A European perspective on Lifelong Learning

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Greetings from Ireland!
Outline of presentation

• Bologna tools which assist with Lifelong Learning (LLL)
• Current implementation of LLL in European universities
• Broader context for LLL and its importance in Europe today
Bologna tools for LLL

National and European Qualifications Frameworks

- ECTS and credit accumulation
- Recognition
Part-time/flexible learning

## Institutional Strategies

### Fig. 3 Elements included in the institutional learning and teaching strategy or policy

What elements does your institutional learning and teaching strategy/policy address or include? (Q. 9.1; N = 260)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Providing international opportunities</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic staff development</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures to improve teaching</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum design, approval and/or evaluation</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student support services</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning environment</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modes of delivery (e-learning, lectures, group work, flipped classrooms, etc.)</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing lifelong learning opportunities</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course design, approval and/or evaluation</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The role of students in their learning</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative goals/benchmarks to reach the strategy/policy goals</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An operational plan for implementing the strategy/policy</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: EUA: Trends 2018, Learning and Teaching in the European Higher Education Area
Growing demand....

**Fig. 18 Inclusive education provision**
Do the following statements reflect the current situation at your institution? (Q. 29; N = 290)

- **Increasing participation in higher education is a key priority at our institution**
  - Yes: 64%
  - To some extent: 27%
  - No: 7%
  - I don't know: 2%

- **There is a growing demand for degree programmes provided under flexible arrangements**
  - Yes: 31%
  - To some extent: 49%
  - No: 12%
  - I don't know: 9%

- **There is a growing demand for short-term (non-degree) learning opportunities, with a certificate upon course completion**
  - Yes: 25%
  - To some extent: 37%
  - No: 27%
  - I don't know: 11%

- **The possibilities offered by e-learning have boosted our education provision**
  - Yes: 25%
  - To some extent: 49%
  - No: 23%
  - I don't know: 3%

- **Enrolment in courses or programmes provided under flexible arrangements has increased in the past three years**
  - Yes: 22%
  - To some extent: 35%
  - No: 27%
  - I don't know: 16%

Source: EUA: Trends 2018, Learning and Teaching in the European Higher Education Area
**Fig. 23 Measures offered for lifelong learners**
Which of the following measures does your institution offer for lifelong learners? (Q. 30; N = 288)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recognition of prior learning</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexible study programmes/learning paths</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses provided in collaboration with other higher education institutions</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance and counselling services for adult learners</td>
<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuing professional development short courses that can be accumulated into a degree</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open online learning courses/MOOCs</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses provided in collaboration with other education institutions from other sectors (schools, vocational)</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online degree programmes</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses provided in collaboration with for-profit providers</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
And different systems...

Source: EUA: Trends 2018, Q.31, unpublished data
Regulations not adapted...

Figure 2.28: Incentives/support to the use of new technologies in teaching and learning in higher education (other than direct public funding), 2016/17

- Legal framework has been adapted to support the use of digitally-based teaching & learning methods
- ITE and CPD for higher education teaching staff includes training on using digitally-based teaching & learning methods
- Regular stakeholder events are organised on using digitally-based teaching & learning methods in higher education
- External quality assurance requirements adapted to include the use of digitally-based teaching & learning methods
- The legal framework for RPL and the recognition of qualifications adapted to digital learning and digital certification

Limited student grants...

Figure 5.24: Presence of age limits applicable to financial support, full-time home students, 2016/17

Broader European context

- Demographic decline
- Skills shortages
- “At risk” jobs
- Social challenges linked to levels of education

So why do we make LLL so difficult?
Can we afford to continue like this?
Danke Schön!

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