

BOM CALLS MINISTERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE BALTIC STATES TO TAKE COMBINED ACTIONS FOR QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE REGION

Baltic Organizational Meeting (BOM) warmly welcomes the upcoming meeting of Ministers responsible for Higher Education (HE) in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia and the common efforts of the three Baltic states in strengthening national systems of HE through the framework of transparency and quality assurance (QA).

National Student Representatives of three Baltic nations appreciate cooperation between ministries and stress that, implementation of Bucharest communiqué and 'Europe 2020' should be achieved together. BOM supports principles, objectives and strategies of the Bucharest communiqué and assumes, that implementation of Bologna initiatives has to be done within cooperation and coherence, so to ensure sustainable development of the Baltics.

Reforms in the field of HE are taking place in the Baltic states and should be regarded in a comparable perspective. Fundamental changes are taking place and there is a room to learn from each other, and to assure HE as a public good and a public responsibility.

BOM stresses following tools as essential for the cooperation:

- In order for internal and external QA of studies and HE institutions to be ensured, best practices benchmarking, studies monitoring research and development services should be secured. Combined prioritizing and usage of EU funds in respective activities during the period 2014-2020 should serve as a tool to develop HE and to create better perspectives and sustainability for the HE systems. Whilst guarantees of relevant financial capabilities must be ensured on the institutional level as well
- By securing QA more perspectives for developing entrepreneurship, knowledge-based societies and economies can be guaranteed. A key for that is high quality of education and scientific performance of HE institutions in the Baltics. As precondition for international recognition as knowledge-societies and region, all Baltic governments should guarantee the implementation of Bologna tools (learning outcomes, ECTS, qualifications frameworks, ESG etc.) and relevant HE guidelines
- Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia QA agencies should conduct a deeper performance, where experts' pools would be cooperating and provided one to another, so to have evaluations and accreditations of more international level and to increase the level of performance and public trust in the HE of Baltic region. Identical perspectives BOM sees and declares for the student experts in the field
- Increase of shared performance in HE (such as joint study programmes and research) should become a tool to verify accessibility, mobility, quality and effective use of academic infrastructure and resources in the Baltic states

Through the implementation of tools as described above, where recognition of students as equal partners and integral cooperation within region are taking place a performance of HE would be improved leading by that to a common good in the Baltic nations.

Baltic Organizational Meeting (BOM) is a regional cooperation agreement between National Unions of Students in the Baltic states. Signed originally in Vilnius, Lithuania on September 30, 1999 by Lithuanian National Union of Students (Lietuvos studentų sąjunga) and Student Union of Latvia (Latvijas Studentu apvienība) it aims at promotion of closer cooperation between National Student Unions, exchange of knowledge concerning educational, social, political and economical processes in Baltic countries. As for year 2012 BOM is an agreement for Lithuanian National Union of Students (Lietuvos studentų sąjunga), Student Union of Latvia (Latvijas Studentu apvienība) and Federation of Estonian Student Unions (Eesti Üliõpilaskondade Liit).