


Observers in the Bologna Process

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Observers in the Bologna Process

- ▶ Who, When, Why and How?
- ▶ Difference in power between the observers (Note: not static – time, issues,...!)
 - Capacity (human resources, knowledge, finances,...), time, personality... Similiar to governments
 - Particular to the observers: reputation of national members (representativity) – sometimes you need to earn the reputation
 - Having a clear Agenda – Advocacy

Case of ESU

- ▶ ESU was formed in 1982 by 7 national unions (NSU, DSF, NUS UK, SFS, SHI, OeH, UNEF-ID)
 - ▶ Its members are national unions of students from 39 countries who decide on policy and elect representatives in 2 decision making meetings per year (Board meeting)
 - ▶ Based in Brussels
 - ▶ Financed through membership fees, in kind member contributions and projects
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Shaping policy – European, national, institutional and individuals

1. Students as partners
2. Social dimension of the Bologna process
3. Belarus

Students as partners

- ▶ Getting into Bologna: EUA and ESU lobbying jointly for a seat at the table, support from governments with culture of “stakeholder involvement” (Bologna – Prague)
- ▶ Getting onto Agendas and into national delegations – alliance with EUA, CoE, particular governments and individuals (Bergen)
- ▶ Students at the table becomes a norm for national policy making in several national settings and in institutional governance (QA)
- ▶ In some countries students were experts on the BP before others including governments (Serbia)

Social dimension of the BP

- ▶ Prague, 2001: Social dimension as a way of talking about tuition fees and student support systems – grants and loans schemes
- ▶ Until Berlin, (2001–2003) – ideological debate
- ▶ Bergen, 2005 – Priority turns it into a “technical issue”
 - Priority lines, working group, defining what social dimension is, data collection, monitoring

Belarus

- ▶ ESU approaching governments and governments approaching ESU to talk of an issue where some Ministries would not have the mandate to speak
- ▶ The case of a student prosecuted for student activism in December 2005 in Belarus – international multilevel campaign including other observers