

CLIOHnet2 National-meeting Austria

Paris-Lodron-University of Salzburg, Department of History, Room 116

Monday, March 17th, 2008

Participants: Gunda Barth (Univ. Innsbruck), Andreas Schwarcz (Univ. Vienna), Markus Wenninger, Florian Kerschbaumer (Univ. Klagenfurt), Siegfried Beer (Univ. Graz), Reinhold Reith, Christian Rohr, Norbert Ortmayr, Lukas Luger, Rafael Paulischin, Ewald Hiebl (Univ. Salzburg)

Agenda:

1. Welcome by Reinhold Reith (Head of the Department of History, Paris-Lodron-University of Salzburg)
 2. Studying History in an European context. Information on CLIOHnet2, CLIO-RES and TUNING (by Siegfried Beer and Ewald Hiebl)
 3. Bachelor and Master programmes in History. Information on actual state of affairs and future developments (reports by representatives of Austrian History Departments)
 4. The future of "Teaching the History Teachers" in Austria (reports by representatives of Austrian History Departments)
 5. From "Dr. phil" to "PhD". Developments in the doctorate-programmes (reports by representatives of Austrian History Departments)
 6. Studying History in Austria. How compatible are the History Programmes in Austria (discussion)
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2. Siegfried Beer informed on the history of CLIOHnet and current developments in CLIO-RES and TUNING. Ewald Hiebl gave a survey on CLIOHnet2 and the Task Forces and working group. He also informed on the proposal for CLIO-World. The colleagues from the other Austrian universities were very interested in the programmes and appreciated the possibility to come together under the aegis of CLIOHnet2.
 3. Representatives of all Austrian universities – in most cases the Heads of the curricula-commissions and students – that offer History Programmes presented the actual state of affairs in implementing the Bologna structure. The situation is very different from one university to another. Klagenfurt already implemented Bachelor and Master-programmes in 2005. Salzburg started in 2007. All the other universities have well developed curricula and will start with Bachelor- and Master-programmes in 2008 or 2009.

Some general problems arose in the discussion, e.g.:

- Are there different courses for Bachelor- and Master-programmes? In Innsbruck there are, in the other universities not
- Bachelor-thesis: this is very different, normally 1-2 thesis that is/are part of the work in seminars
- Bachelor-exam:
- Courses in foreign languages: there are very few courses in foreign languages in all programmes compared to international standards (30%), all departments want to increase the amount, in addition to that the departments encourage the students to spend one semester abroad (Erasmus-Socrates-programmes etc.)
- Quality of teaching: the representatives agree that the quality of teaching could be increased by a more detailed planning of courses. A detailed syllabus at the

beginning of the course would provide basic information for students and result in higher transparency concerning work-load and criteria for grading.

The agenda items 4–6 were not separately discussed and should be in the center of another meeting. The follow-up-meeting was scheduled for June, 9th, 2008. As in 2005 when the National Meeting was followed by four other meetings the National Meeting 2008 is a new impetus for cooperation between the Austrian History Departments with reflection to the international development of the higher education.