NET IDEAS: ECTS LINKS[1]

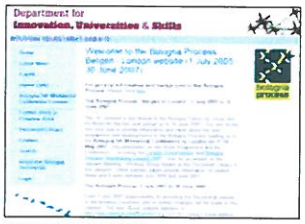
Antonio Vicente Casas Pedrosa

Universidad de Jaén
avcasas@ujaen.es


www.ond.vlaanderen.be


www.bologna-berlin2003.de


www.bologna-bergen2005.no


www.dcsf.gov.uk


www.dcsf.gov.uk

INTRODUCTION

When the acronym ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) is googled, the number of hits (6.650.000) is higher than that of EHEA (91.500), which stands for European Higher Education Area. However, both concepts have become increasingly popular nowadays not only within the tertiary education context, but also at primary and secondary levels.

The vast amount of information available may make it hard for the reader to become familiarized with the different concepts associated with the Bologna Process. For this reason, the paper will be divided into different sections concerned with some of the main aspects related to the ECTS.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The following sites are updated very often and do not only include general information on the ECTS, but also resources, downloads, materials, pieces of news, further links, and even clips.

- The official Bologna Process website: http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/. Within it, we find the existence of links to previous official websites and documents, which are included in chronological order: http://www.bologna-berlin2003.de/ (Berlin conference), http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/ (Bergen conference), and http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/londonbologna/ (London conference).
- Department for Children, Schools and Families: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/bologna (British site).

- Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation: http://web.micinn.es/. Within this official site, there are different interesting links in Spanish:

  http://bolonia.fecyt.es/: *Bolonia: Espacio Europeo de Educación Superior.* Apart from many interesting sections, it includes an interactive area with a forum in which questions can be asked and answered. There is also a FAQs section, with some of them being answered by the Spanish Minister himself.

  http://www.queesbolonia.es/. The very address is self-explanatory; it is highly informative and, among its features, it offers the chance to suggest what other sections should be included, what type of information is considered missing, etc.

  
  www.queesbolonia.es

  http://www.boloniaensecundaria.es/. This site is highly recommendable for both secondary teachers and students. The information is displayed in a very visual, precise, and intuitive way, so that it is very easy to find the kind of information you are searching for (e.g. "Ten reasons for being in favour of Bologna").

  http://web.micinn.es/contenido.asp?menu1=4&menu2=0&dir=04_Universidades/022EdUnSu. This is the official EHEA site in Spanish and contains information on workshops, courses, seminars, documents, etc.

- *Conferencia de Rectores de las Universidades Españolas* (CRUE): http://www.crue.org (in Spanish). A specific site has been created for the EHEA. Apart from the typical sections, special attention should be paid to the "Antecedents" and the "Adaptation of Spanish legislation to the EHEA" sections.

- http://www.ects.es/ (in Spanish). Although the amount of resources is not very outstanding, specific mention should be made to its "News" section (in which the different pieces of news are included in chronological order) and to the FAQs section (it caters for the needs of all the people involved in the teaching-learning process).

  
  www.ects.es

- European University Association (EUA): http://www.eua.be/. In its home page, it is possible to find a link to "Bologna & Universities Reform" (http://www.eua.be/bologna-universities-reform/), with information about the EUA involvement in the Bologna process.

- English Studies in the European Credit Transfer System (ESECS): http://www.esecs.eu/. This is the website of a research group based at the University of Jaén which is focusing its investigation on the adaptation of English Studies to the ECTS. The information is provided in both English and Spanish.


web.micinn.es


www.queesbolonia.es


www.boloniaensecundaria.es


web.micinn.es


www.crue.org


www.eua.be



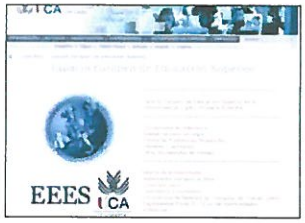
www.esecs.eu

SPANISH UNIVERSITIES

In the last years, most Spanish universities have created specific offices and institutions to cope with all the ECTS matters. Due to the initial lack of information about which both teachers and students have complained very recently, it has been decided to design powerful websites to provide answers to all those questions. This is the case of the following, to name a few:


www.eees.ua.es

- *Universidad de Alicante*: http://www.eees.ua.es. A glossary is provided with the main ECTS concepts in both Spanish and Valencian.



www.uca.es

- *Universidad de Cádiz*: http://www.uca.es/web/estudios/eees. The most outstanding aspect is the so-called "Europe Project" (whose main aim is to adapt the University of Cádiz to the EHEA following different strategies).


viceees.ujaen.es

- *Universidad de Jaén*: http://viceees.ujaen.es/node/9. Students can send their questions concerning the ECTS via the internet and the answers are provided online. Since everybody benefits from others' doubts and comments, the principle of "sharing knowledge" is fostered.

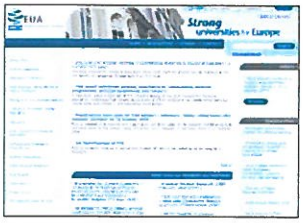

www.upv.es

- *Universidad Politécnica de Valencia*: http://www.upv.es/entidades/VECE. The most relevant features are the PACE program (Plan de Acciones para la Convergencia Europea), which consists of different projects that can be found at http://www.upv.es/entidades/VECE/menu_592108c.html. In addition, there is a blog at http://tupreguntas.blogs.upv.es/ for students to ask their questions concerning the Bologna process. They are answered by experts and broadcast online with the help of UPV Radio and Television.


www.upv.es

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Most European documents can be found at the above-mentioned site: http://www.eua.be/. More specifically, they are included within the "Publications" section: http://www.eua.be/publications/#c398.


www.eua.be

They can be classified into two main groups: Ministerial Documents and Communiqués, on the one hand, and European University Association Trends Reports, on the other. Most of the former can be found in http://www.bologna-berlin2003.de/en/main_documents/index.htm. That is the case of the Lisbon Recognition Convention (1997), the Sorbonne Declaration (1998), the Bologna Declaration (1999), the Prague Communiqué (2001), and the Berlin Communiqué (2003). The Bergen Communiqué (2005) is available at http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/Docs/00-Main_doc/050520_Bergen_Communique.pdf and the London Communiqué (2007), at http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/documents/ MDC/London_Communique18May2007.pdf.


www.bologna-berlin2003.de

The five EUA Trends Reports can be found at http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/documents/EUA_Trends_Reports.htm and they are published every two years (June 1999, April 2001, July 2003, April 2005, and May 2007).


www.ond.vlaanderen.be

The four EUA declarations are also available at http://www.eua.be/publications/#c398: Salamanca Convention (2001), Graz Declaration (2003), Glasgow Declaration (2005), and Lisbon Declaration (2007).

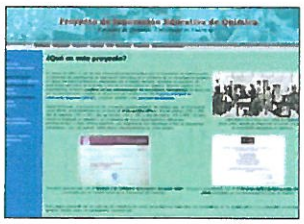
Two Spanish national reports (2005 and 2007) should be mentioned: http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/Docs/Spain/National_Reports-Spain_050114-Sp.pdf and http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/links/National-reports-2009/National_Report_Spain_2009.pdf.


www.ond.vlaanderen.be

There are many more relevant documents, among which the ECTS Users' Guide (2004) should be highlighted: http://www.eua.be/eua/jsp/en/upload/ECTS_DS_Users_guide_en.1094119167134.pdf.


http://viceees.ujaen.es

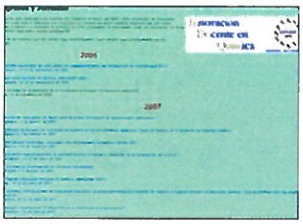
Furthermore, the main national and regional documents are included in the special websites created by most Spanish universities under a heading typically entitled "Legislación" or "Documentación". That is the case of crucial documents, such as the "Report on Teaching Innovation in Andalusian Universities" *(Informe sobre la Innovación de la Docencia en las Universidades Andaluzas)*, which was published in April 2005: http://viceees.ujaen.es/files_viceees/CIDUA.pdf.


www.uv.es

CONFERENCES


www.redu.um.es

Both forthcoming and past events can be found at http://www.eua.be/eua-events/. In addition, the *Universidad de Jaén* includes within its website a very complete section with information about seminars, courses, conferences, and workshops dealing with the ECTS (http://viceees.ujaen.es/node/60). Such is also the case of the *Red Estatal de Docencia Universitaria* (RED-U): http://www.redu.um.es/ (this kind of information can be found following the "Activities" link) and of the *Proyecto de Innovación Educativa de Química at the Universidad de Valencia* (http://www.uv.es/~giequim/). A specific page has been included with the links to past and forthcoming events in chronological order (http://www.uv.es/~giequim/enlaces/congresos.html).


www.uv.es

In the last few years, many conferences, workshops, and seminars which were aimed at sharing information about the Bologna Process have taken place. Some of them were of regional scope: *I y II Jornadas de Trabajo sobre Experiencias Piloto EEES en las Universidades Andaluzas* (http://www.uca.es/web/estudios/eees/jornadas/ and http://prensa.ugr.es/prensa/expe_ects/index.htm), which took place in Cádiz (2006) and Granada (2007), respectively.


www.uca.e

Others were of national nature: *I y II Jornadas Nacionales de Intercambio de Experiencias Piloto de Implantación de Metodologías ECTS*



prensa.ugr.es

(http://www.unex.es/unex/oficinas/oce/funciones/jornadas), organized by the *Universidad de Extremadura* (2006, 2007); *Jornadas Universitarias de Innovación y Calidad: Buenas Prácticas Académicas para la Innovación del Proceso de Aprendizaje en el EEES* (http://www.buenaspracticas.deusto.es/), organized by the *Universidad de Deusto* (September 2008); and *Seminarios de Reflexión RED-U-USC: La coordinación mediante equipos docentes en ES: fortalezas, recursos y necesidades* (http://www.redu.um.es/), in Santiago de Compostela (February 2009).

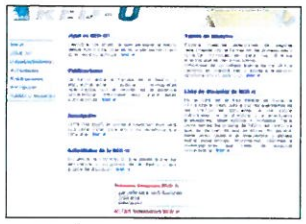

www.unex.es


www.buenaspracticas.deusto.es

Some international conferences have been organized by Spanish universities. Although the titles in many cases do not refer explicitly to the ECTS, nowadays whenever "innovation" is mentioned, it often implies the idea of "innovation within the new education framework":

- *Congreso Internacional sobre Profesores Principiantes e Inserción Profesional a la Docencia:* http://prometeo.us.es/idea/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=250&Itemid=129 (*Universidad de Sevilla*, June 2008).


prometeo.us.es


www.redu.um.es

- *Congreso Internacional de Docencia Universitaria e Innovación* (CIDUI): http://www.ice.upc.edu/cidui2008/cast/index.html (*Universidad de Lleida*, July 2008).


www.ice.upc.edu

- *Congreso Internacional de Intercambio de Experiencias de Innovación Docente Universitaria:* http://dim.usal.es/eps/mmt/congreso/ (*Universidad de Salamanca*, September 2008).


dim.usal.es

- *Congreso Nacional e Iberoamericano de Pedagogía:* http://www.congresopedagogia2008.com/index.html (*Universidad de Zaragoza*, September 2008).

- *Congreso Iberoamericano de Docencia Universitaria. Enseñar y aprender en la universidad del siglo XXI: propuestas y condiciones:* http://www.cfp.upv.es/v-cidu/ (*Universidad Politécnica de Valencia*, October 2008).


www.congresopedagogia2008.com



www.cfp.upv.es

- *II Jornadas Internacionales de Innovación Educativa y Convergencia Europea (INECE 2008):* http://www.upm.es/innovacion/inece2008/ (*Universidad Politécnica de Madrid*, December 2008)



www.upm.es

Other international conferences have taken place or will do so in different European countries:

- ECER 2008 Gothenburg: "The European Conference on Educational Research": http://www.ipd.gu.se/english/ecer2008 (University of Gothenburg, Sweden, September 2008).
- 23rd ICDE World Conference on Open Learning and Distance Education, including the 2009 EADTU Annual Conference: http://www.ou.nl/eCache/DEF/80/137.html (Maastricht, The Netherlands, June 2009).

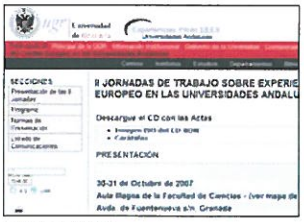

www.ipd.gu.se


www.ou.nl

PROCEEDINGS

Sometimes, in the case of past events, it is possible to download all or some of the abstracts or papers in .pdf format. Such is the case, for example, of the proceedings of the above-mentioned *I Jornadas de Trabajo sobre Experiencias Piloto de Implantación del Crédito Europeo en las Universidades Andaluzas* (http://www2.uca.es/orgobierno/rector/jornadas/) and the *II Jornadas de Trabajo sobre Experiencias Piloto en las Universidades Andaluzas* (http://prensa.ugr.es/prensa/expe_ects/index.htm).


www2.uca.es

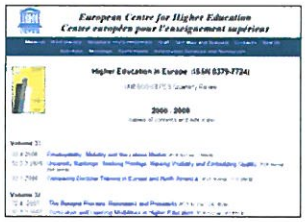


prensa.ugr.es

As far as the *Universidad de Extremadura* is concerned, it is not only possible to download the proceedings of both the first and second *Jornadas Nacionales de Intercambio de Experiencias Piloto de Implantación de Metodologías ECTS*, but also to become familiarized with the point of view and opinions of the students that took part in the *Jornadas para alumnos sobre Convergencia Europea* in April 2006. All the information can be found at http://www.unex.es/unex/oficinas/oce/funciones/jornadas.


www.unex.es


www.springerlink.com



www.cepes.ro

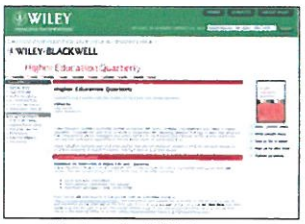
EUROPEAN JOURNALS

There are plenty of journals which focus on European Higher Education and which have recently published a vast amount of papers on the Bologna process concerning not only its teaching and learning implications, but also political, strategic and institutional issues.


www.palgrave-journals.com

Such is the case of:

- *Higher Education* (http://www.springerlink.com/content/102901/)
- *Higher Education in Europe* (http://www.cepes.ro/publications/hee_eng.htm)
- *Higher Education Policy* (http://www.palgrave-journals.com/hep)
- *Higher Education Quarterly* (http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/hequ)



www.blackwellpublishing.com

- *Higher Education Research and Development* (http://www.herdsa.org.au/?page_id=25)
- *International Journal of Educational Research* (www.elsevier.com/locate/ijedures)
- *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education* (http://www.isetl.org/ijtlhe/)
- *Journal of Further and Higher Education* (http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713430659~db=all)
- *New Directions for Higher Education* (http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/86011349/home)
- *Studies in Higher Education* (http://www.srhe.ac.uk/publications.she.asp)
- *Teaching in Higher Education* (http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713447786~db=jour)


www.herdsa.org.au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www.isetl.org


www.informaworld.com


www3.interscience.wiley.com


www.srhe.ac.uk


www.informaworld.com

Notes

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