FOR a Free European Higher Education Area by 2010,
JOIN US IN OUR CAMPAIGN!

This Campaign is carried out by both students and teacher trade unions in Europe

The European Students' Union (ESU) represents the social, cultural and economic interests of students in Europe. Through its members, the 49 national unions of students from 38 European countries, ESU represents more than 11 million students in Europe.

Education International (EI) is the voice of academics worldwide, representing 100 national organisations that, all together, give voice to more than 3 million university and research personnel working in the higher education and research sector. In Europe EI, through its Pan-European Structure, is represented in 36 of the 46 countries participating in the Bologna Process.

Don't get stuck
Make mobility a reality
for Higher Education
students & staff

Vision

We have a vision of European Higher Education Area where students and teachers move freely across borders without timely, costly and complicated procedures.

We want European higher education area where every student and teacher regardless of their socio-economic background, their disability, gender, religion or their nationality can afford to go abroad.

We want every student and teacher who is mobile to be able to fully take part in the society.

Mobility is in the strongest interest of governments, institutions as well as the individual students, teachers and researchers. Students and academic staff can only gain new skills in a learning environment where there is a strong awareness of international developments and where there is a strong encouragement for new information and academic discussion in international forums.

Students and academic staff need to have possibilities to learn to act in a multicultural environment.

The higher education institutions can only develop and further their quality if their academic staff and students are internationally oriented. European identity can only be built if people can move across borders freely without obstacles.

Today's society's need for highly educated, democratically and socially skilled citizens, able to interact across cultures is in the greatest interest of the governments. It is the responsibility of the government and institutions to encourage, support and remove the existing obstacles to mobility in Europe as whole.

It is our chance to realise a European Higher Education Area without barriers and borders!

It is our chance to contribute to a Europe built on mobility of people!
Why this Campaign?

Students and teachers have a right to be mobile. Mobility contributes as a fundamental building block to a European identity, a better future and will enhance the quality of higher education.

Within the Bologna Process, governments have promised:
- Removing obstacles concerning recognition of diplomas, degrees, study and work periods...
- Portability of loans and grants for students
- Portability of social rights and pension schemes for staff
- Visa and work permit delivery.
- Encouraging full use of mobility programmes

But when looking at the data we find that:
- Less than 5% of students finish their degree with a temporary stay abroad,
- Just less than 6% of Doctoral Students come from another EU country (EU-stat),
- No data on higher education staff, as it is not collected by higher education institutions

This campaign provides an opportunity for teachers and students to raise awareness among themselves, employers, institutions, rectors and politicians about the positive features of mobility and the obstacles still remaining.

The establishment of the European Higher Education Area by 2010 will be a reality only if students and teachers can move between European states, teach in new cultures, research in new areas and get to know other European cultures.

Actions/Campaign Activities

The campaign will revolve around activities such as:
- Debates,
- Meetings with relevant authorities,
- Conferences involving different stakeholders,
- Articles,
- Press releases,
- Language courses,
- Concerts,
- Letters to different embassies and ministries concerning visas,
- Public demonstrations.

Teachers/Academics and Student Unions are encouraged to distribute leaflets, posters and gather signatures for the petition to make the campaign more visible. Relevant stakeholders will be invited to join the campaign activities to develop our joint goals.

Only our joint rich imagination can set a limit to what we can do.

Join us in our work to make the ministers fulfil their promises!