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## Executive Summary

This E-Note summarises the main results for Wales of the UK HE Europe Unit survey on European HE developments.

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## Results of the 2007 UK HE Europe Unit survey on European HE developments – HEIs in Wales

### Introduction

1. This paper reports on the outcomes for Wales of the UK HE Europe Unit's<sup>1</sup> 2007 survey on UK higher education institutions' (HEIs) engagement in European HE initiatives.
2. Separate Europe Notes report on the results for the UK, England and Northern Ireland, Scotland and GuildHE members. Visit: [http://www.europeunit.ac.uk/news/europe\\_note\\_archive/2007.cfm](http://www.europeunit.ac.uk/news/europe_note_archive/2007.cfm)

### Welsh respondents

3. 153 UK HEIs received the survey and 92 responded, giving a response rate of 60% - 53% in 2005.
4. All 12 Welsh HEIs received the survey and responded giving a 100% response rate for Wales. This is higher than the overall UK response rate, the response rate in Scotland (62%), England and Northern Ireland (57%) and higher than the Welsh response rate in 2005 (61%).
5. 67% of Welsh respondents were from HEI Registry departments. The remaining responses came from representatives across other categories/departments.

### Diploma Supplement

6. As in 2005, all Welsh respondents are aware of the Bologna Process requirement to issue the Diploma Supplement "automatically and free of charge to students graduating in 2005".

<sup>1</sup> The Europe Unit is a sector-wide body working in the interests of UK higher education. It has three objectives: to raise awareness of the European issues affecting UK higher education; to coordinate the UK's involvement in European initiatives and debates; to strengthen the position of the UK higher education sector in debates over the Bologna Process and EU policies and initiatives. For more information visit: [www.europeunit.ac.uk](http://www.europeunit.ac.uk)

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7. A higher number of Welsh HEIs, 7 out of 12 (58% of respondents), currently issue the Diploma Supplement to students graduating from their institutions compared to 2005 when 6 out of 8 (75% of respondents) issued the Diploma Supplement. The implementation rate of the Diploma Supplement in Wales (58%) is similar to the UK (60%), England and Northern Ireland (57%), and Scotland (62%).
8. Most Welsh respondents automatically issue the Diploma Supplement to students graduating with an undergraduate and postgraduate level qualification. Only one Welsh HEI issues the Diploma Supplement automatically to doctoral graduates. A paper-based format appears to be standard. No institutions appear to issue the document electronically.
9. All respondent HEIs in Wales that do not yet issue the Diploma Supplement intend to do so in the coming years, 80% by 2009.
10. Of those issuing the Diploma Supplement, 43% use the standard format developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES<sup>2</sup> - 58% do so in the UK, 63% in Scotland, and 59% in England and Northern Ireland.
11. All respondents in Wales have encountered difficulties with implementing the Diploma Supplement. 86% cited the lack of a formal UK-promoted template as the main difficulty (50% in 2005), 86% also stated language difficulties (38% in 2005), 71% IT systems (75% in 2005), and 43% data quality, availability and comparability. 14% cited cost as a problem compared to 38% in 2005.
12. For those respondent Welsh HEIs not issuing the Diploma Supplement, IT difficulties appear to be the main reason cited for not doing so.
13. All Welsh respondents have sought advice to overcome difficulties in producing the Diploma Supplement. Of these 86% have sought help from other HEIs, 86% from the Bologna Experts, and 43% have contacted the Europe Unit.
14. Three respondents in Wales have received the Diploma Supplement from other HEIs, compared to 28 in the UK, 24 in England and Northern Ireland, and 2 in Scotland. All Welsh respondents stated that the Diploma Supplement was useful in evaluating students' achievements and supporting admissions procedures. They also stated they had not experienced difficulties in interpreting information provided on the Diploma Supplement.

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<sup>2</sup> This survey was submitted prior to the publication of the final report prepared by the Measuring and Recording Student Achievement Steering Group – the Burgess Group.

15. Nine out of twelve (75%) Welsh respondents produce transcripts of graduates that accord with the Minimum Data Set provided within the Progress File Guide (7 out of 8 or 90% in 2005). 70% do so at UK national level, in England and Northern Ireland and in Scotland.

#### *Credit*

16. All Welsh respondents stated that their courses are credit rated (90% in 2005). The UK national average is 93%. 58% of Welsh respondents with credit rated programmes use European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) for either transfer or accumulation. All respondent institutions in Wales use the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) for either transfer or accumulation.
17. Half of respondents in Wales who do not use ECTS as their main credit transfer system record ECTS equivalent credits against the credit system in use. The UK national average is 63%, 65% in England and Northern Ireland and 64% in Scotland.

#### *Joint degrees*

18. 83% of Welsh respondents have the power to award joint degree or multiple/dual/double degrees (63% in 2005). The UK national average is 73%, 72% in England and Northern Ireland, and 77% in Scotland.
19. Of those Welsh respondents able to award joint degrees, 70% do so in collaboration with an institution in the UK and / or with an institution in one of the 45 other Bologna Process countries (33% in 2005). 50% do so with an institution outside Europe (8% in 2005).
20. Of those Welsh respondents awarding multiple/dual/double degrees, 50% do so in collaboration with an institution in the UK. 40% with an institution outside Europe (8% in 2005) and 60% do so with an institution in one of the 45 other Bologna Process countries (25% in 2005).

#### *Masters programmes*

21. All Welsh respondents offer Masters programmes - 92% in the UK and Scotland and 91% in England and Northern Ireland. The majority of Masters programmes in Wales are one-year full time equivalent but in some disciplines up to 28% are two-year full time equivalent – up to 22% in the UK. Survey responses for the whole of the UK suggest that Masters degrees vary greatly in their duration. Programmes available range in duration from 15, 18, 19 and 36 months, to three or five year part-time or flexible distance learning.

#### *Integrated Masters programmes*

22. Six Welsh respondents, 50%, offer full-time integrated Masters (63% in 2005). This is just below the UK national average (60%), England and Northern Ireland (60%) and in Scotland (70%).

23. 67% of Welsh respondents stated that they not made changes to integrated Masters programmes in response to Bologna Process developments. This is similar to the UK national average (68%). In Scotland 22% of HEIs made no changes and 70% in England and Northern Ireland.
24. One Welsh respondent (17%) has incorporated teaching into the summer vacation. Three respondents (50%) have incorporated industrial placements with assessed and credit-rated outcomes and none have extended the timescale for submission of the dissertation to extend the duration of the programme.
25. 83% of Welsh respondents providing integrated Masters award a Masters qualification only at the end of the Masters stage of the programme - 81% in the UK, 78% in England and Northern Ireland and 78% in Scotland. One Welsh HEI awards the Bachelor qualification after the Bachelor stage and the Masters qualification after the Masters stage – three in England and Northern Ireland and two in Scotland.
26. All respondents in Wales providing integrated Masters programmes stated that they did allocate a minimum of 60 credits at Masters level. Results for the whole of the UK indicate that 15% (8 respondent HEIs) do not.

#### *Recognition of Masters degrees*

27. Seven of the Welsh respondents offering one-year full time Masters programmes, 58%, are not aware of any difficulties experienced by their graduates in gaining recognition of their award for access to further study or employment in either the public or private sector – the UK national average is 68%. One Welsh respondent indicated difficulties for graduates going on to further study. Two respondents indicated known recognition difficulties experienced by one-year full time Masters graduates for employment in the private sector, 3 respondents indicated known recognition difficulties for employment in the public sector.
28. Eight of the Welsh respondents offering Integrated Masters programmes, 67%, are not aware of any difficulties experienced by their graduates in gaining recognition of their award for access to further study or employment in either the public or private sector - the UK national average is 64%. No respondents indicated known recognition difficulties experienced by Integrated Masters graduates for employment in the private sector, in the public sector and difficulties for graduates going on to further study.

#### *Institutional Strategies*

29. 75% of Welsh respondents have an International Strategy (74% in the UK, 75% in England and Northern Ireland, and 77% in Scotland) and 50% have a European strategy. Of those respondent HEIs with a European strategy, 33% have it embedded in their international strategy (29% in the UK, 28% in England and Northern Ireland, and 46% in Scotland) and 17% have it separate from



their international strategies (12% in the UK, 12% in England and Northern Ireland, and 8% in Scotland).

30. Four respondents (33%) in Wales have a Bologna Process Coordinating Group or Taskforce. A higher percentage compared to the UK where 22 respondent HEIs (24%) have a Bologna Process Coordinating Group or Taskforce – 24% in England and Northern Ireland and 15% in Scotland.

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