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

Prof. Dr. L. Melis, Vice-Rector of Education
Jan Raeymaekers, Educational policy service
Contents

About K.U.Leuven
ECTS Label Holder
Reasons for applying
Required efforts
Method
Difficulties
Meeting our expectations?
Why would other institutions apply?
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’
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

Prof. Dr. L. Melis, Vice-Rector of Education