



# **PARTNERSHIPS IN THE BOLOGNA PROCESS: EXPERIENCES and CHALLENGES**

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and  
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ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

Launched with a very ambitious and comprehensive goal, the Bologna Process has been assumed by HE officials from signatory countries as a policy task. It has benefited from the support of universities and other HE institutions as from the very beginning. At the same time, several European organizations (such as the EUA, EURASHE, ENQA, and others) and national stakeholders have offered their ideas and precious advice in order to get the progress of the 'action lines'. Step by step, an institutional framework has been developed as a solid fundamental component of the Bologna Process implementation. After more than half decade, findings of different assessments reflect a general right way of the Bologna Process. This is the first side of the *coin*. HE regulation and other public policy measures which address HE institutions tend to determine convergence among different systems, following common goals. But there is an unseen side of the *coin*. The Bologna Process like any other educational, cultural or social process, being it a carefully designed or a spontaneous one, has a hidden side that might belong to the expressed desire *while preserving cultural diversity and national traditions*. As many philosophers and education scholars observed, taking account by experiences and social experiments over the modern history, the *hidden* side offers room for individual and institutional discovery, innovation and sustainable progress. Taking the idea further, the official regulation of higher education provides a framework for the managerial approach within the university sector. Better regulation means improved external factors for better planning and strategy. But the university environment is not like any other kind of public utility, organization or enterprise. The University always needed an *Idea*. We've got great *Ideas*: *Humboldt's Idea*, *Newman's Idea*, *Gasett's Idea*, *Jasper's Idea*, *Hutchins's Idea*, *Oakeshot's Idea*, *Pelikan's Idea*, even *Kerr and Clarke's Ideas of University*. We will also need an *Idea of University* in the information age. Much of the official debate within the Bologna Process is focused on regulation and managerial approach. Someone having good inputs, effective organized processes, a stable external environment and guidelines and standards for benchmarking could, most necessarily, produce efficient educational outputs. This international event will provide the opportunity for constructive analysis and discussion of those most essential components of implementing fully the Bologna Declaration which have had a low key observation by the account of many analysts.

The conference will take place in Iasi, **on October 26-28, 2006**, on the premises of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University.

*This event aims at providing a forum for presenting and debating current views on the Bologna Process, emphasizing the role of universities partnerships and networking. The format of the conference will be a combination of paper presentation and workshops. The deadline for submitting paper abstracts is October 5, 2006.*

The Proceedings of the Conference will be published by the International Journal of Public-Private Partnerships (IPPPS) and Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi. This volume will contain presented papers and abstracts (or working in progress) as well as comprehensive reports of the workshops (or research based work).

### **Topics proposed for papers and discussion:**

1. Universities Partnerships—European and International Level
2. Universities Partnerships—National Level
3. Partnerships of universities with business sector
4. Public-Private Partnerships within EHEA (European Higher Education Area)
5. Bologna Process: Top-down decision and spontaneous order
6. and others which can be proposed by participants.

### **Intended participants:**

- Representatives of universities: academics, researchers, administrative;
- Officials from European ministries of education;
- Staff of academic organisations;
- BFUG members and Bologna promoters;
- Civil servants working in and with educational issues within the EU.

### **Registration and conference fees:**

Prospective participants are invited to register by sending their details and institutional address to either Sheffield(UK) or Iasi(Romania).  
Please, indicate how you wish to pay your fees.

The participation fee is:

- EURO 100 or GBP 75 paid before September 25, 2006
- EURO 135 or GBP 100 paid after September 25, 2006
- EURO 200 or GBP 150 paid during the conference

### **Conference Team for further contact:**

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