

ABSTRACT

The thesis is devoted to the Bologna Process, especially to the transition to the three-cycle system of degree programmes. Its aim is to show, based on both qualitative and quantitative data, how the Bologna process has permeated from the European level to the national level and how it has influenced Charles University. In the first two parts the basic research method is structured content analysis of relevant Bologna and national documents. In the third, empirical part, which concentrates on Charles University, the research questions are aimed at identifying problems connected with the implementation of the three-cycle system, the preference for returning to undivided Master's degree programmes, the vertical permeability of degree programmes, the early leavings and the length of study. Based on a questionnaire survey and quantitative data a multiple case study analysis has been developed. Among others it concludes that 1) the return to undivided degree programmes is not considered to be viable option by most of the faculties, 2) with the dividing line resting on professional or academic orientation of the degree programme, 3) the transition to the three-cycle system has often led to a high number of specialized degree programmes which according to the faculties has promoted attractiveness of the study offer, but from the point of view of the international evaluators this has weakened it, 4) students who have not completed a Bachelor's degree at Charles University, are leaving Master's degree programmes without a diploma approximately twice as often than students who have graduated there, 5) unlike the 2001 White Paper's hypothesis, departures from studies without a diploma has not decreased, 6) compared to the pre-Bologna degree programmes the path to a Master's degree lasts longer in the two-cycle system.

KEY WORDS

Higher education institution, Charles University, Bologna Process, European Higher Education Area, massification, structured studies, vertical permeability, early higher education leaving