

POSITION PAPER ON THE PROCESS TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A EUROPEAN AREA OF HIGHER EDUCATION ADOPTED BY EUCLID – THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

EUCLID is a European Association representing institutions of higher education in documentation, library and information science (LIS). The universities, colleges and research institutions being member in our organisation, come from all of Europe. The Board of EUCLID, in consultation with its member organizations, has prepared this statement for the Berlin summit in September, 2003.

1. EUCLID declares its willingness and ability to contribute to the Bologna process aiming to establish a European Area of Higher Education (EHEA) by 2010. The principles laid down in the Bologna-declaration and the documents elaborating it, are in harmony with the principles laid down in our own mission statement, stating, among other things, that it is the goal of EUCLID to facilitate exchange of staff and students among its members and to encourage mutual recognition of curricula or parts of curricula.
2. EUCLID recognizes that EHEA must be built both on national and European policies as well as on *institutional* ones. Being an umbrella organizations for educational institutions in LIS in all of Europe, EUCLID will mostly work with its member organizations on an institutional level promoting and facilitating
  - the development of a European curriculum and comparable degree programs in LIS throughout Europe,
  - implementation of quality assurance and credit transfer systems,
  - both students' and staff mobility
  - students' participation in institutional educational policies
  - A European dimension in HE
  - Attractiveness and competitiveness of European HE

Through sharing of knowledge and experiences, extensive consultations, workshops and conferences – such as annual students' conference BOBCATSSS and annual EUCLID conferences – regional and European networks of LIS education.

3. EUCLID membership is open to all European LIS institutions in EU member states, candidate countries and other states.
4. Expressing its full support to the goal set in Bologna Declaration and documents following up this declaration, EUCLID draws the attention of European politicians responsible for science and higher education as well as the attention of researchers and educators in Europe, to the need for a closer interaction between the two European initiatives: creation of the EHEA and creation of European Research Area (ERA) by 2010. Research and education are interrelated integral parts of the university academic processes. Coordination and cooperation in both EHEA and ERA implementation would lead to synergy contributing to the creation of common European research and education space.

EUCLID believes that the library and information sector and, therefore, LIS-education has a crucial role to play in creating a European information society characterised by a high level of

ICT-use and a high degree of democratic participation. Democracy and participation presuppose an informed public, and LIS-professionals play a crucial role in helping people navigate and find their way in the information society and democratise access to ICT. Library and information science is a field that simultaneously is firmly rooted in digital technology and culture. Combining technology and culture is vital in creating identity, belonging and involvement on a European basis. LIS-educations, therefore, can play a role of strategic importance..

European LIS-schools have long traditions in international co-operation in general and European cooperation in particular. Being a relatively small academic field, are particularly interested in that form of co-operation that the Bologna-process aims at promoting and stimulating.

EUCLID will contribute in making this co-operation a reality through measures such as:

- Initiating processes to promote curriculum development on a European scale.
- Define core competencies which the European LIS-professional will need in the future.

In order to promote such processes, a conference were held in Thessaloniki in October 2002, followed up by a conference in Potsdam on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July and 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2003. A workshop on European curriculum-development in LIS is planned in December 2004.

EUCLID believes that is important that European standards for competencies needed by LIS-professionals in the information society are developed, on the basis of which educations and professionals can be recognised.