

Eye for detail + training

National Bologna Seminar

EUPA Office: Conference Hall

Friday, 15 June 2012

Preliminary remarks

- Presentation objective: *To share my training experience on ECTS – DS Labels in Brussels last March*
- Working definitions: *explained in following slides (for ease of reference)*
- Key for success: *Eye for detail + Training (Team work)*

Advice-warning



BABEL

BAB = *confused tongues*

EL = *God*



Concept = *confusion due to lack of clear communication*

Labels...why?



Definition

(Online Dictionary)



An item used to identify something or someone, as a small piece of paper or cloth attached to an article to designate its origin, owner, contents, use, or destination

'Our labels'



ECTS

(European Credit Transfer System)

ECTS is...

- + a **learner-centred system** for credit accumulation and transfer...based on **the transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes**.
- + It aims **to facilitate planning, delivery, evaluation, recognition and validation of qualifications and units of learning** as well as **student mobility**
- + ECTS is **widely used in formal higher education** and can be applied to **other lifelong learning activities**.

Diploma Supplement (1)

1. The Diploma Supplement (DS) ***accompanies a higher education diploma, providing a standardised description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies completed by its holder.***
1. National higher education institutions produce the supplement according to a template jointly developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO.

Diploma Supplement (2)

It has **eight sections of information** identifying:-

1. the holder of the qualification
2. the qualification
3. its level and function
4. the contents and results gained
5. certification of the supplement
6. details of the national higher education system
7. plus any additional information

ECTS Label

1. An ECTS label will be **awarded to institutions which apply ECTS the proper way in all first and second cycle degree programmes**. The label will raise the profile of the institution as **a transparent and reliable partner in European and international cooperation**.

2. The criteria for the label will be:
 - (a) a Course Catalogue (online or hard copy) in two languages (or only in English for programmes taught in English),
 - (b) use of ECTS credits,
 - (c) samples of learning Agreements,
 - (d) Transcripts of Records and
 - (e) proofs of academic recognition.

Award of labels (1)

The Commission (DG Education and Culture) awards labels to Higher Education Institutions that apply the European Credit Transfer System and/or the Diploma Supplement correctly in all respects.

Award of labels (2)

1. Applications for the ECTS/DS labels can be submitted by a Higher Education Institution that has been awarded a Standard or an Extended Erasmus University Charter (Standard Charter and Student placements).
2. The ECTS and Diploma Supplement Labels are honorary distinctions.

Awards of labels (3)

1. For more information on the Diploma Supplement:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc1239_en.htm

2. For more information on the European Credit Transfer System:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc48_en.htm

Award Ceremony 2012 in Antwerp



Testimonials

1. **“It’s a sign of transparency”**
(Ghent University, Belgium, *Genevieve Cochez*)
2. **“It’s reflected in new cooperation offers”**
(Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic,
Associate Professor Miloslav Svec, Vice-Rector)
3. **“An incentive to get things done”**
(*Karlsruhe University of Applied Science, Germany,*
Dr. Joachim Lembach, Director, International Office)

EACEA

- Meaning of term

Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency

- Terms of reference of EACEA

responsible for the management of certain parts of the EU's programmes in the fields of education, culture, youth, citizenship and audio-visual

- Fully operational - **1 January 2006**

- **7 Key Community Programmes partly / fully delegated to EACEA**
Lifelong Learning, Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Culture, Youth in Action, Europe for Citizens and Media, as well as several international Cooperation Agreements in the field of higher education.

Pre Training Seminar Activity

- EACEA sent a **number of documents for participants' evaluation**
 - + Course Catalogue
 - + Outgoing and Incoming student files (ECTS Label)
 - + DS Label
- All **feedback was submitted** by 8 March 2012
- Training Seminar was mainly based on **feedback of 18-20 countries**
- I sent full **feedback on three sets of documents** (see above)

Advice

- Bologna **EXPERT**...term may be misleading
- Training seminar outcomes – **more questions than answers**
- Need of **teamwork**
- Requirements for an effective Bologna expert: **patience, eye for detail, ready to accept diversity**

General Information

- Venue of Training Seminar: **Auditorium of Madou Tower** (Brussels)
- Participants: **100** (EC, National Agencies, Bologna Experts, including evaluators)
- Training seminar structure: **Theme + QA session**
- Training seminar **objectives**:
 - (a) To explain evaluation-selection process for 2012
 - (b) To share pre-training seminar assessments

EU Targets

- **Increase mobilities**
- Have **more successful ECTS DS applicants**
- Achieve its **2020 strategy objectives** in collaboration with all stakeholders
- Focus on **link between ECTS and Learning Outcomes**
- **Support through dialogue** (standardising different practices)

Deadlines

- **1 June 2012 (flexible)**
Submission of local applications to National Agency
- **2 June 2012 till (?) September 2012**
National Agency / Bologna Experts to give advice and make recommendations
- **Before or not later than 1 October 2012**
National Agency to submit ALL applications (without comments) to EACEA
- **By 31 December 2012**
One evaluation session at EU level to select successful applications

Essentials

- **Announcing deadlines to all concerned.** How?
When? How?
- **Familiarity with following documents** :—
 - ECTS Users' Guide
 - ECTS and DS Labels application documents
 - ECTS and DS evaluations sheets
- **Clear understanding of ECTS and DS** (as
'concepts' and their 'implications')

Helpdesk

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/call_experts/call_experts_2007_en.php

Evaluating course catalogue

- Each part of the catalogue has to be scored, with comments to justify scoring
- Scoring system:
 - 1 = 'missing' or 'unavailable'
 - 2 = 'inadequate'
 - 3 = 'acceptable'
 - 4 = 'good'
 - 5 = 'excellent'
- Items in bold

If any of these items is missing, overall score should be '1' for the relevant section & overall assessment conclusion 'rejected'

Course Catalogue Structure

- Information on Institution
 - + List of programmes offered
 - + ECTS credit allocation
- General description
 - + Qualification awarded
 - + Programme profile
 - + Course structure diagram
 - + Level of qualification
 - + Key Learning Outcomes
 - + Exam regulations, assessment, grading
- Individual course units
 - + Course unit title
 - + Level of course unit
 - + No of ECTS credits allocated
 - + Course contents
 - + Language of instruction
 - + Type of course unit
 - + Level of course unit
 - + LOs of course unit
 - + Assessment methods

Case study 1 – Course Catalogue

- 18 responses [16 assessors marked it as ‘insufficient’]
- Considerable variation in scoring
- Main comments
 - + Template was clear and easily navigable
 - + Difference of information between English & Portuguese versions
 - + Course structure should be clearer
 - + Key Learning Outcomes poorly specified
- Avoid writing “Course contents will soon be available”

Case study 2 – Student Files

- 18 assessments for OUTGOING & INCOMING student
- Outgoing – 7 ‘successful’, 11 ‘rejected’
- Incoming – 12 ‘successful’, 6 ‘rejected’
- Some general comments
 - + Need of more details about work placement (assessment plan)
 - + Attention for detail, such as mobility dates
 - + Question: what constitutes complete recognition of work placement?

Case study 3 – DS Labels

- 20 evaluators
 - + (Case study 1 - 7 'successful', 13 'rejected')
 - + (Case study 2 – 4 'successful', 16 'rejected')
 - + (Case study 3 – 5 'successful', 15 'rejected')
 - + (Case study 4 – 4 'successful', 16 'rejected')
- General comments
 - + No problem with preamble (minor variations are acceptable)
 - + Except for one DS, structure was fine

Personal comments

- Important to **participate in these training sessions**
- Some/many **questions were left unanswered**
- Post-lunch sessions became slightly unfocused due to 'excessive' time allowed for Q&As in the morning sessions
- There is **the richness of diversity even in this sector**
- Need of an **on-going experience of learning from others**

Conclusions

- ECTS DS Labels require **training people involved in the entire process**
- **Need of training for Bologna Experts** (e.g., a workshop / seminar to practice evaluations)
- Keeping **in touch with EACEA Website**
- Action plan to ensure that deadlines announced in training seminar is staggered accordingly and that communications are **CLEAR and offer ACCURATE GUIDANCE for applicants**

Thank you!