Student Participation in Higher Education Governance

A Bologna Seminar co-organised by

the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia
the European Students’ Union and
the Council of Europe

8 to 9 December 2011
Aghveran, Armenia

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Version 06/12/11
**Background**

Student participation in the governance of higher education is an important part of the European Higher Education Area. At the ministerial meeting in Prague in May 2001 the ministers put increased emphasis on student participation by underlining that "students are full members of the higher education community" and through the recognition of students as "competent, active and constructive partners" in the establishment and shaping of the European Higher Education Area. Ministers affirmed that students should participate in and influence the organization and content of education at universities and other higher education institutions.

At the ministerial meeting in Berlin in September 2003 the ministers acknowledged that "students are full partners in higher education governance. Ministers note that national legal measures for ensuring student participation are largely in place throughout the European Higher Education Area. They also call on institutions and student organizations to identify ways of increasing actual student involvement in higher education governance".

Since then the importance of student participation has been reaffirmed in most official Bologna documents. At the Budapest-Vienna ministerial meeting in May 2010, which established the European Higher Education Area the ministers stated that they ‘fully support staff and student participation in decision-making structures at European, national and institutional levels’.

And yet at its 21st European Students’ Convention (ESC) on 18 February 2011 the ESU’s Chairperson, Bert Vandenkendelaere said: “A promise of the Bologna Process Framework was that students would be recognized as equal partners and involved at every level of decision making. Sadly enough this is, ten years after this promise was made, still non-existent. In no European country, students are involved at every level.”

So, what went wrong?

The objective of the Bologna seminar, which will take place on 8 and 9 December 2011 in Aghveran will be to look into the current (burning) issues of student participation in higher education governance, from institutional to national and international levels, outlining the main problems and obstacles, looking for examples of good practice and proposing a way forward.

Participants: this seminar will around gather 100 policy-makers, representatives of higher education institutions, decision makers, staff and students. It is open to all 47 countries of the European Higher Education Area.
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8 December 2011

13:00-14:00 Lunch

12:00-14:00 Registration of participants at the front desk

14:00-14:30 Opening of the seminar
   - Welcome by Mr. Armen Ashotyan, the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia
   - Welcome by Mr. Jean-Philippe Restoueix, Council of Europe
   - Welcome by Mr. Allan Päll, Chairperson of the European Students’ Union

14:30-15:30 First session: Student participation in the European Higher Education Area: setting the scene
   Chair: Karine Harutyunyan
   - Introduction by Mr Jean-Philippe Restoueix, Council of Europe
   - “Student participation: main developments and challenges”, by Dr Manja Klemenčič, Post-doctoral researcher, Centre for Education Policy Studies, University of Ljubljana
   - “Mapping the status of student participation in Europe”, by Karl Agius, member of Social Affairs Committee of ESU

Discussion

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-17:15 Second session: National policies on student participation in institutional governance
   Chair: Dr Per Nyborg, former Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research and Head of the Bologna Secretariat from 2003-2005 (Norway)
   - “National policy on student participation in institutional governance: example of Armenia”, by the representative of the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia
   - “National policy on student participation in institutional governance: example of Finland”, Dr Terhi Nokkala, Research Fellow, Finnish Institute for Educational Research
   - “National policy on student participation in institutional governance: example of Germany”, Mr Bastian Baumann, Higher Education Consultant

Discussion
19:00 Dinner hosted by the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia

Wrap-up of the first day

9 December 2011

8:00–9:00 Breakfast

9:00–10:30 Third session: Student participation in quality assurance of higher education

Chair: Council of Europe

- “Student participation in quality assurance of higher education: view of ENQA”, by Ms Helka Kekäläinen, Vice-President, ENQA
- “ESU Quality Assurance Pool and QUEST project outcomes”, by Mr Allan Päll, ESU Chairperson and Ms Liliya Ivanova, Member of the Students’ Union Development Committee of ESU
- “Student-Centred Learning and its Challenges in Europe”, by Prof. Jussi Välimaa, Institute for Educational Research of the University of Jyväskylä, Finland

10:30–11:45 Three parallel working group sessions (world café concept\(^1\)).

1. **First session**: How would you describe the coherency of legislative provision for student participation with the actual practice both on the national and institutional level?
   **Facilitator**: ESU student

2. **Second session**: How can students’ involvement in quality assurance make students’ voice heard and advance the learning environment. Please elaborate according to the following levels:
   a) internal quality assurance mechanisms on the HEI level
   b) involvement in external review
   c) involvement in Quality Assurance Agencies’ governance
   **Facilitator**: Ms Helka Kekäläinen, ENQA

3. **Third session**: How student participation in the higher education governance enhances the active citizenship
   **Facilitator**: Jean-Philippe Restoueix, Council of Europe

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\(^1\) [http://www.theworldcafe.com/method.html](http://www.theworldcafe.com/method.html)
11:45-12:00  Coffee-break

12:00-12:45  An information session on the presentation of study on Higher Education Graduate Labor Demand and Employment in Armenia

   Respondent: ESU, Students’ Advancement of Graduates’ Employability, Bologna With Students’ Eyes 2012

12:45-14:00  Lunch

14:00-14:30  Feedback from working groups sessions

14:30-15:00  Introductory Session to the Panel debate

   “The Challenges from Budapest: the ESU declaration”, Mr Allan Päll, Chairperson of the European Students’ Union

   Respondent: Dr Per Nyborg, former Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research and Head of the Bologna Secretariat from 2003-2005 (Norway)

15:00-16:00  Panel debate: How can universities encourage student participation in institutional governance?

   Moderator: Mr. Bastian Baumann, Higher Education Consultant

   Panel members:
   - a representative of national authorities of Armenia;
   - a representative of national authorities of another European country
   - a university representative
   - a student from Armenia
   - Allan Päll, ESU
   - Per Nyborg

16:00-16:30  Coffee-break

16:30-17:00  Presentation of the Final report by the General Rapporteur

   Ms. Milica Popović, Council of Europe expert

   Adoption of conclusions

17:00  Closing of the seminar