

Deutsch-Polnische Hochschulbörse
Polsko-Niemiecka Konferencja Szkolnictwa Wyższego
German-Polish Higher Education Conference

Cologne, 1 – 3 December 2002

Conclusions

The participants of the conference underlined the common academic traditions in Poland and Germany and the resulting strong similarities in the structures of their higher education systems. They concluded that higher education institutions in both countries are therefore faced with similar challenges on their way towards the European Higher Education Area. Comparable numbers of students and higher education institutions, as well as geographic proximity, contribute further to facilitating the future cooperation.

The participants confirmed their intention to make even stronger use of the existing cooperation agreements and the experiences resulting therefrom:

The large number of attendants from both countries showed that there is both interest in and potential for further intensifying the relations.

As a result of the discussions the participants agreed on the following actions to be taken:

- Increase the mobility (especially towards Poland), e.g. through courses taught in English in both countries and Polish language courses taught in Germany
- Eliminate legal obstacles to mobility, like visa regulations
- Further improve information on study opportunities in the partner country, including information on unique characteristics of the programmes offered by individual institutions
- Overcome mental reservations by promoting short-time stays in the partner country (e.g. summer schools, student festivals, “European modules” bearing credits)
- Overcome the problems (structure, recognition etc.) in the existing joint programmes and develop more double and joint degree programmes at all levels (Bachelor, Master, Ph.D.)
- Open the bilateral cooperation agreements to other countries

Moreover the conference led to the following concrete results:

1. The participants recognised the broad spectrum of the existing cross-border cooperation, reaching from joint research and Ph.D. training to further education of civil servants from the border areas. The decision was taken to organise a joint seminar in 2003 on management issues of cross-border projects, inviting other European higher education institutions with experience in this particular field.
2. Regarding improved information services, CRASP is planning to publish a catalogue of courses taught in foreign languages at Polish higher education institutions.

It was proposed that – to strengthen the existing relations and create opportunities for new partnerships – conferences like the one in Cologne should also be held in the future. It was suggested that the next conference be held in Poland.

Cologne, 3 December 2002