SOME BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

1 The Bologna Process will have a decisive influence on the development of individual universities and on international co-operation

2 Key phrases in the Bologna declaration of direct relevance to European/international co-operation
   - convergence of structures
   - establishment of a system of credits (transfer & accumulation)
   - student mobility – study, training, related services
   - mobility of teachers, researchers, administrative staff
   - European co-operation in quality assurance
   - promotion of European dimensions in HE
     - inter-institutional co-operation
     - mobility schemes
     - integrated programmes of study, training, and research

3 European / international co-operation will be driven by competition

4 European / international co-operation will become more structured in years to come
Vision One

STUDENT MOBILITY WILL BE FURTHER DEVELOPED BOTH WITH REGARD TO QUANTITY AND QUALITY

- ERASMUS student mobility has become a success story in spite of peanuts money – regarded by students as an essential qualification
- mobility of vital importance to employability in an integrated Europe

*new first-cycle programmes*
- study periods abroad PLUS placements
- more and more non-language related programmes will have obligatory mobility (1 semester study stay plus placement)
- introduction of credit accumulation will facilitate credit transfer -> fully integrated modules
- this in turn will lead to stricter selection of partner institutions -> issue of matching quality

*new masters programmes*
- integrated study programme - > joint or double degrees
- periods of one year of more spent at partner institution(s)
- virtual mobility + structured teaching staff mobility
- programmes designed to produce professionals for the international labour market
• (increasingly, professionals will be called in to complement academic staff)
Vision Two

CREATION OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY CONSORTIA INCLUDING PARTNERS OUTSIDE EUROPE

- possibly under the umbrella of institutional networks, such as UNICA, linking universities that are similar in regard to their environment, academic experience, and quality
- including bilateral co-operation (as against multilateral co-operation promoted under SOCRATES)
- areas of joint activity:
  - integrated (postgraduate) programmes (including distance education modules)
  - professional orientation
  - research orientation
    - continuing education programmes
    - co-operation with public and private non-university partners
- quality enhancement initiatives
MOBILITY OUTSIDE FORMAL CO-OPERATION AGREEMENTS

- vertical mobility (BA -> MA -> PhD -> post-doc)
- students completing a course of studies in another country
- students doing a complete first-degree course in another
Vision Three

THE ROLE OF THEMATIC NETWORKS AS AREA-SPECIFIC THINK-TANKS WILL BECOME MORE IMPORTANT

- universities will come to appreciate the TNPs’ contribution to curriculum development, now that they are obliged to develop new curricula

- in addition to their traditional objectives, TNPs will, even more than in the past, be focusing on
  - developing core curricula / course profiles for the new structures
  - reflecting on employability / relevance to the professional environment
  - reflecting on lifelong learning
  - developments outside Europe (linking up with similar initiatives in other parts of the world)

- universities engaged in unilateral or joint curriculum development will find information on
  - general trends in Europe and beyond
  - new demands
  - developments in other countries
  - potential partners
Vision Four

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WILL INCREASINGLY BECOME INTERNATIONALISED**

- R&D in the hard sciences has reached a high level of internationalisation, and this trend will continue
- R&D in other areas will follow this trend
- European funding will becoming increasingly important
- not necessarily undertaken by institutions belonging to the consortia referred to above
Vision Five

IROs WILL PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE
IN DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION
ALONG THE LINES INDICATED

- as service units
  - enhancing the quality of mobility
  - providing information about new initiatives / opportunities
  - advising academics in applying for and carrying out co-operation projects

- as strategic units
  - providing input for the university’s internationalisation policy
  - helping to decide on priority areas in international co-operation
  - identifying people for specific co-operative ventures

- IRO staff will increasingly co-operate with colleagues in consortium member institutions
  - mobility!