Impacts of Bologna declaration on the higher education of civil engineering in Slovenia

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Abstract: In May of 1998 four ministers of education from France, Germany, Italy and United Kingdom signed Sorbonne Joint Declaration which triggered a process usually termed as Bologna Process. In the next year 1999 the Bologna Declaration was signed by 31 ministers of education from Europe. There are six major points in this declaration: comparable grades, two main study cycles, system of credits (ECTS), promotion of mobility, promotion of quality assurance, promotion of European dimensions in higher education. During the period following the Bologna Declaration there were several ministerial conferences with the last in Yerevan (Armenia) in 2015. The establishment of a common higher-education space in Europe can be considered as one of the success stories of Europe. However, the inappropriate understanding of two-cycles study as proposed by the original Bologna declaration lead to a present system of engineering education in Slovenia and other parts of Europe which is less than optimal. In Slovenia the first three year bachelor cycle is followed by the second two years master cycle. It was assumed that three year study suffice for the education of a civil engineer. We now realize this is not the case. As a result most of our students continue to study at the second cycle. It is a common understanding between all stakeholders that the unified master degree study would be more appropriate system. We plan to replace the existing two-cycle system with a single unified master study program in the next two years.

Keywords: Bologna declaration; two-cycle degree system; engineering study program;

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