The Bologna Process and its Impact on Legal Education in Europe and Germany

Professor Laurel S. Terry
(LTerry@psu.edu)
Penn State Dickinson School of Law
and Universität zu Köln
Berlin, March 6, 2006

What is the Bologna Process?

- Started in 1998 with 4 countries
- 45 countries by 2005: ≈½ are from the EU
- Ambitious: create the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by 2010; make Eur. higher education more competitive in world
- Bologna Process Ministers have met 5 times and each time expanded their goals
- There are now ten “action lines”
Bologna Process’ Ten Action Lines

*Introduced in ‘99 Bologna Declaration:*

1. Adoption of a system of easily readable and comparable degrees
2. Adoption of a system essentially based on two cycles (bachelor-master degrees)
3. Establishment of a system of credits (ECTS);
4. Promotion of mobility
5. Promotion of European cooperation in quality assurance
6. Promotion of the European dimension in higher education

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Bologna Process Action Lines

*Introduced in ’01 Prague Communiqué:*

7. Lifelong learning
8. Increased involvement of higher education institutions and students
9. Promoting the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area

*Introduced in ’03 Berlin Communiqué:*

10. Doctoral studies and the synergy between the EHEA and European Research Area
2005 Bologna Process Priorities

- Have a two-degree cycle (bachelor-master)
- Quality assurance programs
- Recognition of degrees (e.g., Diploma Supplement, ECTS, student-faculty mobility)
- 2005 Bologna Process “Stocktaking Report” gave color-coded reports on 10 benchmarks

*Does any of this sound familiar to what you’ve seen in your university?*

Documents Adopted in 2005

- European Quality Assurance Standards
  - Internal quality assurance
  - External quality assurance
  - Standards for external QA agencies

- Framework of Qualifications for the European Higher Education Area
  - Lists ECTS credits for BA and MA degrees
  - Lists desired outcomes for BA, MA and PhD
Has the Bologna Process Had an Impact on Education in Europe?

- Yes! See 2005 Stocktaking Report
- Collective results: “light green” or very good progress on 10 benchmarks
- Germany’s rating: “Light green” or very good progress

Has Bologna had an Impact on Legal Education in Germany and the EU?

- Yes in the EU! (See CCBE 9-05 Study)
- “Jein” for German legal education
- Strong opposition to a BA-MA system due to impact on state exams & lawyer monopoly
- German 11-05 Grand Coalition Government Contract excludes lawyers from Bologna
- I believe the German legal profession should not ignore the other 9 Bologna “action lines”
Should You Care About the Bologna Process?

- Yes!
- Opportunities for U.S. institutions
- Competition for U.S. institutions
- Participate in increasingly harmonized standards on accreditation and curriculum

To Read More About It…

- Bologna UK Secretariat Webpage (2005-2007)
  - http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bologna/
- Bergen-Bologna Webpage (2003-05)
- Search for Laurel Terry’s Bologna articles on www.ssrn.com (or email LTerry@psu.edu)
How Will Bologna Impact Exchanges?
(Questions posed by the Fulbright Kommission moderator)

- Given:
  - Bachelor’s and Master’s programs
  - The introduction of tuition fees
  - The increase in English-spoken study programs

- Which new exchange concepts will the Bologna process bring about?

- How will these reforms affect interest in transatlantic exchanges?

- How do Fulbright exchanges fit into the altered exchanges landscape?

- How (if at all) is Bologna perceived in the U.S.?