



**The Master after ten years of
Bologna**

HRK Masterkonferenz

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The overview

- What is now in place
- What we found in 2009
- Where we are now
- What we might hope for post-2012

What is now in place

- The Bologna second cycle
- Agreed bandwidth of ECTS and duration
- Dublin descriptors
- Seven NQFs; EQF level 7
- Array of Joint Masters (ERASMUS MUNDUS and others)
- Achievements of Tuning
- Helsinki (2003): the expectation of a 'variety of profiles and orientations'

What we found in 2009

- Three broad categories of Master: post-Bachelor; pre-doctorate; post-experience
- Problems of 'readability' deriving from: tradition and innovation; binary considerations; the drift into English
- Proliferation of designations
- Misdesignations
- Patches of fog: cross-border progression; selection; the status of 'lifelong'; lack of shared practice in recognition of prior learning

What we see today

- Policy frame at European level: Polish presidency; modernisation agenda (incl ERASMUS Master proposal); Bucharest 2012
- Continuing polymorphism of Master, but in much more volatile HE environment
- Confusion in the graduate labour market
- Master still the most energetically marketed, the least supported by public funding, the most versatile and the least readable of the three Bologna qualifications

What to hope for post-2012?

- Revision of ISCED classification
- Clearer definition and measurement of mobility
- Improved recognition procedures
- Consolidation of NQFs and clarity of designation in the second cycle
- Improved readability based on Master 'markers'
- Review of EU Directive 2005/36/EC (professional qualifications) synergising with Bologna
- Elimination of tension between versatility and readability

Thank you for your attention

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