



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT  
**LEUVEN**



# ECTS Label K.U.Leuven

Autumn International Conference  
Promoting International Student Mobility:  
Awarding Credit for Coursework and Recognising University Degrees

Bonn 8-9 November 2011

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# About K.U.Leuven

- Founded in 1425
- Research intensive university
- Comprehensive university:
  - 55 Bachelor's
  - 125 Master's
  - 60 Advanced Master's
- Ca. 37.000 students
- Internationalisation
  - Ca 1.900 courses in English
  - 2 Ba, 38 Ma, 40 adv Ma in English
  - Over 5.000 international students mainly at masters and doctoral level



# About K.U.Leuven

- Association with 12 'university colleges'



- University College Leuven (K.H. Leuven)

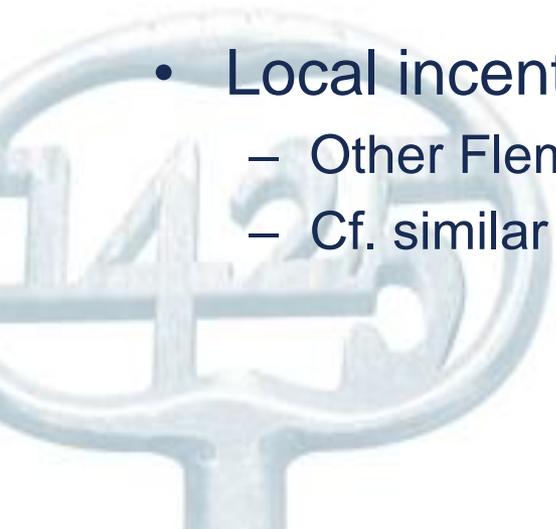
# ECTS Label Holder

- Since April 2005
  - 1st label
  - Call Period 2003-2006
  - Valid 3 years, prolonged 1 year
- Renewal in May 2009
  - Renewed label
  - First step national screening
  - Call Period 2009-2013
  - Valid for 4 years
- K.H.Leuven Label holder as of 2011



# Reasons for applying

- Importance of ECTS
  - Flemish Legal Framework
  - ECTS already applied as an internal tool for mobility
    - for a systematic approach of the course catalogue
  - Advantages for the institution:
    - international perspective
    - internal aims
- Local incentive
  - Other Flemish universities did also apply successfully.
  - Cf. similar phenomena elsewhere (e.g. Portugal, Turkey,...)



# Required efforts at KULeuven

- What was not an effort?
  - Implementing ECTS ‘credits’
  - Describing programmes and courses (ECTS User’s Guide)
  - Methodology for student mobility (+ recognition of work)
  - ❖ Was already done.
- What was required?
  - Some small additions to the university’s website
  - Providing a translated version of the full course catalogue
  - Translating all programme and course descriptions into English



# Required efforts at KHLeuven

- Implementing ECTS template across campuses
  - ❖ Largest effort
- Some small additions to the university's website
- Providing a translated version of the full course catalogue
- Translating all programme and course descriptions into English
  - ❖ Translations as such smaller effort (limited offer)



# What did we do?

- Establish complete dossiers of 3 outgoing and incoming exchange students
- Implement the ECTS information package
- Translate the course catalogue
  - Set up of a translated catalogue similar to standard catalogue
  - Taking advantage of available structured information
  - Introducing a teaching language disclaimer
  - No translations where an English equivalent is in place (on programme level)
- <http://onderwijsaanbod.kuleuven.be/opleidingen/v/e/index.htm>

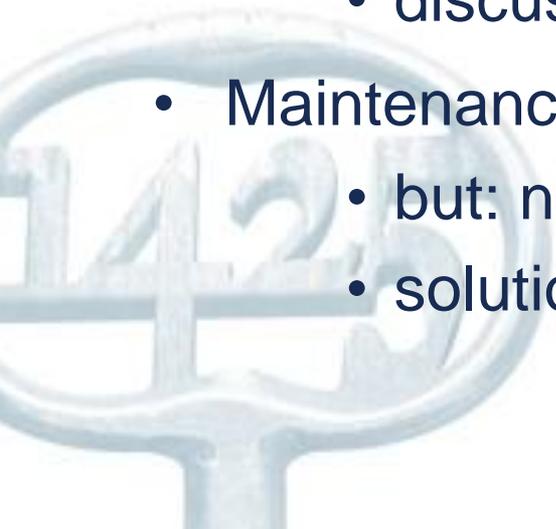


# Method for the translations

- Policy
  - Principle: faculties and teacher are responsible
  - Service: translations offered ('best effort')
  - Check: translations have to be available
- Working with students
  - Win/win (CV – budget)
  - Background:
    - Language/Literature or Translator/Interpreter English-Dutch
    - Native speakers with sufficient knowledge of Dutch
  - Senior students with good grades
  - Tools (website, manual, databases, tracking)
- Two big efforts (2004 and 2008) + recurring budget
  - 2004: ca 100 programmes, 3000 courses
  - 2008: all programmes and courses (7000+)

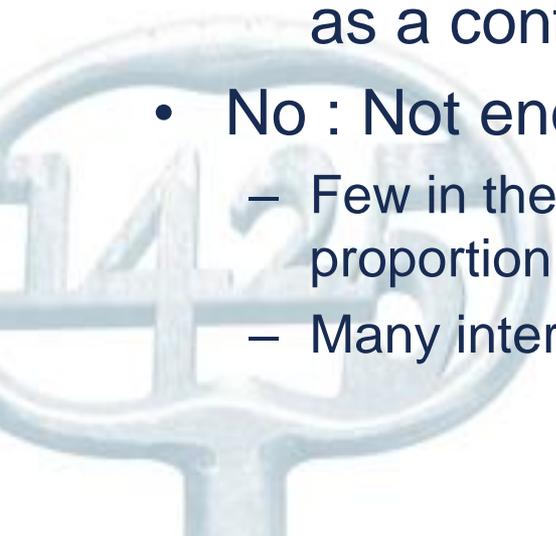
# Difficulties

- Acceptance within institution
  - but: ECTS as lever for good practices
- Huge translation effort
  - but: highly structured, scale as an advantage
- Individual Files to be completed
  - but: no site visit
  - discussion about less than 30 ECTS per semester
- Maintenance
  - but: not easy to check
  - solutions, such as summaries



# Meeting our expectations

- Yes
  - As a recognition of a way of working
  - Advantages in internationalisation
    - Recognition of quality
    - Possible basis for future applications
    - Easy to use for learning agreements
  - K.H.Leuven:  
as a confirmation of its goals as a college
- No : Not enough label holders
  - Few in the first round, more in second round but still not in proportion to number of institutions using ECTS
  - Many international partners outside ECTS-label group



# Why would other institutions apply?

- Importance of ECTS on a daily basis
  - For structuring programmes and courses
  - For structuring the information in the course catalogue
  - As a tool for the recognition of learning
  - As a tool for international comparison
- Significance of the label
- K.H.Leuven: ‘all foreign politics are internal politics’





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