



BOLOGNA TRAINING CENTER

BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY
OF THE NEGEV

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



Letter from the Director of KAS Israel



More than 50 years ago, Konrad Adenauer and David Ben-Gurion laid the foundation for reconciliation between Germany and Israel and for a joint future based on shared values, partnership and friendship.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is proud of carrying on this unique legacy. Bearing the name of Germany's first post-war Chancellor, we are delighted to cooperate with a university bearing the name of Israel's first Prime Minister.

It has been a special privilege to join forces with the Centre for the Study of European Politics and Society at BGU and Dr. Sharon Pardo, the Centre's enterprising Director, to establish together the successful Bologna Training Center at BGU.

With our partners in Beer Sheva we share the conviction that it is in Israel's and Europe's best interest to open the "European Higher Education Area" to Israel (and vice versa).

Accordingly, KAS Israel fully supports Israeli efforts to adapt the country's higher education system to the Bologna Process. There are many good reasons to be involved in that great project. In view of KAS's mission and philosophy, which put a strong emphasis on people-to-people communication, facilitating the mobility of students between Israel and Europe (and vice versa) is of particular value and relevance.

Incidentally, one of the board members of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Germany's former Minister for Education, Science, Research and Technology Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers, was among the initiators and signatories of the "Sorbonne Declaration" in May 1998. That was of course the starting signal to what has become known as the Bologna Process.

On behalf of KAS Israel, I wish to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the dedicated team of the Bologna Training Center: Dr. Sharon Pardo, Mr. Moshe Amir, Director of the Bologna Training Center, as well as Ms. Hila Zahavi, Mr. Yoav Friedman and Ms. Hanna Moscovitz. I would also like to thank most warmly my KAS colleague Catherine Hirschwitz who has tirelessly contributed to the success of our cooperation. I am very much looking forward to continuing our joint venture.

As this publication shows, the beginning in 2012 has been very fruitful and promising. But there is still a long way to go until we can declare: "Mission accomplished!"

Jerusalem, November 2012

Michael Mertes

Director of KAS Israel

Letter from the Chairperson of the CSEPS/BTC



The Bologna Training Center (BTC) at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) was established in early 2012 under the auspices of The Centre for the Study of European Politics and Society (CSEPS) in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Israel. The BTC acts as a national Bologna training, research and academic centre in Israel and it promotes a greater awareness within Israel of the growing importance of the Bologna Process, and it offers both BGU and other Israeli higher education institutions the opportunity to learn, understand and adapt relevant components of the Bologna Process.

The Centre was established thanks to our active partnership with the KAS in Israel and to the tireless support of Mr. Michael Mertes, the Director of KAS Israel. We are also indebted to the support of Prof. David Newman, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at BGU.

We believe that it is essential for BGU and KAS to be at the forefront of the European-Israeli relationship, for the benefit of both Europe and the State of Israel. In a period when some European academics have attempted to impose a boycott on Israeli universities, the BTC and CSEPS will continue to play an important role in strengthening the scientific links between Israel and Europe, for the betterment of all.

Dr. Sharon Pardo
Chair, CSEPS / BTC



Letter from the Director of the BTC



During the latter stages of the Corinthiam Tempus project it became clear that, for BGU to progress further in the complex process of internationalization and harmonization with Europe, it was essential to create systematic awareness, understanding and critical appreciation of the Bologna Process at all institutional levels; and to develop strategic centers of Bologna stakeholders within the institution. The same was true, of course, for other institutions in Israel. The significant first step taken in Israel to tackle the lack of knowledge and understanding concerning Bologna was the establishment of the Bologna Training Centre (BTC) at BGU whose mandate is to provide Israeli institutions with the knowledge, understanding and tools necessary for an informed and critical appraisal of the Bologna Process and its benefits to the Israeli higher education system.

Established in early 2012, the center's activities are based on a core staff comprising the director and three PhD candidates from the area of European studies. The center's activities have been positively received and the BTC is already actively engaged with 12 colleges and universities.

Almost unimaginable only a few years ago, in 2012 the higher education arena in Israel witnessed the beginnings of an open discourse concerning the Bologna Process, Internationalisation, and the EHEA (European Higher Education Area). The BTC contributed to the creation of this discourse and we hope to continue as a significant player in this important dialogue.

Moshe Amir
Director - BTC



History

In the beginning of 2012 the Bologna Training Center (BTC) at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev began its operations under the auspices of the Centre for the Study of European Politics and Society (CSEPS) in cooperation with The Israel Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. The BTC's intention is to facilitate the exposure of Israeli higher education institutions to the Bologna Process.

Throughout the academic year, the BTC staff has provided workshops and training to a wide spectrum of Israeli higher education institutions, on various aspects of the Bologna Process reforms. In the past year, the BTC has also invited leading European experts of Bologna to provide training to Israeli higher education faculty and management.

The BTC sees itself as a disseminator of knowledge and information regarding the Bologna Process, in order to stimulate discourse concerning the Bologna Process in the Israeli academic arena.



BTC's Activities at Ben-Gurion University

Institutional involvement:

1. Participation in BGU's Internationalization Committee.
2. Assisting BGU in its internationalization process.
3. Diploma Supplement Pilot in the Department of Mathematics.
4. Guiding academic departments on the implementation of Learning Outcomes according to the requirements of the Israeli Council for Higher Education's Quality Assurance Committee.

Cooperation with the Vice Rector for Quality Assurance:

Providing workshops for the departments of Arts, Material Engineering, Education, Graduate Program for Science & Technology Education and the Faculty of Health Sciences on revising syllabi according to the requirements of the Israeli Council for Higher Education.

Research:

1. Ms. Hila Zahavi - The Bologna Process and the Formation of European Identity
2. Ms. Hannah Moscovitz - The Social Dimension of the Bologna Process and the Construction of European Active Citizenship
3. Mr. Yoav Friedman - Globalization of Higher Education: The Bologna Process as an International Regime

Promotion of BGU involvement with Tempus and ERASMUS MUNDUS projects:

In addition to assisting BGU faculty and other institutions in developing new Tempus applications the BTC has initiated several Bologna related projects which it intends to submit for EU funding:

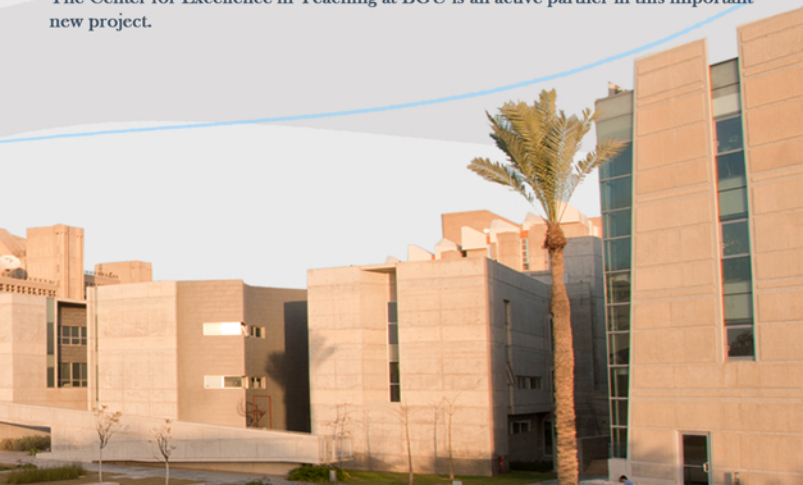


ESPRIT (Enhancing Social Characteristics and Public Responsibility of Israeli Teaching through a Student-HEI Alliance)

In recent decades there has been a growing preoccupation and pro-activism among students on the campuses of Israeli universities and colleges with socio-political and socio-economic issues that have surfaced in Israeli society. Israeli university and college students are increasingly involved in social engagement activities of various types. The "Student Empowerment through Social Involvement" project will examine the development of proactive social engagement in the Israeli student milieu and will attempt to understand its roots. By understanding the motivation and impact of social involvement in HEIs, the project will attempt to elaborate what could be the role of HEI faculty and institutions at the policy level, in their academic interaction with students. As the main societal institution serving a public good, we will examine to what degree these HEIs are themselves socially-conscious, by establishing a "Social Index" that will rank the Israeli HEIs according to their social character.

DOIT

A newly funded Tempus project Coordinated by the Gordon College of Education in Haifa dealing with the Promotion and development of multi-cultural education. DOIT enhances the quality of education in participating Israeli and Georgian Higher Educational Institutions by designing, piloting and implementing curricular reform which promotes Multicultural Education and Cultural Diversity Training. The Center for Excellence in Teaching at BGU is an active partner in this important new project.



BTC's Activities at Ben-Gurion University

Clusters

The concept emphasizes cooperation, decentralization and knowledge sharing among institutions of higher education in Israel and around the world. The BTC, as a national center which views itself as a hub of knowledge and training on all matters related to the "Bologna Process", seeks to expand the audience exposed to the reform, through the training of coordinators representing different disciplinary groups or "clusters". These coordinators will in turn become centers of knowledge and professional training in their fields, benefiting other academic institutions in the same professional "cluster". The leading institutions of each cluster, assisted by their respective member institutions, will examine their particular needs and apply the Bologna Processes' goals related to their professional fields. The clusters, together with the "Bologna Training Center" will then build a unique implementation mechanism suitable for each professional field.

NOTA-BENE

During the last few years the terms, or buzzwords, Internationalisation and Bologna have begun to be part of the discourse in Israel's universities and colleges. The "Nota-Bene" project aims to establish an international network comprising EU and non-EU based institutions.



The BTC in Israel

Conferences:

1. Israel and the European Higher Education Area, University of Haifa, 25/3/2012.
2. BTC Launching Conference: "Bologna Process - From Europe to Israel and Back" Miskanot Saha'ananim, Jerusalem 22.5.2012.

How can Israel learn from the Bologna process in Europe? Which of the instruments can be implemented in Israel and what needs to be considered in order to implement them successfully?

The launching event of the Bologna Training Center gathered European Bologna experts with Israeli key players in the field of higher education policy making in order to examine the Bologna Process from an Israeli perspective.

International Workshops:

1. Workshop with Prof. Anne Boddington (Brighton University, UK) on the "Value of the Diploma Supplement" - BGU, 9/10/2012.
2. European Projects and Future Developments - A seminar given by Dr. Carlos Machado, University of Gottingen, on the European frameworks for non-research educational projects, Tempus and ERASMUS, and the future development according to the new program - ERASMUS for ALL.
3. Training workshop on developing proposals for the European frameworks: 5-6/12/2012

Cooperation with other institutions:

1. Cooperation with the Israel Institute for Empowering Ingenuity in Engineering.
2. Management of the FIBIE network- Forum of Israeli Bologna and IRO Experts.
3. Cooperation with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Betzalel Academy for Art and Design, The Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, Oranim Academic College of Education and ORT Braude College on developing of TEMPUS projects related to potential future implementation of the Bologna Process.
4. Cooperation with Feinberg Graduate School at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Hadassah Academic College Jerusalem, The Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya and Zefat Academic College on Syllabi reform according to the Bologna guidelines.
5. Cooperation with the Israeli National Tempus Office.

Web sites:

- BTC Hebrew website at the BGU Website: www.bgu.ac.il/btc
- The BTC YouTube channel.

BTC International

Conferences:

Tempus Corinthiam meetings:

1. Brighton (UK): 27-28 June, 2012
2. Brussels (Belgium): 1-4 July, 2012

Workshops:

1. Minho (Portugal): 21-22 March, 2012
2. Lund (Sweden) - CORINTHIAM Training Week at Lund University: 9-14 September, 2012
3. Brussels (Belgium) - CORINTHIAM Dissemination Week: 21-24 October, 2012

Events:

1. Jean Monnet Conference, Brussels 14-15 October 2012

Publications:

1. Writing and Using Learning Outcomes - a practical guide (Hebrew Version)
2. Tempus Corinthiam Hand-Books - to be published in 2013

Media:

1. Newman, D. Uneasy Neighbors. The Jerusalem Post. May 8, 2012.
2. "Kol Polin" radio station Interview (<http://www.thenews.pl/>) with Prof. Marek Frankovicz (Polish participant in the BTC Launching event), 10.5.2012.
www.kolpolin.pl





The Future

- To establish the BTC international conference as an annual event
- To involve an ever increasing number of HE institutions in BTC activities
- To develop a critical appreciation of the Bologna Process among Israeli stakeholders and policy makers
- To support BGU internationalization initiatives
- To facilitate Israeli involvement in the forthcoming EU ERASMUS for ALL program

For further information, please visit our website: www.bgu.ac.il/btc
The Bologna Training Center at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev,
Diller Family Building (74),
POB: 653, Zip code: 84105, Be'er-Sheva, Israel.
Tel: + 972-8-6461113 Fax: + 972-8-6477610 Email: btc@bgu.ac.il