

Towards an European Area for Higher Education

<http://www.europedu.org>

Over the past few years, numerous European countries have undertaken reforms of their higher education systems. In this context, the **Sorbonne** meeting of May 1998 was the occasion for four European countries to state their willingness to accelerate the creation of a vibrant European area of higher education. Support and encouragement for mobility and exchanges within Europe will only come about through a clear understanding of the systems and, the creation, or the reinforcement, of the channels and points of convergence between these systems, while emphasizing the richness of their diversity. Ten countries have signed the Sorbonne Declaration : Germany, Flemish-speaking and German-speaking Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Romania, United Kingdom, and Switzerland

Bologna, 18-19 June 1999, is the occasion for a larger meeting where the thoughts and perspectives for action can be carried further. and they participate in the Bologna conference.

An Internet Site summarizes the situation and offers an abundance of information :

The site has organized information into four key blocks:

1. **Paris 1998/Bologna 1999:**
the Sorbonne Declaration, signatory countries,
Bologna : the program of the 2-day meeting, the list of participants,
2. **Systems in evolution:** the state of reflection and the evolution in certain countries since May 1998, perspectives for action,
3. **To gain a better understanding of the systems and the training:** descriptive outlines of the signatory countries.
4. **How to get information on the European area:** information and connections to various sites in each of the countries.