



Europe Beyond 2007 European Higher Education and Research Area

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Tbilisi, 30 June 2006



Political Challenges

- Economic changes
 - Competition, globalization & knowledge-based economy
 - More flexible & demanding labour market
- Social changes
 - Demographical development (“ageing Europe”)
 - More diverse society & need for social inclusion
- Wider Europe – A changing EU with new borders
 - EU 25 and European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)



Central role of education and training

- Integrated Lifelong Learning (LLL) Programme 2007-2013
- November 2002: Copenhagen process – Declaration on vocational training
- March 2002: Barcelona European Council: European Union as “World Quality Reference”
- March 2000: Lisbon European Council: Most competitive knowledge-based economy by 2010
- June 1999: Bologna process – Declaration on higher education



Challenges for universities

- **Fragmentation of European higher education**
- **Over-detailed national regulations**
- **Tendency to uniformity, no world-class research**
- **Under-use of produced knowledge**
- **Not ready to compete for students, researchers and resources in globalising world**
- **Insufficient funds in education and research**
- **Lower access rates to higher education**



EU's action in higher education

- **Higher education (HE) competence of the Member States**
- **EC offers additional programmes and actions for improvements in HE:**
 - **Erasmus**
 - **Tempus**
 - **Research Framework Programmes (FP 7)**
 - **Marie Curie Actions**



Role of Universities

- **Europe's universities are crucial for the creation of a true knowledge economy.**
- **Differentiated approach: specific balance of education, research and innovation (“knowledge triangle”) for each institution which is best suited to its role in its region or country.**
- **Framework within which universities can become stronger players in the global knowledge society and economy.**
- **The primary goal must be to achieve excellence in the teaching and research functions of universities.**



Modernisation of European Universities

Propositions of the EC to the Member States:

1. Break down the barriers around universities in Europe
2. Create real autonomy and accountability for universities
3. Provide incentives for structured partnerships with the business community
4. Provide the right skills and competencies for the labour market
5. Reduce the funding gap and make funding work harder in education and research
6. Enhance inter- and transdisciplinarity
7. Activate knowledge through interaction with society
8. Acknowledge and reward excellence at the highest level
9. Make the European Higher Education Area and European Research Area more visible and attractive in the world



Erasmus Mundus

- Co-operation and mobility programme in the field of higher education which promotes the European Union as a centre of excellence in learning around the world.
- It supports European top-quality Masters Courses and enhances the visibility and attractiveness of European higher education in third countries.
- EU-funded scholarships for third country nationals participating in these Masters Courses (2006-2007: three Georgians), as well as scholarships for EU-nationals studying in third countries.
- Three Georgian students selected in 2005-2006 (out of a total of 808), 2006-2007 (out of a total of 1.377)



Sources

- EC Communications on the role of universities
 - Mobilising the Brainpower of Europe: enabling universities to make their full contribution to the Lisbon Strategy (20.04.2005)
 - Delivering on the Modernisation Agenda for Universities: Education, Research and Innovation (10.05.2006)

More information :

http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.html