



ASEM Seminar on Credits and Learning Outcomes

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General Report

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Outline



- Lectures on the Asian and the European situation of credit systems and learning outcomes
- Working groups and discussions
- Lectures on implementation
- Results
- Recommendations

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Situation of Asian countries



- Prof. Dr. Nantana Gajasen (AUN)

- System comprising credits, NQF, QA
- Different credit systems in Asian countries, even within a country different credit systems (i.e. China)
- **Asian Credit Transfer System (ACTS):**
 - new system aiming at improving credit mobility and transparency,
 - focusing on transfer rather than on accumulation
 - based on workload (1 credit = 15-18 contact hours) and semesters
 - linked to student centered learning
 - learning outcomes are open question
 - as a common basis for all members by 2015

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European situation



■ Michael Hörig (EUA)

- ECTS,

- accepted by all members of the Bologna Process with 47 countries at system level
- based on learning outcomes and student workload (1 credit = 25-30 working hours comprising the whole average work of an average student)
- aiming at credit transfer and accumulation
- different status of implementation in the countries and HEIs

- Learning outcomes

- based on generic descriptors (QF EHEA, QF EU)
- required for modules and study programmes
- descriptions should be made public in the web

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Outcomes from working groups



- Orientations towards credits and learning outcomes in all areas divergent
- Understanding of “workload” by and large not different between the regions
 - 1 Asian credit = 1,6 ECTS
 - 4 years of study in Asia = 3 years of study in Europe
- Language problem
- More transparency needed
- Need for better systematic approach
- Open question: How to measure learning outcomes
- QA important for mutual or multilateral understanding and trust

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Implementation of credit systems and learning outcomes



- **Dr. Siret Rutiku (Estonia)**
 - ECTS and learning outcomes (LO) introduced at system level, but problems with implementation at HEI level
 - LO correspond to minimum level
 - No grading scale in use
 - Description of design and challenges of Joint Degree programmes; LO in many cases not defined insofar
- **Prof. Dr. Mihai Korca (Romania)**
 - ECTS and LO introduced at system level, but difficulties with implementation
 - Description of Joint Degree programmes

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Results: Analysis



- Both Asian and European countries aim at improving mobility and transparency for students
- Credit systems essential for improving mobility
- Credit systems in Asia and Europe different, but both are semester based and workload based,
- Difference: in Europe credits are linked to LO, in Asian countries to student workload only
- Systems in both regions oriented towards QFs
- Recognition and QA important in both regions for fostering mobility of students

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Results: Open questions



- In terms of mobility: Is degree or credit mobility predominant?
- How can we foster credits as being the main “currency” for mobility between Asian and European countries?
 - Common elements: workload of students
 - “Exchange rate” of credits: how to make it usable
- How to further develop common understanding of learning outcomes?
- How to improve mutual recognition?

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Recommendations 1-4



- Improve **information on developments** in the regions should be deepened, based on the Seminar and the descriptions at country level
- Find out the **predominant goals of mobility**
- Elaborate **common ground with credit systems and learning outcomes**
- **Promote common** developments of **study programmes** between European and Asian universities, but not necessarily with double or joint degrees (at Ba, Ma and / or PhD level)

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Recommendations 5-8



- Improve **cooperation between QA systems**
- Improve **transparency**: study programmes, credit awards and learning outcomes should (also) be presented online
- Set up a **network of Asian and European experts** of higher education for improving information and advice
- The **results** of these elaborations should will be presented **in a follow-up seminar in autumn 2011**

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