ECTS and Diploma Supplement Labels

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Reaction of European HEIs

- Why do we need it?
- Our institution is too big to do this
- We are good and well known as we are to care about labels...

Etc...
But did anybody ask themselves

- Is our HEI prepared to think global and perceive international trends, demands and competition?
- Does our HEI need better visibility in the process of globalization? How do labels help?
- Can visibility be fostered by the labels?
- What does the label mean for our students? Our partners? Ourselves?
Or maybe it...

- Tells about transparency
- Proves student-centred / workload based approach
- Guarantees quality of information available to students and their environment / and potential employers
- Increases quality of mobility / provides more possibilities for joint degrees
Or maybe it...

- Helps marketing the institution at home and abroad
- Aids recognition of periods of study and qualifications
- Increases prestige / Quality: showing that institution uses DS/ECTS properly
Making best use of the labels and its holders

- The label is a signal of being an international player: many label holders use it to raise attractiveness for foreign students/teachers

- The Commission promotes label holders:
  - Label award conference, press releases
  - Publication in “Erasmus success stories”
  - Special booklets presenting the label holders
  - Special tasks from the Commission
Overview of ECTS- DS Label rounds 2009-2011

- All label applications received by NAs
- All Pre-selected labels
- All Successful labels
ECTS/DS Label

A new two-step approach

1. A pre-screening of proposals by the Lifelong Learning Programme National Agencies

2. A final screening exercise at European level of pre-screened applications by the Executive Agency in order to ensure overall consistency of evaluation results
ECTS/DS label

SELECTION TIMETABLE

Publication of the appl. package: February 2012
Deadline for submission of appl.: 1 June 2012
Screening by the Nat. Agencies: June - Sept. 2012
Screening of appl. by the Exec. Agency: Oct - Nov
Award Decision: December 2012

All rejected applicants get a detailed feedback with the expert's comments, so that they can improve for the next selection round!
How does selection go?

- Keep in mind: Checklist
- Based on written evidence
- Relative quality – the best of the bunch does not mean the best in absolute terms
ECTS-label

Vad är ECTS-label?

Kvalitetsutmärkelse som visar att man sköter studentutbyte på ett exemplariskt sätt och att man har information på engelska om lärosätet, om dess kurser och utbildningar i linje med ECTS-handboken.
ECTS-label

Varför ska man ansöka om ECTS-label?

Sätter fokus på internationalisering

- Intern kraftsamling kring frågor om internationalisering och rutiner kring utbildningsplanering och information
- Kvalitetssäkring av information på engelska
- Stimulerar tvåspråkighet
- Labeln kan användas i marknadsföringen
ECTS label - simple requirements difficult to fulfill

- Information Package and Course Catalogue (IP/CC) for ALL I and II cycle degree programmes in local language and English (accessible through the Web page)
- Correct use of credits (based on student workload)
- Recognition of study period abroad
- Correct use of other ECTS tools (Learning agreement, Transcript of Records)
Information on the institution

New issues

- General arrangements for the recognition of prior learning (formal, informal and non-formal)
- Arrangements for academic guidance
Information on programmes

New issues

- Specific arrangements for the recognition of prior learning (formal, informal and non-formal)
- Profile of the programme
- Key learning outcomes
- Occupational profiles of graduates with examples
Description of individual course units

New issues

- Mode of delivery (face-to-face, distance learning)
- Recommended optional programme components
- Planned learning activities and teaching methods
- Work placement
ECTS - Knock out criteria

- Not all degree programmes described;
- Allocation of credits is not based on student workload;
- No IP/CC version in English;
- The dossiers for outgoing or incoming students do not fulfill basic criteria:
  - Of programmes, countries, partner institutions;
  - One or more forms are missing in the dossiers.
The most common mistakes for IP/CC

- No mirror information in two languages
- Missing information items in degree and course descriptions
- IP/CC is difficult to find on the institution’s webpage
- ECTS is used only by some departments
- ECTS is not applied to all students
- Credits do not equal 60 per year (course structure diagram is missing)
- No information on LO
WHY ISSUE COURSE CATALOGUE IN ENGLISH ? (1)

DIRECT CONSEQUENCES FOR:

- home students
- international students
- academics
- administrative staff

ENCOURAGE UNIVERSITIES TO DO IT FOR THE SAKE OF THE INSTITUTIONS THEMSELVES - NOT FOR MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION OR NATIONAL AGENCIES
WHY ISSUE COURSE CATALOGUE IN ENGLISH? (2)

- INDIRECT CONSEQUENCES:
  * Focus on internationalisation
  * Early focus on description of learning outcomes
  * Focus on the relationship between credits and student workload
  * Focus on bilingual information to students and academics
  * Greater focus on quality assurance of information in English
Credit requirements per respective period 20/30

- For the formal programme, the credit distribution must be respected, i.e. 20 / 30/ 60... BUT

- PRAGMATIC FLEXIBILITY is acceptable
The most common mistakes for student documents

ToR:
- The copies of the ToR are not certified/stamps missing
- Missing explanation of the local grading system
- Students awarded credits without passing exams
- Missing local grades, ECTS grades and/or credits

LA:
- Missing dates and signatures
- Inconsistency between LA, ToR and proof of recognition
- No credits indicated in the LA
- LA not in place before the mobility
The most common mistakes for proofs of recognition

- No information on recognition procedures
- Not clear what period at home institution is replaced by the period abroad
- Recognition documents without signatures and/or stamps
- Proofs made just for the label application
Good practices

- All items are included in the information package, are informative and presented in a clear way.

- The information package is easily accessible and very user-friendly.

- The description of the recognition and allocation of credits procedures are presented in a detailed and clear way.
Good practices (cont.)

- All documents included in the student dossiers are correctly completed, accurate and easy to access.
- Student dossiers are accompanied with explanatory notes.
- The mobility practices of the institution are exemplary and fully transparent.
What should a HEI be aware of when applying for the label?

- Be aware that label is not only prestige but also responsibility
- Be convinced that it is able to live and work according to the label standards after receiving it
- Be aware that it puts the institution under the “magnifying glass” of its partners

Lycka till !
DS-label

Varför söka Diploma Supplement label?

- En kvalitetsutmärkelse som visar att man tar internationellt samarbete på allvar
- "Gratis" marknadsföring då Europeiska kommissionen använder labeln i sin marknadsföring av europeisk högre utbildning.
DS-label

Varför söka Diploma Supplement label?

- Alla lärosäten uppfyller kraven
- Alla lärosäten utfärdar redan Diploma supplement
- Bekräftelse på något lärosätena redan gör
- Enkel ansökan
The DS should be issued for all students:

- Automatically
- Free of charge
- In two languages (local and widely spoken foreign); Unless a country's law foresees DS only in a widely spoken language.
DS - knock out criteria

- Not fulfilled - 4 hard copies
- Not fulfilled:
  - 2 different first cycle programmes
  - 2 different second cycle programmes
  Or
  - 4 integrated programmes
The most common mistakes for DS

- The DS does not follow official model
- Changed or missing preamble
- Transcripts are not included in the DS
- Not all cycles are represented in the dossiers submitted
- No proofs that DS is issued to ALL students and Free of charge
- The courses taken abroad are not indicated with the original titles
- Not clear what credits are used
- Filled in examples instead of copies submitted
- Confusing translation of degree titles
You must follow the recommendations in the ECTS User’s Guide 2009.

Lycka till!
## Overall success rates

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<tr>
<th>NATIONAL AGENCIES</th>
<th>EXECUTIVE AGENCY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of applications received</td>
<td>Successful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>57%</td>
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**ECTS Label result 2009**
# DS Label result 2009

## Overall success rates

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of applications received</td>
<td>Pre-selected applications</td>
<td>Success rate at NA level</td>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
<td>Success rate European level</td>
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<tr>
<td>161</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total success rate</th>
<th>32%</th>
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