

The Impact of European Developments on Doctoral Programmes – Issues for HEIs

Vitae Researcher Development Conference

8-9 Sept 2008 Novotel London West

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Summary

Time-limited review of some issues:

- European education agenda (Bologna)
- European economic agenda (Lisbon)
- Bologna/Lisbon - is there a threat to academic freedom?
- Other selected issues
- Action plan: what does your university need to be doing?

Education: Bologna Declaration (1999)

A “*European Higher Education Area*” by 2010 with:

- comparable (and easily understood) degrees
- doctorate as third cycle
- single system of credit rating of degrees
- mobility of students, “teachers”, researchers and administrators
- comparable systems of quality assurance
- a European dimension in higher education

.....**within principles of Magna Charta Universitatum**

Economic: Lisbon Agenda (2000/2002)

2000

Europe to “become the *most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world*, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and social cohesion”with establishment of a **European Research Area**

2002

“.....overall spending on research and development....should be increased with the aim of *approaching 3% of GDP by 2010*”

Bologna Process: Additions 2001 (Prague)

- Proactive involvement of universities in development of the EHEA
- Commitment to lifelong learning
- Importance of increasing the attractiveness of the EHEA to students and others from across the world

...but have actions then and since moved the educational and economic agenda closer together?

Merging of Education and Economic Agendas? The first “University Challenge”

2003 (Bologna meeting Berlin):

“...secure closer links overall between the higher education and research systems....emerging European Higher Education Area will benefit from synergies with the European Research Area thus strengthening the basis of the Europe of Knowledge”

Merging of Education and Economic Agenda?

2005 (Bologna meeting Prague)

“...importance of research in underpinning higher education and for the economic and cultural development of our societies and for social cohesion”

2007 (Bologna meeting Bergen)

“Closer alignment of the EHEA with the European Research Area remains an important objective”

Merging of Education and Economic Agenda – Academic Freedom?

“European Research Area is more than ever a cornerstone for a European knowledge society. Such a society is one where **research, education, training and innovation are fully mobilised to fulfil the economic, social and environmental ambitions** of the EU and the expectations of its citizens”

[from ‘The European Research Area: New Perspectives’, 2007]

The Magna Charta Universitatum

- The university as an autonomous institution
- Research and teaching must be morally and intellectually independent of all political authority and intellectually independent of all political authority and economic power.
- Freedom in research and training is the fundamental principle of university life

Is this now just history?

Other European Imperatives/Challenges - the PGR Student Experience

- Increasing the employability of doctoral candidates (including outside academia)
- Bologna's "European Dimension" – curricula with a European content, orientation or organisation
- Increasing attractiveness of a research career
- Increasing the attractiveness of EHEA
- Personal and career development of RDP students
- Enhancing the status of PGR students

Other European Imperatives/Challenges

- PGR Student Supply

- HEI student numbers peaking in some parts of Europe
- Drop of up to 20% in 18 to 24 year olds by 2020
- UK's reliance on international PGR students
- Need to increase diversity of doctoral students

Other European Imperatives/Challenges - the Doctorate

- Need to increase diversity and innovative nature of doctoral programmes (but aligned with EHEA/UK qualifications frameworks)
- Lifelong learning and doctoral programmes
- Flexible entry to the doctorate?
- Mobility and the doctorate

The Final European Challenge

“Embed doctoral programmes in institutional strategies and policies” – **but are European issues embedded in your university??**

Has it discussed

- the issues raised in this workshop?
- the Dublin Descriptors?
- the Salzburg Principles?

Do Bologna/Lisbon and the 2010 deadline keep your Vice-Chancellor awake at night?

Your University and the European Agenda

- Does it have a European policy/strategy?
- Has it discussed
 - the issues raised in this workshop?
 - the Dublin Descriptors?
 - the Salzburg Principles?
- Do Bologna/Lisbon and the 2010 deadline keep your Vice-Chancellor awake at night?