

# “The Lisbon Recognition Convention – Principles and Practice: the students’ point of view”

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*Is the LRC enough to guarantee  
mobility in Higher Education?*

# Importance of Mobility in HE

## *Continued increase for the last 20 years*

### 2009

- 115.500 German students enrolled at foreign universities
- An average 62 of 1000 German students are enrolled at a foreign university



**Increase of 8.1 % compared to 2008**

### 1991

- An average 20 of 1000 German students are enrolled at a German university



**Increase of over 200 % compared to 2009**

# Importance of Mobility in Higher Education

## **Countries 2011**

- 75 % of all German students that do an semester abroad were enrolled in European countries
- Preferred countries: Spain, France, GB

## **Length of stay/point in time in the course of education**

- 4-6 months, usually between third and sixth semester

## **Subjects of study**

- Especially students studying cultural-, economic-, social science and sports

# Recognition of academic achievement *in 2007*

- 50 % of European universities used ECTS
- 41 % of interviewed students had no problems with recognition at all
- 23 % of interviewed German students said that there wasn't any process of recognition
- Even though that there were "*learning agreements*", 83 % of interviewed students had to verify their academic achievement in their home universities again



**Mistrust of what students learned abroad?**

# Recognition of academic achievement *in 2011 – an improvement?!*

- If ECTS was used at the host university, 66 % of interviewed students said that recognition of the academic achievement caused no difficulties
  - **Increase of 25 % compared to 2007!**
  
- Even if ECTS was used, 35 % of interviewed students said that there was no recognition of academic achievement or only parts of it were recognised
  - **Increase compared to 2007**

# Recognition of academic achievement

## *types of verification (2011)*

- Content and formal verification 31,7 %
- Only content verification 7,4 %
- Only formal verification 46,2 %
- No verification because of the same curriculum between the home and host university 1,6 %



**But: content verification should not be a part of the recognition process**

# Lisbon Recognition Convention

## *The Reversal of Evidence*

- Main legal instrument for recognition of qualification in higher education
- Sets the basic principles for recognition
- LRC Article III 3 (5) „*The responsibility to demonstrate that an application does not fulfill the relevant requirements lies with the body undertaking the assessment.*”



### **Reversal of evidence**

- Academic achievement of students has to be recognized, except if the university can prove that there are not equal



**That article changes the point of view about recognition in higher education**



# Lisbon Recognition Convention

## *What are problems?!*

### e.g. Germany

- One decade between signing and ratification of LRC
- Only 9 of 16 federal states integrate the LRC in their law of higher education
- In general, universities are characterised by ignorance and dissimulation of LRC



**“Sectionalism“ in higher education curricula**



**Different practice of recognition at universities beyond the LRC**

# Lisbon Recognition Convention

## *Practice examples of recognition in at German universities*

1. No verification
2. Particular mobility modules
3. Particular practice semester as a precondition for the Bachelor or Master certificate – but with no credits
4. Only recognition of practical courses
5. ... there are no borders of creativity

# Lisbon Recognition Convention

*No recognition – reason for not going  
abroad?*

**81 % of interviewed German students said that their  
are worried that their academic achievements would  
not be recognised**

# Lisbon Recognition Convention

## *Suggestions*

- Better information service for students, professors and assistants of universities

 **Guidelines**

- **Distinct regulation** in law of higher education (and LRC has to be part of law)
- We need a new definition of **competence**

**Input thinking**  **Learning outcome**

# Lisbon Recognition Convention *Suggestions*

Learning  
outcomes

*“Learning outcomes are statements of what a learner is expected to know, understand and/or be able to demonstrate after completion of a process of learning.”*

- Learning outcomes are a way to “internationalize“ the curricula
- New way to verify academic achievements of students

**learnt content**



**learnt competence**

## Conclusion

*Is the LRC enough to guarantee mobility in  
Higher Education?*

 **The LRC has a big potential to increase  
the mobility, if there will be a stringent  
appliance**

**But: The LRC cannot alone increase the mobility**

 **86 % of interviewed German students  
said that general problems with financing  
are a reason for not going abroad**



