



# Bologna Process

Bachelor Programmes and International Mobility

The Case of Katholische Universität Eichstätt-  
Ingolstadt (Germany)

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# Does Bologna Enhance Mobility?

- In principle: Yes
  - Credit system, Recognition
  - Common structural elements
  - Easily readable degrees
- Giving it a closer look: Not necessarily
  - More rigid curricula, less room for individual elements
  - Shorter programmes
  - Incompatible structures

# Some Observations

- Italy: Decreasing numbers. Less flexibility in undergraduate programmes.
- Germany: Mixed
  - In some universities, Bologna is implemented disregarding international mobility
  - 3 years and 2 years are being seen as too short to give up control for one semester or even one year



# Case: Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

- Non state, public institution
- Humanities, social science, management
- Good ranking positions, mainly due to excellent student:staff ratio
- Campus university in a picturesque and unknown small town in the countryside

# International Dimension at KU

- About 10% foreign students
- 130+ exchange agreements
- More than 25% of our students study abroad in our own programmes
- Double degree programmes in place



# Bologna Process at Katholische Universität

- Implementation decided upon by the Academic Senate in 2004
- No extra resources allocated to Bologna (Potentially endangering the international perspective)
- Decision of the university leadership: Bologna and international dimension shall be dealt with by the same person

# Models of „Bolognese“

- Double and Joint Degrees
  - High investment
  - For the happy few?
- Few partners with well-coordinated common curricular elements
- „Windows“ of flexibility
  - Most flexible and easy way to do it

# Some Elements of Quality of Exchanges

- Objective: Good partners
- Objective: QA in recognition:
  - We know what we will recognize and what we will not recognize – and why!
  - We carefully select partners and programmes
  - We counsel outgoing students
- How to achieve quality if professors have the possibility to discourage study abroad?

## Quality of Exchanges (2)

- Make it compulsory:
  - Discouragement will not work any more.
- Professors cannot avoid to foster and monitor exchange programmes.
- If they want to keep standards high, they have to develop good exchanges instead of the easy way out: discouragement

# Aims and Objectives

- Integrated and simultaneous transformation of all degrees
- International perspective in every program
  - Compulsory study abroad period for most students
  - Every program without exception shall permit a study abroad semester in the fifth semester
- Framework regulations shall precede individual programme development

# Reasons for International Emphasis

- Students in existing BA programmes emphasized the international perspective as decisive for their choice.
- Self selection: Applicants who strongly wish to study abroad tend to be the better than „provincially“ minded applicants.
- Market niche: A small university in the country has fewer options to differentiate

# Means

- Bologna advisory council advising the university leadership and preparing proposals.
  - Lead by the academic Director of the European Studies programme (Prof. R. Nate) and the Director of International Relations
  - Students representing existing BA programmes
- Occasionally invited external experts (e.g. Acquin)
- Lobbying in the departments

# Examples of Pros and Cons

- Self selection:
  - Attract good students
  - Repell others
- Increased teaching capacity (double degree programmes)
- „Trade Mark“: The international university
- Drop in student numbers?
- Too complicated to develop and run
- Students cannot learn anywhere else what we want them to learn

# Key Regulations Favoring Mobility

- **Compulsory semester abroad** to be implemented in every BA and MA **unless it does not make sense**
- Curriculum design of every degree **without any exception** has to make it possible that every student who so wishes shall have the possibility of going abroad during the 5<sup>th</sup> semester

# Accessory Regulations

- Favor longer stays abroad: Students going abroad for two semesters shall have one more semester of „Regelstudienzeit“
- Study abroad in a foreign language is additional workload: Optional additional credit for language or intercultural learning of up to one third of credits earned abroad on top of credits earned

# Accessory Regulations

- Regulations for double and joint degree programmes are part of the framework regulations
- Room for individually designed curricula abroad:  
Of one year abroad, only 30 Credits have to comply with the regulations of the degree at KU

# The test is still to come ...

- No new programmes implemented so far.
- Some reluctance may be ahead of us.
- University leadership will have to insist ...
- Let us hope for success!