

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: $\approx 1/2$ 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

Prof. Laurel Terry (LTerry@psu.edu)
Berlin, 3/6/06

3

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

Prof. Laurel Terry (LTerry@psu.edu)
Berlin, 3/6/06

4

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?

Prof. Laurel Terry (LTerry@psu.edu)
Berlin, 3/6/06



5

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

Prof. Laurel Terry (LTerry@psu.edu)
Berlin, 3/6/06

6


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
- Other ratings: http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/Bergen/050509_Stocktaking.pdf

Prof. Laurel Terry (LTerry@psu.edu)
Berlin, 3/6/06

7

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”

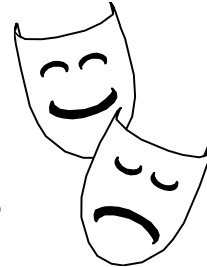
Prof. Laurel Terry (LTerry@psu.edu)
Berlin, 3/6/06



8

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

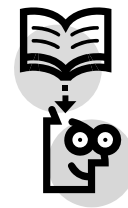


Prof. Laurel Terry (LTerry@psu.edu)
Berlin, 3/6/06

9

To Read More About It...

- Bologna UK Secretariat Webpage (2005-2007)
– <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bologna/>
- Bergen-Bologna Webpage (2003-05)
– <http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/>
- Berlin-Bologna Webpage (2001-2003)
– <http://www.bologna-berlin2003.de/>
- Search for Laurel Terry's Bologna articles on www.ssrn.com (or email LTerry@psu.edu)



Prof. Laurel Terry (LTerry@psu.edu)
Berlin, 3/6/06

10

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.?

Prof. Laurel Terry (LTerry@psu.edu)
Berlin, 3/6/06

11