

# Scotland in Europe Towards 2010

## Qualifications Frameworks and self- certification

Professor John Harper

- Overview of self-certification process
- Rationale for participation
- Key challenges/outcomes
- Potential benefits

# Self-certification process

- Undertaken by SACCA Working Group
- Examined
  - equivalence of SCQF qualifications descriptors and EHEA qualification cycle descriptors
  - links between entry points at stages of the SCQF and EHEA cycles
  - links between SCQF credit points and European credit transfer system
  - consistency of national quality assurance procedures

## Why do it?

- Scotland had participated in the development of the European Framework
- Helped raise profile of higher education in Scotland across the Bologna countries
- Informed the self-certification process to be used by all Bologna countries

# Outcomes

## EHEA cycle

- First cycle
  - Short cycle qualification within first cycle
  - Intermediate Awards within First cycle
- Second cycle
  - Intermediate Awards within second cycle
- Third cycle

## SCQF qualifications

Bachelor's degree and degree with honours

Dip HE

Cert HE

Grad Cert

Grad Dip

Masters

Integrated Masters

MPhil

PgDip

PgCert

Doctoral Degrees

## Potential Benefits

- Raises profile of Scottish HE
- Helps stimulate joint developments with European universities
- Will increase attractiveness of Scottish qualifications for European/International students
- Beneficial when dealing with national/multinational organisations re lifelong learning

# Implications

- Some of the advantages could be short term
- Need to promote and adopt wider ethos of the EHEA within Scottish higher education
  - increased mobility of Scottish students
  - inculcate a European/International dimension within learning experiences for all students