

Growing together: How Language Policy Can Contribute to Build the Common European Area of Higher Education

One of the main objectives of European education policy has been the creation of a common European Higher Education Area. Many of the specific objectives of the Bologna Declaration (1999) have been achieved - comparable degrees, a higher education system based on two main cycles (Bachelor and Master) and a system of credit points to facilitate academic mobility (ECTS). However, the goals of greater European cooperation in quality assurance and the integration of specific European dimensions into teaching and learning at universities still need to be pursued. In my presentation I will raise the question of how language policy can be used as a means to achieve these two goals. Examples from the Arqus European University Alliance will illustrate the importance of language policy in higher education.