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# The Euro-Inf Project – Europe-wide Quality Assurance Standards and Criteria for Informatics Programmes

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**Socrates**



# Overview

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1. Background
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4. Project Steps
5. Output
6. Testing and Revising



## Background

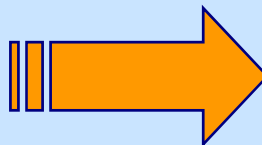
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- **Lisbon-Strategy:** „European Knowledge Society“
  - **Bologna Process:** Creation of a European Higher Education Area (EHEA) until 2010
  - **Copenhagen Process:** Life Long Learning

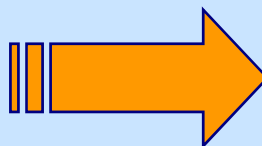


# Bologna: Tools for transparency

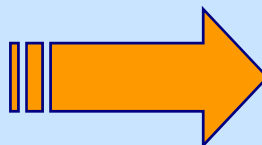
The European  
Credit Transfer  
System (ECTS)  
1 CP = 30  
hours workload



Diploma  
Supplement



Qualification  
Frameworks



- Information on:
- holder of the qualification
- qualification itself
- level of qualification

- Describing learning outcomes, i.e. knowledge, skills and competences expected from graduates



# Objectives:

## Contributing to establishing the EHEA

- provide a reference framework for a Europe-wide accreditation of informatics programmes
- improve and assess the quality of educational programmes
- facilitate mutual recognition by competent authorities
- facilitate mobility of students and graduates
- provide an appropriate "European label" for accredited educational programmes
- help establishing accreditation systems in European countries



# Scope

The Euro-Inf Framework Standards are intended to:

- be **widely applicable** and inclusive, enabling eligibility of a wide range of possible approaches to informatics higher education
- handle the **diversity** of content of informatics degree programmes
- be relevant for (academic) informatics study programmes leading to a **First** or to a **Second Cycle** Degree
- facilitate in particular accreditation of trans-national **joint- and double degree** programmes



## Project initiated by:

### ASIIN

- Accreditation Agency for Degree Programmes in Engineering, Informatics, Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- One of the leading institutions in developing international QA standards in the field of engineering
- Ca. 300 accreditation decisions / year





# Member Groups of ASIIN

Coordination Group of German Technical Universities From "A" like RWTH Aachen... to "Z" like ETH Zürich. (45 Members)

national bodies representing the faculties of computer science/engineering at German universities

Coordination Group of German Universities of Applied Science. From "A" like FH Aachen... to "Z" like Westsächsische Hochschule Zwickau. (98 members)

national bodies representing the faculties of at German universities of applied science

Broad based Alliance anchoring in the scientific community and in the economy,



working together for quality assurance and improvement in the German higher education system

Essential prerequisite for the acceptance of accreditation decisions

Technical and Scientific Associations and professional organizations (32)

Industrial federations / unions and management (8).



# Euro-Inf Boards

## Project Board,

representatives from

- **ASIIN**
- **CEPIS**
- **HAW Hamburg**
- **University of Paderborn**

## Advisory Board,

representatives from:

- **BCS (UK)**
- **GRIN (Italy)**
- **Univ. de Metz (France)**



## Most recent amendments by:

- Working Group Curriculum, at "Informatics Europe"
- Euro-Inf auditing teams
- Conference of Informatics Deans at German Universities of Applied Sciences and
- Conference of Informatics Deans at German Universities.

Creation  
of a set of  
standards

and  
refine-  
ment of  
the  
standards

Test  
accredita-  
tions

Refine-  
ment

Test  
accredita-  
tions

Refine-  
ment &  
final  
adoption

04/2007

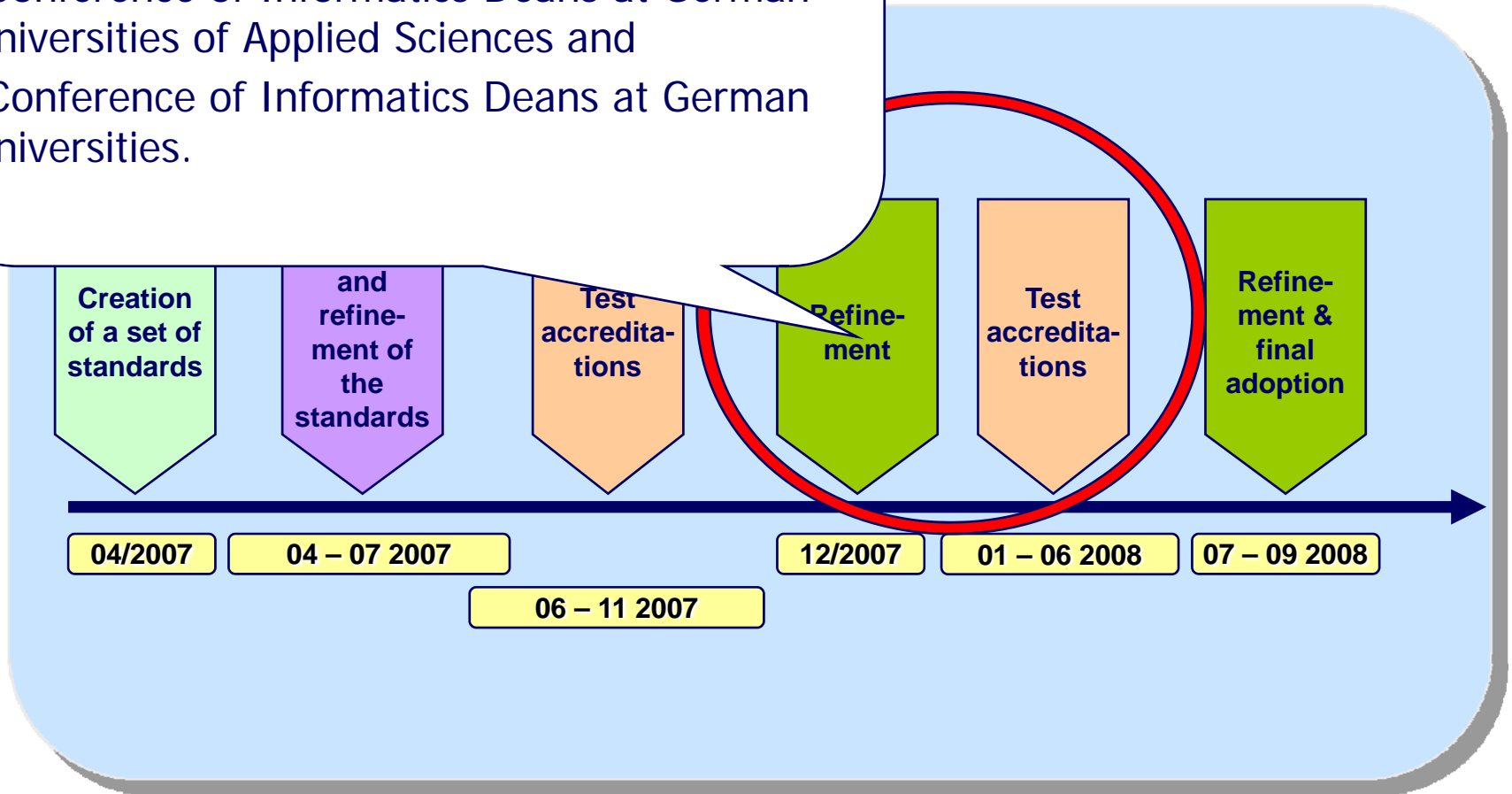
04 – 07 2007

06 – 11 2007

12/2007

01 – 06 2008

07 – 09 2008





# Output

- Learning Outcomes

a) First Cycle Degree

b) Second Cycle Degree

- Accreditation Standards and Criteria

a) Guidelines

b) Procedures

c) Template for Publication



# Example:

## Euro-Inf Learning outcomes

### First Cycle Degree

#### Technological, Methodological and Transferable Skills – First Cycle Degree

Graduates having completed a First Cycle degree should have demonstrated the following capabilities:

- the ability to combine theory and practice to solve informatics tasks
- undertaking literature searches, and use of data bases and other sources of information
- the ability to design and conduct appropriate experiments, and interpretation of data and conclusions
- understanding of the state of the art technologies relevant to the informatics specialisation and of their application
- awareness of the impact of informatics solutions in a societal and environmental context
- commitment to professional ethics, responsibilities and norms of informatics practice
- recognition of the need for, and engagement in life-long learning

Methodological

Technological

Transferable



# Example:

## Euro-Inf Learning outcomes

### Second Cycle Degree

#### Technological, Methodological and Transferable Skills – Second Cycle

Graduates having completed a Second Cycle degree should have demonstrated the following capabilities:

- integration of knowledge from different disciplines, and handling complexity
- comprehensive understanding of applicable techniques and methods for a particular specialisation, and of their limits
- awareness of the limits of today's knowledge and knowledge understanding practical application of the state-of-the-art technology
- respective knowledge and understanding of informatics to create information models, complex systems and processes
- ability to contribute to the further development of informatics



# Testing phase I

## Trial accreditations conducted in 2007

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- ✓ University of Sarajewo (Computing and Informatics) 
- ✓ University of Tuzla (Technical Informatics) 
- ✓ University Dzemal Bijedic, Mostar (Information Technologies) 
- ✓ University of Banja Luka (Computer Engineering and Information Technology) 
- ✓ HAW Hamburg (BA & MA Applied Computer Science, BA European Computer Science) 
- ✓ HfT Stuttgart (Ba Information Systems) 



# Benefits for the HEI

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- Raising awareness for the importance of Quality Assurance at HEI in general
- Encouragement for teamwork among teaching staff
- Identifying room for improvement within the study programme / faculty
- Training and preparation for "real" accreditation procedure



# Revisions of the Standards: Issues discussed

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- Learning outcomes: “underlying conceptual basis of informatics” – or: What is the core?
- A bias towards software engineering?
- Few procedural issues (composition of auditing team etc.)
- Some linguistic/wording issues



# Testing phase II: Trial-accreditations envisaged for 2008



- University of Aberdeen (several BA programmes, with BCS)
- University of Bozen (BA Applied Computer Science)
- WSHE Lodz (BA/MA Computer Science)
- University of Debrecen (BA Software Development)
- Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Coimbra, (BA European Computer Science)
- Technical University of Prague (n.n.)



# Where do I find the Euro-Inf Standards?



The screenshot shows the Euro-Inf website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Contact' and 'Imprint', and a search bar. The main header features the 'euro inf' logo and the 'Education and Culture Socrates' logo. A disclaimer states: 'This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. The publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.' Below the header is a sidebar with a menu: Home, News, About Euro-Inf, Project Partners, Boards, Downloads (highlighted), Members, and Euro-Inf Glossary. The main content area is titled 'Downloads' and includes a 'Downloads Home' link and a 'Search document' link. A table lists documents with columns for 'Documents' and 'Date added'. The table contains five entries, with the third entry, 'Euro-Inf Framework Standards and Criteria Version II 2007-08-07', highlighted in yellow. Each entry has 'Details', 'Download', and 'View' buttons. At the bottom, there are pagination controls: '<< Start', '< Prev', '1', '2', 'Next >', and 'End >>'. The text 'Results 1 - 5 of 6' is displayed below the pagination, and the footer contains '© 2007 Euro-Inf'.

Documents	Date added
 Survey on National Accreditation Systems <i>hot!</i> 	10.08.2007 Hits: 133
 List of Participants to the Euro-Inf Workshop on 12. April 2007 <i>hot!</i> 	20.04.2007 Hits: 275
 Euro-Inf Framework Standards and Criteria Version II 2007-08-07 <i>hot!</i> 	21.08.2007 Hits: 170
 Draft Agenda Project Board Meeting I, 24. Oct. 2006 <i>hot!</i> 	11.12.2006 Hits: 321
 Agenda Project Board Meeting 13. April 2007 <i>hot!</i> 	17.04.2007 Hits: 188

Euro-Inf Website:  
[www.euro-inf.eu](http://www.euro-inf.eu)

Contact:  
[muth@asiin.de](mailto:muth@asiin.de)



## Get involved!



- ✓ Send us your comments & suggestions
- ✓ Participate as expert in a trial-accreditation team
- ✓ Host a trial-accreditation visit
- ✓ Become a Euro-Inf Partner



# The End

