

The Implementation of Two-Cycle Degree Structure in Hungary

Abstract

The article presents the implementation of the two-cycle degree structure in Hungary. The objective of the research on which this paper is based is to bring together the interpretations and constructions of higher education policy communities (e.g., higher education institutions, buffer organizations, central bureaucracies, expert groups and policy networks) regarding the Bologna process and two-cycle degree structure. The research is designed as an iterative process and is grounded on qualitative methodology, in the course of which we conducted interviews with the members of policy communities, and in addition we analyzed their relevant documents. The study concludes that the higher education reforms under Bologna-umbrella have been considered as a new platform for debating the problems, challenges and policy answers of the national higher education system.

Key words: Bologna process, higher education policies, two-cycle degree structure.

The Bologna Process in Central Europe and Hungary

A structural reform becomes the most visible initiative of the Bologna process, although today the reform serves as an umbrella for comprehensive reform processes in national systems of higher education. In the Central and Eastern European countries the Bologna process is not only strongly connected with the overall political transformation (Kozma, 2008; Pusztai and Szabó, 2008; Flóra and Szilágyi, 2008; Belényi et al., 2010), but it provides an opportunity for the higher