Thematic Network Project
 Aligning a European Higher Education Structure In Sport Science

Project Overview

By

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The Bologna Declaration’s Objectives

- Adoption of a system of comparable degrees, based on three main cycles. A first cycle of at least 3 yrs relevant to labour market.
- Implementation of a European Diploma Supplement to increase titles’ transparency and employability.
- Establishment of a system of credits (such as the ECTS - European Credit Transfer System which also include a marking system.
- Recognition of credits acquired in other contexts than the higher education system – the European Qualification Framework (EQF).
- Promotion of a European dimension in higher education: inter-institutional cooperation, integrated programmes of study etc.
- Elimination of remaining obstacles regarding free mobility.
- Promotion of European Quality Assurance Systems.
Nature of the Bologna Declaration

Not just a statement:  
A binding commitment

Not an imposition upon national systems:  
A commitment undertaken by each country  
to reform its own system

Not a path towards standardisation:  
Fundamental principles of autonomy and diversity affirmed and respected

An action program  
with specific objectives and a deadline: 2010
The **aim** of the entire project that was funded by the European Commission (2003 to 2007) is “**Aligning a European Higher Education Structure In Sport Science**” (AEHESIS) by focusing on two major aspects:

1. To integrate programmes and time frames of the educational structures;

2. To ensure that the identified structures relate to the needs of the labour market in four main areas:
   - **Sport Management**
   - **Physical Education**
   - **Health & Fitness**
   - **Sport Coaching**
The **specific objectives** of the Thematic Network were to:

- Describe, analyse and compare existing university and non-university programmes (*mapping*);
- Bring about a high level of Europe-wide *convergence* and *transparency* in four main areas of sport science by defining commonly accepted professional and learning outcomes;
- Engage with the *labour market* to ensure vocational relevance by developing professional profiles and desired outcomes in terms of knowledge, skills & competencies;
- Identify and promote **examples of good practice**
- Develop and exchange information in relation to the development of curricula and to develop a **model curriculum structure** for each area
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Professional Area</th>
<th>Action: The first task will be to define in one sentence the area.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Step II</td>
<td>Standard Occupations</td>
<td>Action: To define in one generic sentence the 3 major occupations.</td>
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<td>Step III</td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>Action: To define the 4/5 main activities for three of these occupations.</td>
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<td>Step IV</td>
<td>Competences</td>
<td>Action: To define corresponding competences for each activity listed in step 3.</td>
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<td>Step V</td>
<td>Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>Action: To specify learning outcomes students will have to be integrated at the end of the programme related to the agreed competences for the 3 relevant occupations.</td>
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<td>Step VI</td>
<td>Curriculum Model</td>
<td>For one occupation, the last step will be to produce a curriculum model.</td>
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Figure 38: Possible Routes to a degree in H&F plus map of where H&F could fit into a wider programme
The impact of the dissemination has been:

- To *improve visibility and accessibility* of the AEHESIS thematic network results within the entire higher education sector of sports science in Europe and to involve all partners in the EU members states, e.g. universities, professionals, social partners, enterprises etc.

- To *disseminate the network’s results* in order to optimise their value and to integrate them within the sports science in Higher Education and training systems and practices on local, regional, national & European level via, e.g. dissemination events, networking, websites, chat rooms etc.

- To *bridge the gap* between non-university and university structures especially in the education of coaches.
In 2008 the AEHESIS network includes 86 partner organisations from 29 European countries.

www.aehesis.com