



European Commission

Supporting and improving education and training in Europe

BG CS DA DE EL EN ES ET FI FR HR HU IT LT LV MT NL PL PT RO SK SL SV

This information is only available in EN for the moment. Other language versions will be added shortly.

The Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area

What is it?

The Bologna Process is a collective effort of public authorities, universities, teachers, and students, together with stakeholder associations, employers, quality assurance agencies, international organisations, and institutions, including the European Commission.

The main focus is:

the introduction of the three cycle system (bachelor/master/doctorate)

[strengthened quality assurance](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/quality-relevance_en.htm) (http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/quality-relevance_en.htm) and

easier [recognition of qualifications](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/skills-qualifications_en.htm) (http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/skills-qualifications_en.htm) and periods of study

Why is it needed?

Widely differing education and training systems in Europe have traditionally made it hard for Europeans to use [qualifications from one country to apply for a job or a course in another](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/skills-qualifications_en.htm) (http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/skills-qualifications_en.htm). Increased compatibility between education systems makes it easier for students and job seekers to move within Europe.

At the same time, the Bologna reforms help to make European universities and colleges more competitive and attractive to the rest of the world.

The Bologna Process also supports the [modernisation of education and training systems](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/education-technology_en.htm) (http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/education-technology_en.htm) to make sure these meet the needs of a changing labour market. This is important as the proportion of [jobs requiring high skills](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/skills-development_en.htm) (http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/skills-development_en.htm) grows, and the demand for [innovation and entrepreneurship](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/entrepreneurship_en.htm) (http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/entrepreneurship_en.htm) increases.

What has been done so far?

A lot of progress has been made in implementing the reforms, as shown by the regular reports .

In Bucharest in April 2012, the Education Ministers identified three key priorities for the future: [mobility](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/mobility-cbc_en.htm) (http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/mobility-cbc_en.htm), employability, and [quality](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/tools_en.htm) (http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/tools_en.htm) .

Who are the members?

A [list of the participating countries](#) [↗] is available on the website of the EHEA.

Find out more

- [European Higher Education Area](#) [↗]
- Communiqués of the ministerial meetings: Prague , Berlin , Bergen , London , Leuven/Louvain-La-Neuve , Budapest and Vienna , and Bucharest .

EU legislation/initiatives

- [The Bologna process: setting up the European Higher Education Area](#) [↗]
- [EU's modernisation agenda for higher education](#) [↗] (COM/2011/567)

- [An agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems](#) [↗] (SEC/2011/1063)
- EU-27 Education Ministers conclusions of [Modernisation of higher education](#) [↗] (2011/C 371/09)

Education policy (http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/index_en.htm)

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