

# FORESEEN CONTENT OF THE WORKSHOP

## April, 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2005

The Workshop will last for six days, following a precise schedule:

### ***Day 1 - Reception day***

Participants will get visual contact with each other and they will all get familiarized with the city of Craiova and the two Universities - University of Craiova and University of Medicine and Pharmacy. They will receive their **badges** as well as the schedule for the following 4 days will also be distributed.

### ***Day 2 - Panel 1 - Harmonisation of the Academic Curricula in Europe***

Participants will be divided in work groups, as heterogeneous as possible and will be given the task to elaborate synthesis materials on the academic curricula in their home countries. The materials will then be analysed globally and all the participants will have the opportunity to express their opinions on the necessary lines of action in order to get the academic curricula across Europe harmonized. Special attention will be given to the inherent particularities that differentiate the medical higher education systems from the others.

The work groups will try to develop pedagogical profiles and templates for the course management system in Universities across Europe in order to achieve a responsive to needs combination between problem-based, project-based and case-based learning.

Panel 1 will have as moderators the Rectors of the two organizing Universities in Craiova.

### ***Day 3 - Panel 2 - Quality Management in Higher Education***

Following the same pattern as in Panel 1, participants will work in groups in order to assess the quality criteria that are used in the academic systems in Europe. Homogenous quality evaluation is a must for allowing free movement of professional across Europe and this is why quality management in higher education is perceived as a major issue for debate on the occasion of the Workshop.

Each group will work on elaborating a material to assess quality in their background academic systems, according to the following scheme:

1. **Data about intended achievements**  
(to be depicted from the national strategic and operational plans for higher education)  
will be compared with
2. **Data on actual achievements** (to be identified)  
in order to calculate
3. **Significant deviations from the plan**  
which allow for pointing out
4. **The SWOT matrix**  
as a basis for
5. **Corrective actions and alternatives.**

The depicted corrective actions and alternatives will then be discussed by all work groups and conclusions will be drawn on the present status and future lines of action in the field of quality management in higher education, as a prerequisite for training high-skilled labour force and for facilitating its integration and free movement within the European labour market.

Panel 2 will have as moderators directors in charge with quality assurance from the Ministry of Education Research and Youth in Bucharest and from the University of Craiova.

#### ***Day 4 - Panel 3 - Transparency of Academic Qualifications***

Work groups will be asked to initiate debates on the content and level of implementation of the *diploma supplements* on the basis of such documents brought from their home institutions. Discussions will be held precisely on the basis of real diploma supplements, by pointing out similarities and disparities in what the following chapters are concerned:

1. Information identifying the holder of the qualification;
2. Information identifying the qualification;
3. Information on the level of the qualification;
4. Information on the contents and results gained;
5. Information on the function of the qualification;
6. Additional information;
7. Certification of the supplement;
8. Information on the national higher education system;
9. Explanatory notes on completing supplements.

Taking into account that, by the time of the Workshop, all the countries whose representatives are invited have already adopted the provisions of the Lisbon Council' Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the European Region, it is highly relevant to analyze the status of implementing those provisions and the eventual difficulties that the national authorities might face in this process.

Following the debates, a common report will be written, emphasizing the need to communicate on the above-pointed issues and the eventual suggestions that might be taken into account at national level in order to improve the implementation of the Convention's provisions.

Moreover, participants from the countries which have experienced this process for a longer period of time are invited to share their experience and examples of benchmarking in the field.

Panel 3 will have as moderators the director of the National Office for Abroad Fellowships from the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth and the Socrates Programme coordinator from the University of Craiova.

#### ***Day 5 - Panel 4 - Strengthening the Interface with the Economic Environment***

It is very important that all initiatives concerning the reciprocal recognition of the academic qualifications among the European states should be reinforced by permanent communication with the European economic environment, given the fact that the latter is actually the final destination of the trained professionals. In this respect, the Workshop will try to emphasize the importance of involving the representatives of the economic sectors in these discussions and to smooth the communication channels between Universities and economy. In their position of employers, economic agents must be given the write to informing themselves on the new challenges and opportunities that the free movement of professionals across

Europe can generate and must get to know what are the provisions regarding the format and content of the diploma supplements. On the other hand, Universities can benefit from the strengthening of these information channels, because they can adapt their educational offer to the demand arisen from different regions in Europe.

Panel 4 will be moderated by the director of SupEuropa (an European network which promotes the co-operation between education bodies and enterprises) and that of the Ramnicu Valcea Euro-Info Centre (the Euro-Info Centre of the geographical region in which the city of Craiova is situated).

#### ***Day 6 - Discussions and conclusions***

The last day of the Workshop will be dedicated to drawing conclusions on the issues discussed within the four panels as well as on the progress of the project. Future lines of action will be emphasized, as well as the best ways to put them in practice, in a both formal and informal manner. Media representatives will be invited to take part to these discussions so that to ensure complete transparency of the event. **Certificates of attendance** will be awarded to the participants, together with **brochures** presenting the main aspects approached during the workshop in order to be distributed in their home countries once they return.

The closing procedures of the Workshop will consist of centralizing the collected data, as well as of accomplishing the accounting and administrative procedures linked to the Workshop development. The whole management team and especially the Financial and Administrative Managers will be in charge with the closing procedures.