

**Rudolf Richter**

## **Bologna process at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Vienna**

### **Abstract**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century will be characterized by life long learning and the need of flexibility in one's career. The Bologna process reflects this in allowing a broad variety of studies and a greater flexibility in the system of Bachelor, Master and PhD programs.

The University of Vienna wants to lay more emphasis on research so PhD programs are of primary importance. We will have so called "Initiativkollegs" interdisciplinary composed where students from different nations will work with different supervisors. Secondly the Faculty will establish a centre for PhD students with the intention to be a link and form networks with research activities at the faculty.

We decided to introduce MA-studies in the traditional fields of sociology, political science, cultural and social anthropology and communication science. Besides that interdisciplinary masters and professional masters (e.g. public relations) are planned. MA studies will closely be connected to the research areas of the faculty such as the problem of an aging society, the health system, social and cultural change, European integration and governance.

A main task will be the establishment of Bachelor studies. There will be a BA in sociology and the other traditional subjects. The Bachelor studies shall create core competences in the specific field as well as general competences in social sciences and in personal abilities. Thus it shall create higher employability through a substantial education in methods, theory oriented problem solving and abilities such as how to do scientific work in general but also in designing research, making decisions, and presenting ideas and concepts.

The modular system, the orientation to student workloads and teaching outcomes in connection with ECTS-points will allow a flexible system of studies at the University of Vienna.