

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CREDIT AND ACCESS

**14-06-06
Item 8
Paper 41-10**

European Diploma Supplement and information about Learner Achievement

Purpose and recommendation

- 1 This paper gives a short summary of the main issues arising from work held on the Bologna process on 31 March 2006 at the University of St Andrews. The paper summarizes the results of the discussions surrounding the European Diploma Supplement in particular. In addition, the paper also provides information on the Europass initiative and the relationship between it and the European Diploma Supplement. Finally, information regarding EDS compliance and the Bologna stocktaking exercise is briefly explained.
- 2 SACCA is invited to note the contents of the paper and comment as appropriate. In addition, given that institutions are still devising how best to produce the EDS the Committee is asked to consider whether there is a role for SACCA working with Universities Scotland and the Bologna Promoters to provide more advice to the HEIs regarding the implementation of the EDS.

Bologna Workshop – 31 March 2006, University of St Andrews

- 3 The workshop had three aims. These were to:
 - Update the sector on the Bologna Process as a whole;
 - Investigate some of the practical issues when implementing the EDS through the use of Case Studies.
 - Discuss emerging issues arising from Joint Degrees operating in a European context (not reported in this paper).
- 4 Before the workshop institutions were asked about their experiences in implementing the EDS. Nine institutions replied- a summary of their responses is given in Appendix 1.
- 5 The opening remarks from the Bologna promoters, Professor Graeme Roberts and James Dunphy emphasized the high profile and important role Scotland had within the Bologna process. Gerard Madill gave an update on the complex but important processes that underpinned the Bologna process including details of the organizations involved and their roles.
- 6 The workshop was then split into two breakout sessions: one dealing with the EDS and the other on Joint Degrees. Only the EDS breakout session will be reported in this paper.

- 7 Three institutions (the University of Abertay, University of Edinburgh and Heriot Watt University) presented case studies highlighting the systems they had put in place to produce the EDS for their students. This was then followed by a presentation from Jonathan Dempsey of Framework Solutions, Dublin regarding a model for recording information for the EDS developed in Ireland.
- 8 The main issues arising from these presentations were:
- The need to clarify who the intended audiences for the EDS were, i.e. if for students the EDS language was not “student friendly”. Should a document exist that explained the EDS clearly to students?
 - How to deal with the fact that EDS guidelines stipulate that the information should be presented in the order stated in the guidelines and the impact this has on institutional course record systems and their operation.
 - The problems managing a variety of different data sources; including programme, student and institutional information and bringing these together to form an EDS;
 - Issues around version control – how to maintain accurate EDS records for past students when courses change.
- 9 It was agreed that the workshop had been very useful and that further workshops would be arranged; the next planned at the end of July 2006.

Europass

- 10 Europass is an initiative designed to promote mobility and lifelong learning throughout Europe. It brings together 5 documents, two of which (Europass Curriculum vitae and the Europass Language passport) the learner completes themselves. The other three: the European Certificate Supplement (for vocational education and training), the European Diploma Supplement (for higher education) and the Europass Mobility (a record of training, education or work in another European country) are all completed by the relevant organizations for the learner.
- 11 The EDS is an important part of Europass, being the only document that officially records a learner’s participation in higher education. Members should be aware that the EDS is being promoted as part of a wider initiative which might result for a greater demand for the EDS particularly from past students if they are using Europass to expand their work/learning experiences in Europe. More information can be found at the Europass portal <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/>. Most member countries operate a National Europass Centre, the United Kingdom’s can be found at: <http://www.uknec.org.uk/>.

Stocktaking and the Bologna scorecard.

12 Every year each signatory country is required to audit their progress towards the various aspects of the Bologna process. This is achieved by the completion of a report (to be carried out by December 2006) by each country which “scores” progress against a scorecard for each strand of the Bologna process. Progress is denoted by a colour scale from “green” (for optimum progress) to “red” (for little or no progress). The scorecard for the EDS is reproduced below, but members should note that the term "format" in the stocktaking scorecard for EDS is likely to be interpreted as the exact order and format set out in the EU/ guidance (see Appendix 2). This may pose particular issues for institutions trying to implement the EDS.

7. Stage of implementation of diploma supplement

RECOGNITION	7. Stage of implementation of diploma supplement
Green (5)	Every student graduating in 2007 will receive a Diploma Supplement in the EU/CoE/UNESCO Diploma Supplement format ⁹ and in a widely spoken European language -automatically -free of charge
Light green (4)	Every student graduating in 2007 will receive the Diploma Supplement in the EU/CoE/UNESCO Diploma Supplement format and in a widely spoken European language -on request - free of charge
Yellow (3)	A DS in the EU/CoE/UNESCO Diploma Supplement format and in a widely spoken European language will be issued to some students OR in some programmes in 2007 -on request -free of charge
Orange (2)	A DS in the EU/CoE/UNESCO Diploma Supplement format and in a widely spoken European language will be issued to some students OR in some programmes in 2007 -on request -not free of charge
Red (1)	Systematic issuing of DS in the EU/CoE/UNESCO Diploma Supplement format and in a widely spoken European language has not started

- 13 For Scotland, the report is completed by the Scottish Executive working with amongst others, QAA Scotland and Universities Scotland.