Study courses, output and problems with regard to the Bologna Process in Switzerland

Piera Dell’Ambrogio and Jean-François Stassen
Observatoire de la vie étudiante
University of Geneva
Our main objective

• To assess the Bologna reform and system from the students point of view
  ➢ Assess what?
  ➢ With which indicators?
  ➢ With which methods?
Assess what?

Bologna Declaration:
Creation of the European area of higher education
- Promotion of citizens’ mobility
- Promotion of citizens’ employability
- Continent’s overall development
Compatibility and comparability of the systems higher education
Competitiveness of the European system of higher education
Co-ordinating european policies to reach the following objectives:
- Adoption of a system of easily readable and comparable degrees in order to promote European citizens employability and the international competitiveness of the European higher education system
- Adoption of a system essentially based on **two main cycles**, undergraduate (lasting a min of 3 years) and graduate; the first cycle having to be relevant to the European **labour market** as an appropriate level of qualification; the second cycle should lead to doctorate
- Establishment of **a system of credits** (as ECTS) as a proper means of promoting the most widespread **student mobility**; credits could be acquired in non-higher education contexts
- Promotion of **mobility** by overcoming obstacles to the free movement
- Promotion of European co-operation in **quality assurance** to develop comparable criteria and methodologies
- Promotion of the necessary European dimensions in higher education (curricular development, interinstitutional co-operation, mobility schemes and integrated programmes of study, training and research)
Assess what? Bologna Declaration

Objectives:
- Creation of the European area of higher studies characterized by:
  - compatibility and comparability of the degrees
  - employability of the students
  - competitiveness of the study system

Harmonization

Means:
- Mobility (horizontal and vertical)
- Two-cycle system
- ECTS
Assess what? Bologna Declaration

Additional conferences:
2001 (Prague): - lifelong learning
  - students participate in and influence the organisation and content of education at universities
  - promoting the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area
2003 (Berlin): - supplement to degree
2005 (Bergen):
2007 (London):
2009 (Louvain):
Assess what? BolognaProcess

Swiss specificites

• Two cycles = basic studies
• Swiss universities system harmonization
• Focused on democratisation
Assess what?

- Bologna Declaration (1999, agreement between states)
- Harmonisation

- Magna Charta Universitatum (1988, agreement between universities)
- Autonomy, liberty for universities

Freedom within Harmonization
Which assessing methods?

• Are the Bologna objectives realized?
  Impossible to give a response

• Are the Bologna means realized?
  Possible to try to give a response
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2 cycle system</th>
<th>Mobility</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is it implemented?</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does it work?</td>
<td>+/-</td>
<td>+/-</td>
<td>???</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it desirable, good?</td>
<td>???</td>
<td>???</td>
<td>???</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it improving?</td>
<td>???</td>
<td>???</td>
<td>???</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessing the 2 cycle system

• In every swiss university and HES (HES=Vocational higher studies), the 2 cycle system is implemented.
• It works.
• Is the duration of the studies under control?
• The Bachelor-Master system is replacing the Licence-Diplôme system…
Graduate or undergraduate registrations of the new students at the University of Geneva in the BA-MA system between 1998 and 2010.
• Thus,
The average study duration has increased after Bologna
• But,
The students think that