Quality Labels in Chemistry: Eurobachelor® and Euromaster®

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Quality labels in education reflect the idea that universities do not look for uniformity in their degree programmes or any sort of unified, prescriptive or definitive European curricula but simply for points of reference, convergence and common understanding. The protection of the rich diversity of European education has been paramount in the Bologna Process. The Tuning project started in 2000 as a project to link the political objectives of the Bologna Process [1] and at a later stage the Lisbon Strategy [2] to the higher educational sector. Over time Tuning has developed into a process, an approach to designing, develop, implement, evaluate and enhance quality first, second and third cycle degree programmes [3].

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a learner-centred system which aims to increase transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes. It aims to facilitate planning, delivery, evaluation, recognition and validation of qualifications and units of learning as well as student mobility. Learning outcomes describe what a learner is expected to know, understand and be able to do after successful completion of a process of learning. They relate to level descriptors in national and European qualifications frameworks. Workload indicates the time students typically need to complete all learning activities (such as lectures, seminars, projects, practical work, self-study and examinations) required to achieve the expected learning outcomes. Incorrectly assigned workload factors are a cause for frictions in newly designed study programmes. These frictions can often be overcome by responsible cooperation with student bodies.

The Chemistry Eurolabels® [5] were developed by the European Chemistry Thematic Network (ECTN) [6]. So far, Chemistry Eurobachelor® and Chemistry Euromaster® Quality labels have been awarded to 45 institutions and 4 consortia from 17 countries. The Chemistry Eurodoctorate label and the personal professional label "European Chemist" (EurChem) are currently under development.

REFERENCES