

Introduction to the Trends series Stressing successes and challenge

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Bologna: successes and challenge

- Has succeed in promoting a **European** Higher Education Area
- Has succeed in leading to **change in HE** all over Europe
- Challenge ahead: **Connecting EHEA and ERA** is essential for the next 10 years

Slide 1

EF1 -----; 23/02/2009

1- As first Trend wishes: European HE coming back

■ Trends 1

“The combined impact of the suggested action lines would enhance European competitiveness and thus help to consolidate (or in the eyes of many, to re-establish) it’s role and influence in the world”.

■ Trends 2

“While support for mobility was predictable and support for employability expected, the strong backing of the Bologna declaration’s aim to promote competitiveness (in the meaning of “attractiveness”) was much less foreseeable”

1- “European identity“ has been reached

- A trademark has been achieved
- The emergence of a cooperative European Area has been clearly perceived outside Europe
- European universities and national systems benefit from this Bologna attractiveness (in spite of rather poor showing in the rankings)
- But this “European identity” is still at risk in a global world

2- Bringing Changes all over Europe

- Bologna provides an extraordinary impulse for change and movement in HE all over Europe
- What else could have created such pressure for change
- How to explain it? Three factors:
 - It was in line with an existing story, the Erasmus initiative
 - It was decided by national ministers
 - It has associated actors in the field
- Danger of using the process for other purposes which concern HE but don't belong to Bologna

3- Reaching a “Europe of Knowledge” is still a challenge

- The construction of the EHEA and ERA have to be linked
- It is not enough to evoke the image of the “triangle” and, at the same time, stress only “research and innovation”. Creativity in education and including a research experience in the first cycle are main conditions for improving the research capacity of Europe
- There is a tendency to view
 - ERA as a disciplinary and sector-based domain that belongs mainly to great scientists and industry
 - EHEA as the domain where HEIs must focus
- Scientists and industry are concerned with shaping the EHEA as a precondition for the success of the ERA
- Education, research and innovation have to be promoted in all institutions and the two processes have to be highly connected