

CONTENTS

Foreword	3
Executive Summary	7
Introduction	15
1. Context of the European Higher Education Area	19
1.1. Student population	19
1.2. Higher education institutions	22
1.3. Public expenditure on higher education	23
Conclusions	28
2. Degrees and Qualifications	29
2.1. Bologna structures	31
2.2. Bologna tools	44
2.3. Recognition of qualifications	55
Conclusions	57
3. Quality Assurance	59
3.1. External quality assurance	60
3.2. Internal quality assurance	68
Conclusions	70
4. Social Dimension in Higher Education	71
4.1. Statistical information on the impact of students' background on their participation in and attainment of higher education	72
4.2. Policy approaches to widening access to and participation in higher education	79
4.3. Opening access routes to higher education and providing adequate student services	83
4.4. Fees and financial support	90
Conclusions	100
5. Effective Outcomes and Employability	103
5.1. Higher education output: higher education attainment levels	104
5.2. Completion rates and policies for improvement	105
5.3. Graduates on the labour market: unemployment and transition from education to work	112
5.4. Private returns on education: income and educational attainment	119
5.5. Higher education qualifications and labour market demand: qualification mismatches	121
Conclusions	125

6. Lifelong Learning	127
6.1. National understanding of the concept of lifelong learning	128
6.2. Lifelong learning as a recognised mission of higher education institutions	130
6.3. Financing lifelong learning	131
6.4. Promoting flexible delivery of higher education programmes	132
6.5. Recognising prior learning	142
6.6. Participation of mature students and delayed transition students in formal higher education provision	145
Conclusions	148
7. Mobility	151
7.1. Types of mobility	153
7.2. Student mobility flows	154
7.3. Measures to promote and support student mobility	164
7.4. Staff mobility	171
Conclusions	173
References	175
Glossary and Methodological Notes	181
I. Codes, abbreviations and acronyms	181
II. General terms	182
III. Statistical terms	188
IV. Databases	195
V. Notes on Eurostat figures	200
Table of Figures	211
Acknowledgements	215