

The Degree Reform in the Department of Surveying, Helsinki University of Technology

Arvo VITIKAINEN, Finland

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Helsinki University of Technology will change over to a new, two-phase degree structure, together with other Finnish universities, on the 1st of August, 2005. In practice this means a transform from the single-stage degree of the Master of Science in Technology to a two-stage university degree consisting of a lower and a higher degree. The aim is a high quality degree structure corresponding to 180+120 ECTS points, which are recognised in other high standard European universities of technology and science. Another significant reform in the new degree structure will be the compilation of the courses into modules, which will form the larger elements of the degree: general scientific studies, general studies of the programme, subject studies, and the majors and the minors for the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees.

The degree reform is related to the commitment of Finland and some 40 other European countries to the so-called Bologna process. The goal of the process is to clarify and harmonise the degree structures in European universities and create an internationally competitive academic education area in Europe by the year of 2010. The goal is achieved by standardising the degree structures, by adopting a uniform sizing system for the studies, by encouraging the mobility of the students, researchers and other university personnel, by enhancing the European co-operation related to the grading of studies, and by diversifying international co-operation and networking between various universities.

The paper deals with the goals, contents, and practical implementation of the degree reform in the Department of Surveying. The reform and the experiences obtained may serve as an example to the reforms implemented elsewhere in the field of surveying education.