

Session 2

Language teaching / learning under Bologna

**Université Libre de Bruxelles
Faculté des Sciences appliquées**

« More than just the language courses »

« Language learning in a meaningful context »

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1. The *Plan Langues* of the *Université Libre de Bruxelles*

- **The origins of the *Plan Langues* - from 2004-05**
 - Adoption of Bologna
 - Strategic positioning of the University
 - Inadequate language learning provision for many students
- **How it came about**
 - *Commission Interfacultaire Langues*
- **General goals and structure**
 - CEFR level B1 minimum by end of 1st cycle programme in 4 competences
 - ECTS credited - 8 ECTS in 1st cycle
 - Obligatory
 - Receptive skills in BA2 - Productive skills in BA3
 - Teaching materials linked to students' academic domain

2. Faculties concerned + initial evaluation - end 2005-06

- **% of students achieving the target level:**
 - *Philosophie et Lettres: 59%*
 - *Psychologie: 66%*
 - *Sciences: 83%*
 - *Sciences appliquées: 90%*
- **Between 59% and 90% of students achieved the required level by the end of the 1st full cycle 2004-05 / 2005-06**
- **Variation across faculties: Why?**

3. The *Plan Langues* in Applied Science

- **Structure of the *Plan Langues* courses**
 - **BA1 - 2 ECTS: Listening to lectures and note-taking**
 - **BA2 - 2 ECTS: Reading for academic purposes**
 - **BA3 - 4 ECTS: Speaking and writing for academic purposes**
- **Initial analysis:**
 - **Entry examination = different student population**
 - **Clear professional orientation**

The *Plan Langues* in (one) context

4. Academic mobility programmes (*by free choice*)

- **Partner network of 48 institutions in 18 countries**
 - **Mobility possible for from 1 semester to 2 years between 3rd and 5th years**
- **Exchange agreement with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel**
- **FSA a founder member of TIME (Top Industrial Managers in Europe)**
 - **51 leading schools of engineering (48 in Europe)**
 - **Possibility to spend between 1 semester and 2 years in a partner institution + receive a joint degree**
- **Joint MA programmes with Vrije Universiteit Brussel**

5. Work placements + International competitions (*by free choice*)

- **Work placements of 3 months at start of MA2**
 - Within + outside of Belgium
 - Close monitoring of students' linguistic and communicative skills
- **BEST (Board of European Students of Technology)**
 - Student organisation that organises competitions in the fields of applied science and technology
 - Frequently entails use of a language other than French

6. Faculty support and a shared vision

- **A clear *projet pédagogique* at faculty level**
 - *Bureau d'appui pédagogique en Polytech*
 - ***Référential des compétences*: communication is a key professional skill for all engineers**
- **Close collaboration between language teaching staff and faculty members**
 - **Ongoing sharing of insights**
 - **Joint examining of BA3 students**

7. Lessons to be learned **(... in *one* context, at least)**

- **Learning a language for its own sake is unlikely to be enough (the *projet professionnel / personnel* of the student)**
- **Language contacts - partly by obligation, partly by free choice**
- **Linking language learning to students' academic programme and professional goals**
- **Presence of a range of language contact and intercultural learning opportunities**
- **The role of faculty / institutional support**