



Embedding Professional Short-Cycle Higher Education in the (Higher) Education System

Official Bologna seminar

20-21 January 2011 - BUDAPEST, Hungary

Newsletter 1 - November 30, 2010

The Short Cycle Higher Education (SCHE) can be seen as an important degree in a National Higher Education Area. A lot of countries have a long history for using such programmes - and others have just started the discussions after the ministers' conference on higher education in 2005. In that conference it was decided to give countries the possibility to have an official degree, as 'the short cycle linked to or within the first cycle'. A set of Dublin Descriptors was written for the SCHE and nowadays this degree can be seen as an official cycle in the Bologna process.

The implementation of a degree or a reform of the situation in a higher education system with a certain history needs time, sometimes for a period of years. But SCHE plays an important role in the education systems, as a 'bridge' between VET and HE, Higher Vocational and Professional Education and (professional) Bachelor and between Colleges and Universities. Lifelong Learning can't do without a well situated position for the SCHE in the system, with a well defined combination of professional and academic competences.

This will be input for the seminar, in itself an issue to talk about for hours... as it has been as part of the Bologna Process and in the developments we have seen in the last decade. But besides this we have another interesting basis for the discussions during the seminar: The end report of a EURASHE-survey, to get a clear picture of the situation in the Bologna-countries with the SCHE in the national higher education areas. This survey can be seen as an 'update' on the EURASHE-report which was published in 2003 and turned out to be the basis for the decision in 2005 to accept the SCHE as a regular degree. So, may be this survey can be again used for another 'push' for this kind of programmes, to be used in countries which are busy with giving the SCHE a relevant place in their national qualifications framework.

An example of such a dynamic country is Hungary. After the first step of having the Bachelor-Master structure implemented in the Hungarian Higher Education Area, the next one is to give existing shorter programmes a formal position in this area, such as the programmes for Higher Vocational Education. May be there is a need for more flexibility, more possibilities for transition from degree-programmes to other higher degree-programmes. So, may be the outcomes of the survey by EURASHE can be seen as a source for inspiration for Hungary. And of course for all other countries is this kind of transition and also looking for a way the education institutions are able to play a role in the underlying process.

That's why there is this seminar on 'embedding the SCHE in the higher education system'. You are welcome in Budapest.

The Organisation Committee

Ms Katalin Gyongyosi, Ernő Keszei, Hungarian Ministry of National Resources

Balázs Ferkelt, Vice-Rector, Budapest Business School

Michal Karpisek, Vice-president, Hans Daale, Chair WG LLL, EURASHE

Organisers of the seminar

The Bologna seminar is a joint initiative of:

- Ministry of National Resources of Hungary (MNR)
- Budapest Business School (BBS)
- EURASHE.

In this way there is for the organisation of this official Bologna seminar a strong cooperation between 'stakeholders' involved in processes on a national and international level, concerning the development and implementation of (professional) SCHE-programmes in the national higher education area.

Registration

Registration for this seminar is already open. On the website: www.eurashe.eu you can find an electronic registration form and the information needed to complete it successfully.

Costs

Participation in the seminar is free of charge. Also the catering and the dinner are offered by the organisers. But participants have to pay for their own costs for travelling to Budapest and for the hotel.

Location of the venue

The venue is situated in the centre of Pest, on the east side of the Danube, in the main building of the Budapest Business School (the Markó utca Building) at Markó utca 29-31, Budapest.

Participants to be expected

We expect for this seminar a whole range of experts on the SCHE and the use of this degree in (professional) higher education, staff members of organisations involved in the way this degree is embedded in the system and members of EURASHE. So, we are hoping to meet in Budapest:

- Members of the BFUG (the Bologna countries)
- Partners in the L5 project of EURASHE
- EURASHE members, interested in SCHE developments and involved in the implementation of the underlying programmes
- Representatives of HEIs, Employers' Organisations, Quality Assurance Agencies, etc.
- Representatives of Hungarian HEIs, Colleges, Governmental institutions, Businesses, etc.

Objectives

The organisation committee is very ambitious, having in mind that after 10 years cooperation within the Bologna Process, the SCHE needs a place in the spotlights during a seminar like this one. That is why the seminar will focus on:

- the actual situation of the (Professional) SCHE in the European Higher Education Area and level 5 in the European Qualifications Framework from various aspects including:
 - o mission and position within HE systems;
 - o links to the labour market and employers;
 - o links to other sectors of higher education, as well as vocational education & training and general education (where relevant);
 - o links to National) Qualifications Frameworks, profile and characteristics of graduates and their employability;
 - o methods of teaching/learning including the use of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL);
 - o Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education;
 - o regional role of HEIs and Community Colleges (and other Colleges offering SCHE programmes) in a changing social and economical environment, in the context of life-long learning;
 - o role of national bodies, regional and local authorities in steering and (co)funding SCHE.
- Providing a platform for sharing experiences and best practices among the participants from different countries (within the E.U. and the Bologna process).
- Identifying perspectives and priorities of further development of the higher education sector and its role within the Bologna process.

Survey by EURASHE

In the seminar a great part of the presentations and workshops is reserved for the outcomes and findings of the survey and comparative study prepared within a EURASHE project: 'L5 – Missing Link' on the current position and practices at the SCHE sector throughout Europe.

The researchers in charge will provide a complex input to the seminar, together with the regional partners in the project.

Hungarian Higher Education Area

Like being said in the introduction of this newsletter the seminar will also focus on the specific situation in Hungary for the Higher Education System and the reform foreseen for the next few years. The SCHE and the way institutions are offering programmes for this degree now and in the future will also be subjects in the presentations and workshops. This means that participants from other Bologna countries will have the chance to compare their own experiences and ideas with the outcomes of the EURASHE-survey and the ideas in Hungary.

In one of the next newsletters we will give more information about what is the current situation in Hungary and the SCHE in the system.

Preliminary programme

In the programme you can find the structure for the seminar. In the next newsletters we will provide you with more details and the names of the speakers and contributors to the workshops.

| Thursday, January 20, 2011 | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 12.30 – 13.30 | Registration of participants – lunch buffet |
| 13.30 – 13.50 | Welcome and opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hungarian Ministry of National Resources (MNR)• BBS / Hungarian Rectors' Conference• EURASHE |
| 13.50 – 15.20 | Plenary presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Position of SCHE in the EHEA: European and National Policy Level: findings from the EURASHE Survey 'L5 – Missing Link in the Bologna countries'• The Hungarian situation in the Higher Education Area• Approaches to Quality Assurance in SCHE• Reflections of the Hungarian employers Panel Discussion / Questions |
| 15.20 – 15.50 | Coffee break |
| 15.50 – 17.10 | Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission and role of SCHE on a national level• Role of SCHE, other HE-awards and 'instruments' in LLL.• SCHE and its target groups - specifics of students• NQFs: Links of SCHE with HE and VET |
| 17.10 – 17.20 | Short break |
| 17.20 – 17.45 | Summary of the workshops and general conclusions |
| 19.30 | Dinner in Restaurant Alma Mater (close to the venue) |

| Friday, January 21, 2011 | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 09.00 – 10.50 | Plenary presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short summary of the outcomes of the first day of the seminar • Position of SCHE on Institutional Level, findings from the EURASHE survey 'L5 – Missing Link' – a good practice • Community Colleges in the U.S.A – the situation on a national level and within the American context and strategy. • SCHE and employability of students in a regional setting Panel Discussion / Questions |
| 10.50 – 11.20 | Coffee break |
| 11.20 – 12.40 | Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employability: SCHE & the labour market, need for specialised qualifications. • Student centred learning: Methods of learning. • The Canadian & American Experience: Community Colleges and HE • Specifics of SCHE: characteristics and requirements in a HE context |
| 12.40 – 14.00 | Lunch buffet in Restaurant Alma Mater |
| 14.00 – 15.10 | Summary of the workshops and plenary discussion |
| 15.10 – 15.40 | Conclusions of the seminar by the general rapporteur |
| 15.40 – 16.00 | Closing of the seminar |

Hotels

The organisation has made arrangements with three hotels, with different rates and 'luxury'. Of course, every participant is free to book a room in another hotel or booking directly to this hotel using an international 'booking-site', for actual and may be lower prices.

The reservation forms with special rates for the Ibis Hotel and Hotel Parlament can be found on the website of EURASHE. The reservation for the NH Hotel has be done directly to the hotel, knowing that participants in the seminar will get a general discount of 10% for the expenses made.

1 NH Hotel

- Address: BP.XIII. Vígyszínház utca 3. H-1137 Budapest (Hungary)
- About 5 minutes on foot from the venue.
- Reservation: nhbudapest@nh-hotels.com
- Room rates: approx. 70 EUR/room/night (considering the discount).

You can book rooms through the internet directly at the best available rate for the whole required period. Guests will pay for all the service. Upon the check out, you can provide 10% discount on the net room rate for the whole period you are staying in the hotel, which will be deducted from the final amount of the invoice.

2 Ibis Hotel Váci út

- Address: H-1134, Budapest, Dózsa György út 65.
- About 15 minutes to the venue (2 stops using the subway and then 5 minutes on foot).
- Room rates:
 - Room for one person: 42 EUR/room/night
 - Room for two persons: 50 EUR/room/night
- These rates contain all taxes and the buffet breakfast.

Reservation: the reservation form can be downloaded from the seminar website and should be sent back by e-mail to the following e-mail address: h1685-re@accor.com. Further information can be found on the website of the hotel: <http://www.ibishotel.com/gb/hotel-1685-ibis-budapest-vaci-ut/index.html>

Method of payment: by cash or by credit card

3 Hotel Parlament

- Address: H-1054. Budapest, Kálmán Imre u. 19.
- About 2 minutes on foot from the venue
- Room rates: 70 EUR/room/night (single) and 80 EUR/room/night (double) – *if you book a room before the 15th of December 2010.*
- You can book your room for the whole required period.
- After the 15th of December you will pay the best available rate for a single or double room.

Reservation: The reservation form which can be downloaded from the seminar website and should be sent back by e-mail to the following e-mail address: patakfalvi@parlament-hotel.hu
A credit card guarantee is needed in order to confirm the registration.

Next newsletter

The second newsletter will be published in the third week of December.