



ECW13 Action Plan for Bologna Awareness and Quality Assurance Activities

Sharing knowledge on the Bologna reform process in Europe is one of the goals of the EMECW13 project. Commonly recognized outcomes of the Bologna process so far have been an improved academic quality and the integration of European higher education, as well as increased mobility and employment opportunities for university graduates. Upon the initiative of Indian partner universities, the action plan has been worked out to provide the EMECW13 partnership with knowledge on the principles of Bologna and the Bologna implementation tools. In the process the European partners will gain insights into the Indian system of higher education. In this way, the partnership will be better prepared to deal with some of the challenges to EU- India cooperation. The partnership is particularly concerned with:

- Quality and equity in EU-India joint programs and collaborations. Quality assurance mechanisms and the participation of stakeholders. Systems for equal, fair and transparent treatment of mobile individuals.
- Recognition of studies abroad – increasing competence and employability. Tools for fair recognition of studies abroad and consistent systems of evaluation and translation between EU and Indian marks.
- Dialogue on reform agendas – frameworks for testing out the Bologna tools in Indian higher education institutions.

ACTIVITIES - BOLOGNA AWARENESS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 1) Special [Bologna study visits](#) to European universities for Indian academic staff, as part of the project's faculty exchange. The visits will be organized and mentored by program directors in some of the project's priority fields. The Indian academic staff will gain firsthand knowledge and experience of how PhD and International Masters programs are

designed and administered within the Bologna framework. European partners should kindly upload these offers to the application database, and mark the offers “Bologna study visits”. For an example see the Bologna study visit in Public Health offered by Lund University at <https://emecw.gis.lu.se/info.aspx?oid=35452>

2) Two Bologna workshops organized by the project:

- Applied Bologna workshop I at Delhi University on November 30, 2009 (see the Proceedings)
- Applied Bologna workshop II at Lund University in Early February, 2010.

Academic Advisor to ECW13 Prof. Stefan Lindgren (Medical Faculty, Lund University) has an overall responsibility for the workshops. Workshop I was organized by Prof. Jan-Olov Höög (Karolinska institutet Medical University). Prof. Höög is a former Swedish national Bologna expert. The pro vice chancellor of Lund University and former Swedish national Bologna expert, Prof. Eva Åkesson contributed to workshop I with an introductory speech on the principles of Bologna. Prof. Jan-Olov Höög discussed the application of the Bologna principles in course design and administration, and quality assurance. The discussion was limited to master courses, with practical examples from an international master course in biomedicine at Karolinska institutet Medical University. Prof. Pro Vice-Chancellor Ashok Patil, Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences and Deputy Head of International Relations Office, Elke Löschhorn, Freie Universität Berlin, presented a proposition for a Post Graduate Programme in Pharma Marketing at Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed University) in collaboration with Freie Universität Berlin.

It was an *interactive* workshop where the partners are invited to actively contribute with comments and discussions. The main discussants will be Prof. Kondepudy Sreenivas (Delhi University) and pro vice chancellor Ashok Patil (Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences). The aims of the workshop were to provide:

- An overview of the principles of Bologna, and the ongoing Bologna process in European higher education.
- Practical knowledge on ways of applying the Bologna implementation tools .

- Discuss and compare the European and Indian systems with regard to consistencies and breaking points.
 - Set a preliminary agenda for the Applied Bologna workshop II.
- 3) Ongoing EU-India collaborations in higher education are affronted by numerous challenges which have to be dealt with at multiple levels and most importantly, the levels of policy and implementing agencies. A recent overall policy framework is the EU – India Joint Action Plan: Global Partners for Global Challenges. The Action Plan emphasizes joint collaboration on equal terms. Another important policy document is the Joint Declaration on Education signed by the European Commission and the Ministry for Human Resource Development on November 12, 2008. The Joint Declaration on Education expresses a conjoint will to increase academic mobility and develop links between higher education institutions. It identifies a number of challenges to the cooperation, and calls for a policy dialogue on issues such as reform agendas, inclusive education for disadvantaged groups, quality assurance, academic recognition and transfer of learning outcomes etc. All are challenges which EU-India collaborations in higher education have to address on an everyday basis in order to pave the way for academic mobility and institutional cooperation. The results of the Applied Bologna workshop I was discussed at
- a meeting with Indian and European higher education institutions at the India Habitat Centre in Delhi on December 1, 2009. Here the project invited policy makers and implementing agencies to a discussion on [EU-Indian Cooperation in Higher Education: Challenges, Best Practices and Policy Implications](#).
- 4) [Quality Assurance in Higher Education in India and Europe: Lessons Learned](#). National Workshop arranged by Delhi University in collaboration with ECW13. Late April 2010.
- 5) [Master courses adapted to the Bologna model](#) will be set up by some of the Indian partner universities in collaboration with European partner universities.
- 6) [Outcomes](#): Evaluation and publishing of the results.