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Executive Summary

This E-Note summarises the main results for GuildHE members 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 – GuildHE Members

Introduction

1. This paper reports on the outcomes for GuildHE members of the UK HE Europe Unit's¹ 2007 survey on UK HEIs' engagement in European HE initiatives.
2. Separate Europe Notes report on the results for the UK, England and Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Visit:
http://www.europeunit.ac.uk/news/europe_note_archive/2007.cfm

GuildHE respondents

3. 153 HEIs in the UK received the survey and 92 responded, giving a response rate of 60% - 53% in 2005.
4. 22 GuildHE members received the survey and 11 responded giving a 50% response rate - higher than the response rate in 2005 when only three (10%) Standing Committee Conference of Principals (SCOP) Members responded.
5. 54% of GuildHE respondents were from HEI Registry departments. The remaining responses came from representatives across other categories/departments.

Diploma Supplement

6. All GuildHE respondents are aware of the Bologna Process requirement to issue the Diploma Supplement "automatically and free of charge to students graduating from 2005".

¹ 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

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7. 82% of GuildHE respondents currently issue the Diploma Supplement to students graduating from their institutions - higher than to the UK national average (60%).
8. 67% of GuildHE respondents automatically issue Diploma Supplements to students graduating with an undergraduate level qualification. Only one GuildHE institution issues the Diploma Supplement automatically to doctoral graduates.
9. All respondent GuildHE HEIs that do not yet issue the Diploma Supplement intend to do so by 2009.
10. Of those issuing the Diploma Supplement, over 67% use the standard format developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES² - this is higher than the respondents in the UK as a whole (58%).
11. All GuildHE respondents have encountered difficulties with implementing the Diploma Supplement. Over half cited IT Systems as the main difficulty when promoting the Diploma Supplement, 44% cited data quality, availability and comparability, and the lack of a formal UK-promoted template and one HEI (20%) cited costs.
12. For those GuildHE respondents not issuing the Diploma Supplement, IT difficulties and the lack of a formal UK-promoted template appear to be the main reason for not doing so.
13. For those GuildHE respondents issuing the Diploma Supplement, all have sought advice to overcome difficulties in producing the Diploma Supplement. Of these 22% have sought help from other HEIs, 11% from the Bologna Experts and the National Recognition Information Centre (NARIC). One respondent approached software suppliers for advice.
14. Two GuildHE HEIs (18%) have received the Diploma Supplement from other HEIs, compared to twenty-eight in the whole of the UK. Both respondents stated that the Diploma Supplement was useful in evaluating students' achievements and supporting admissions procedures and stated they had not experienced difficulties in interpreting information provided on the Diploma Supplement.
15. 82% of GuildHE respondents produce transcripts of graduates that accord with the Minimum Data Set provided within the Progress File Guide. 70% do so at UK national level.

Credit

16. All GuildHE respondents stated that their courses are credit rated. The UK national average is 93%. 45% of GuildHE respondents with credit rated programmes use European Credit Transfer

² 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.

System (ECTS) for either transfer or accumulation, compared to 56% at UK national level. The majority of respondent GuildHE institutions use either ECTS or the Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (SEEC) or both.

17. Seven out of eight GuildHE respondents (88%) 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 70%.

Joint degrees

18. 36% of GuildHE respondents have the power to award joint degree or multiple/dual/double degrees. The UK national average is 73%.
19. Of those GuildHE respondents able to award joint degrees or multiple/dual/double degrees, most do so in collaboration with institutions both in the UK and abroad.

Masters programmes

20. All GuildHE respondents offer Masters programmes – 92% in the UK. The majority of Masters programmes are one-year full time equivalent but some are two-year full time equivalent.

Integrated Masters programmes

21. Only one GuildHE respondent, 9%, offers full-time integrated Masters.
22. It stated that it had made no changes to integrated Masters programmes in response to Bologna Process developments.
23. It also stated that it had not incorporated teaching into the summer vacation. It had however incorporated industrial placements with assessed and credit-rated outcomes and extended the timescale for submission of the dissertation to extend the duration of the programme.
24. The GuildHE respondent providing integrated Masters awards a Masters qualification only at the end of the Masters stage of the programme.
25. The GuildHE respondent providing integrated Masters programmes stated that it did allocate a minimum of 60 credits at Masters level. Results for England indicate that 15% of institutions do not.

Recognition of Masters degrees

26. Eight GuildHE respondents (73%) are not aware of any difficulties experienced by one-year full time Masters 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%.



27. Two GuildHE respondents stated that they are not aware of any difficulties experienced by Integrated Masters graduates in gaining recognition of their award for access to further study or employment in either the public or private sector.

Institutional Strategies

28. 82% of GuildHE respondents have an International Strategy (75% in the UK) and 27% have a European strategy. All HEIs with a European strategy have it embedded in their international strategy (24% in the UK).

29. Two GuildHE respondents (18%) have a Bologna Process Coordinating Group or Taskforce. A lower percentage compared to the UK where twenty-two respondent HEIs (24%) have a Bologna Process Coordinating Group or Taskforce.

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