparison of standards for workload measured in ECTS, progression routes between university and professional degrees and entry requirements at the national level as defined by the Croatian qualifications framework. Finally, the conclusion calls for an integrated policy development based on coherent structural reforms in higher education.

FIRST THEMATIC SESSION: Main developments and trends in Europe: Survey of Master Degrees in Europe

Jonna Korhonen has been professionally involved with the higher education sector since her graduation from the University of Turku. She started her career as International Officer working for Finnish higher education institutions. In 2007 she moved to Brussels to work for European University Association where she focused on European higher education issues, especially on the implementation of the Bologna Process. She is one of the co-authors of Trends 2010. After moving back to Finland she joined the Finnish Universities UNIFI as Senior Adviser and continued gaining valuable working experience with universities at the national level. Since 2012 she is back at EUA's Higher Education Policy Unit where her main task is to monitor higher education policy developments at EU level and manage projects.

Abstract: This presentation will provide an overview of recent developments concerning the second cycle qualifications from a European perspective: the main practices, the trends observed as well as the shortcomings and challenges ahead. *The presentation draws upon EUA's Survey on Master degree in Europe (2009) and Trends 2010 study (2010).*

FIRST THEMATIC SESSION: University second cycle qualifications: lessons learned and future challenges

Prof. Blaženka Divjak is the Vice Rector for students and study programs at the University of Zagreb, university professor at the Faculty of Organization and Informatics, researcher, has vast experience in higher education research and EU project management. She has coordinated several international projects (FP7, Tempus, LLP, Eureka, ESF). Prof. Blaženka Divjak is a member of EAN (European Access Network) Executive committee and was a member of the Croatian working group for science and research in negotiations for the Croatian accession to the EU, and a current member of National Bologna experts' group in Croatia. She is author and co-author of 10 university textbooks and books on mathematics, graph theory, project management and learning outcomes in higher education. She is also the author of more than 70 scientific and professional papers in all abovementioned research fields.

Abstract: The three cycle system has been widely implemented in the Bologna countries. There is not much analysis available on the second Bologna cycle (master level). It is a cycle in the middle. Namely, the Bologna Declaration emphasises that the first cycle degree is a requirement for access to the second cycle and that the second cycle degrees give access to doctoral studies. Therefore it is important to decide on prerequisites for entering particular second cycle study programme and at the same time assure flexibility of higher education system and access for diverse learning paths. Further, learning outcomes of the university second cycle degrees should fulfil employability requirements and provide basic research skills. In that context there are variety of challenges for higher education institutions, decision makers on national and international level as well as for students and employers.

SECOND THEMATIC SESSION: Entry mechanisms to the second cycle and progression routes to the third cycle Bologna qualifications

Prof. G. Honor Fagan is the Dean of Graduate Studies at National University of Ireland Maynooth, Professor of Sociology and Research Associate at the National Institute for Spatial Analysis. She is author of three books including the prize-winning *Globalisation and Security: An Encyclopaedia*, several national reports informed by original field research, designed to engage with and successful in directly impacting targeted policy developments, including one developed for the *Oireachtas* and another funded by EU Framework funds, twenty--six journal articles and book chapters, including articles in top international journals such as *ANNALS*, *Capitalism*, *Nature and Class*, *Journal of Education*, and *Policy and Politics*. She has served as Dean of Graduate Studies for five years, has chaired the Irish Universities Association of Deans of Graduate Studies, is a member of EUA-CDE, and in this capacity has presented numerous papers at international conferences on Irish third level and fourth level developments over the past five years.

Abstract: This presentation provides an overview of second cycle programmes in Ireland. It contextualises them in the descriptors of the Irish National Qualifications Framework. It describes the absence of a binary system in provision at this Level 9, since there are no separate vocational, professional and academic categories. Length, credits, part-time and full-time status, learning outcomes are explored and examples provided. Entry mechanisms to the second cycle and progression routes to the third cycle Bologna are clarified.

SECOND THEMATIC SESSION: Professionally – oriented second cycle qualifications

Prof. Mladen Mauher holds a Ph.D. in Information Sciences. He served as the Head of Croatian Government Office for Internetization (2000-2003), assisted corresponding government policy design, and coordinated large e-Government projects. He was involved in study, design and co-ordination of national implementation programs (e-Health, e-Education, e-Court and Justice, e-Finance and treasury, e-Energy). He consulted the City of Rijeka in its transition from Digital to Intelligent City (2005-2012). He has been appointed as a full professor at the Polytechnics of Zagreb, and external professor at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Zagreb and Higher Professional School of Applied Computing. He published more than 80 scientific and referring papers, has a long list of international cooperation, and has been actively involved in several non-governmental organisations.

Prof. Miroslav Slamić is a professor at the Polytechnics of Zagreb and teaches courses related to algorithms and data structure, programming languages and paradigms. He obtained his PhD in Aviation, Rocket and Space Technology Science from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing of the University of Zagreb. His academic research interest include interactive real-time simulations, virtual reality and applications in staff training, diagnostics and therapy, management of massive multimedia contents, missile guidance systems and theory of differential games. He has more than 25 professional, academic and scientific papers published in these areas.

Abstract: This presentation provides an overview of demand and supply side, background and approaches to professional qualifications and its interaction model. Enabling models and technologies, mutual mentoring approaches, national classification of qualifications and related diploma degrees and diploma supplements at the Polytechnics of Zagreb are illustrated. A case study related to a master degree at the Polytechnics of Zagreb in Information technology and Computing engineering is presented as a starting point of updating and improving the curricula, based on e-Competence Framework and future ICT demands.

THIRD THEMATIC SESSION: Obstacles and challenges for the automatic academic recognition: analysis of the experience from HEIs in Croatia

Ivana Krznar is the Head of Department for Development of Higher Education in the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia. She is involved in policy-analysis of Croatian higher education sector, with the emphasis on quality of HE and

efficiency of public financing. Before joining the Ministry, Ivana spent seven years in the Agency for Science and Higher Education actively participating in establishing the quality assurance evaluation system and in implementation of various evaluation procedures such as reaccreditation of HEI, initial accreditation and thematic evaluations. Area of her specific professional interest is developing methods and criteria for evidence-based decision-making.

Abstract: Proving the quality of qualifications has become imperative in national procedures of evaluation, quality assurance within qualifications frameworks, as well as in recognition of foreign qualifications. While most of European countries are trying to establish a credible quality assurance mechanisms for protection of their qualifications at national level by establishment of quality assurance system through the various procedures of accreditation, evaluation, setting the minimum of quality requirements, implementing European Standards and Guidelines, so far the process of recognition of foreign qualifications is still mainly based on trust in the system of another country. National qualifications are under scrutiny by constant increase of quality demand, they are subject of cyclical quality checks, while quality of foreign qualifications remains mainly on mutual trust. When we talk about initiatives such as automatic recognition of qualifications, one of the most important criteria should be evidence-based quality assurance system.

THIRD THEMATIC SESSION: Second cycle qualifications in the region: Finding path towards automatic recognition

Dr. Stojan Sorčan is employed by the Ministry of Education Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia. He is dealing with strategic questions in the field of higher education and development of science. He is also a Slovenian representative in the Bologna Follow-up group and a member of the Bologna Pathfinder Group on Automatic Recognition. He is a sociologist and co-author of two books about Slovenian science community.

Abstract: This presentation provides an overview of some recent Bologna policy processes in the complex field of recognition of academic qualification regarding to the Bucharest Communique (2012) and Bologna Pathfinder Group on Automatic Recognition. Academic recognition constitutes an important policy tool for achieving Europe 2020 goals and reinforcing the European Higher Education Area. The basic prerequisite for successful international mobility is recognition of academic credits and higher education qualifications. The Bologna Implementation Report (2012) shows that there are still recognition problems in instances of access to the next cycle, when bachelor degrees do not give access to master studies. A bachelor should be recognised as a bachelor and master as a master anywhere within the EHEA. Is an automatic recognition of qualification desirable and is it feasible? How do we link recognition decisions with accreditation decisions? What is the role of learning outcomes in these processes? Is the Western Balkan Region able to work together for creating the Regional Area of Recognition of comparable academic degrees? The presentation will propose ways to cooperate, build trust, promote and show others how and what is possible amongst the countries of Western Balkan Region in terms of automatic recognition.