

# Seminar on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bologna cycle

European University Association

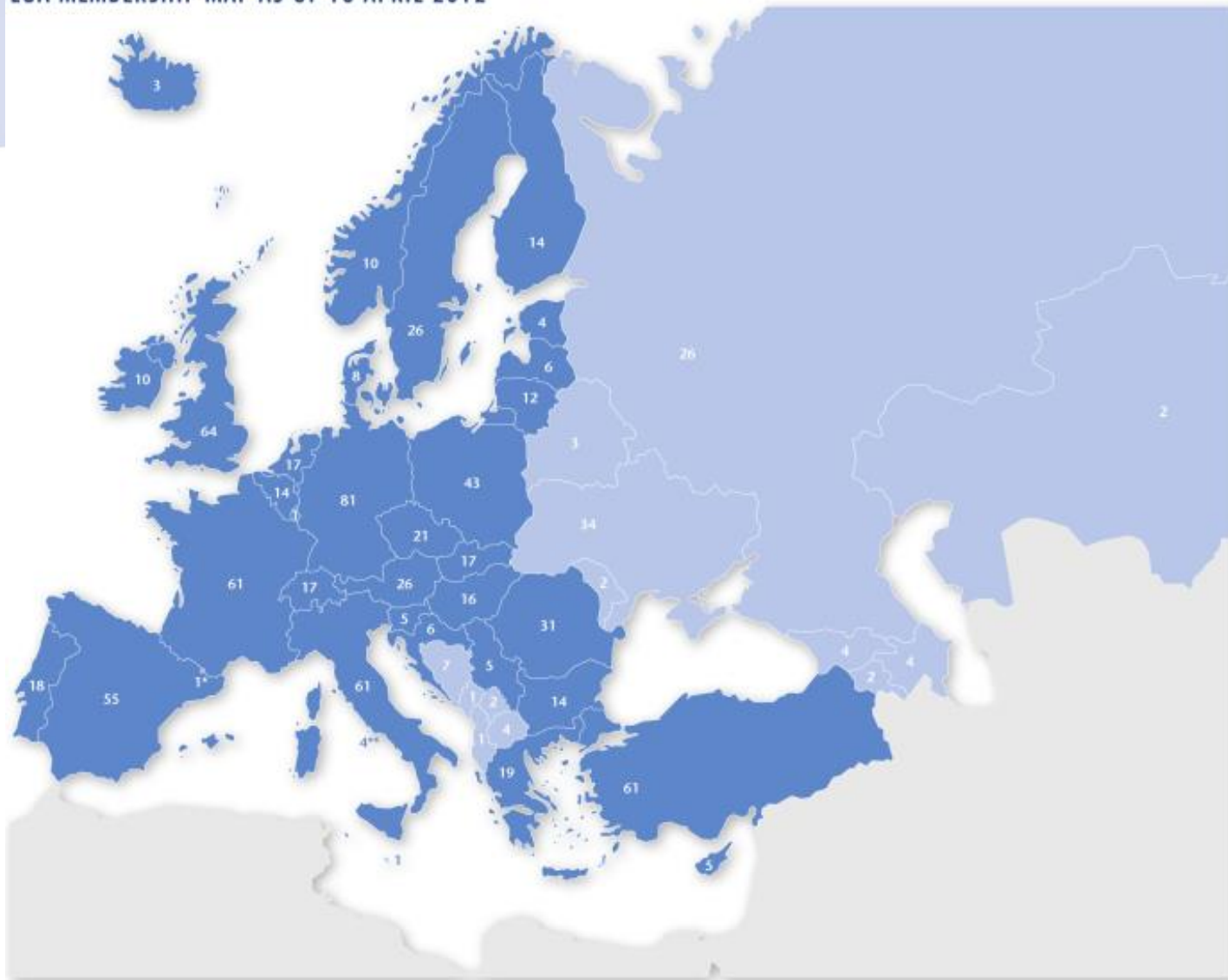
Zagreb 12<sup>th</sup> April 2013






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## Brief Profile of EUA

- Established in 2001
- Non-governmental membership organisation
- 850 individual university members
- 34 National Rectors' Conferences Members
- 47 countries
- Independent voice for the university sector
- Focus on EHEA and ERA

# EUA MEMBERSHIP MAP AS OF 18 APRIL 2012



-  Countries with EUA collective members
-  Countries with no EUA collective members
-  Members per country
-  Andorra
-  Holy See

EUA has 25 Affiliates. They have not been integrated in the above map as they do not correspond necessarily to national bodies (please see [www.eua.be](http://www.eua.be) for full list of members).

## Presentation overview

- **What is now in place**
- What was found in our studies
- What we observe today
- What might happen in the future

## What is now in place (1)

- The Bologna second cycle
- Agreed bandwidth of ECTS and duration
- Dublin descriptors
- Learning outcomes/competences
- NQFs; EQF level 7
- Array of Joint Masters (ERASMUS MUNDUS and others)
- 'variety of profiles and orientations'

## What is now in place (2)

- However, the national legislation, pace and way of implementation varies between the countries
- The Master degrees are still young in many countries
- No coherent data

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## What was found in our studies? (1)

- Three broad categories of Master
- But also post-Bachelor; pre-doctorate; post-experience
- **Problems of 'readability'** deriving from
  - tradition and innovation;
  - binary considerations;
  - the drift into English
- Proliferation of designations and unclear terminology



## What was found in our studies? (2)

### **Blurred areas:**

- Progression routes; Recognition of foreign degrees/credits is still a challenge
- Access and selection; no common practice
- The status of 'lifelong'; funding and legal provision
- Lack of shared practice in recognition of prior learning
- Confusion at labour market; linked to the acceptance of the Bachelor

## What was found in our studies? (3)

**EUA Master Study 2009:** “ The Master is a versatile qualification. It has a wide range of functions, addresses a wide range of clients, and is capable of rapid and flexible response to social and economic need. The Bologna Process has achieved impressive results in its first decade. The stage is set for making the Master readable across Europe”.

**Trends 2010:**“ Some measure of diversity in Master provision is welcomed as a way to respond to different needs, as long as the purposes of each Master are clearly identified and communicated”.

## Proposed set of markers (EUA Master study):

- duration, full-time or otherwise
- ECTS value
- whether covered by EU legislation
- whether professionally accredited
- attendance and delivery modes
- status of provider(s)
- combinatory power: mode of access from Bachelor and to doctorate
- accessibility for purposes of professional development
- pedagogic approach
- with or without work placement
- funding and price
- available financial support.

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## What we observe today

- **Increasing push at European level:** modernisation agenda (incl ERASMUS for all Master Loan scheme proposal); Bucharest 2012 Communiqué
- **Continuing diversity of Master** in a more unstable environment; the most energetically marketed; the least supported by public funding; the least readable
- The confusion at labour market continues

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## What might happen in the future

- Improved transparency and permeability through **learning outcomes**
- Consolidation of **NQFs** and clarity of designation in the second cycle
- Improved readability based on **Master 'markers'**
- Improved **recognition procedures**

....which would lead to **elimination of tension between versatility and readability**

**Thank you for listening!**

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