

	<h2>The Bologna Declaration and Physiotherapy Education in Portugal: Opinions from teachers and students</h2> <p>Maria Beatriz Fernandes November 2004</p>
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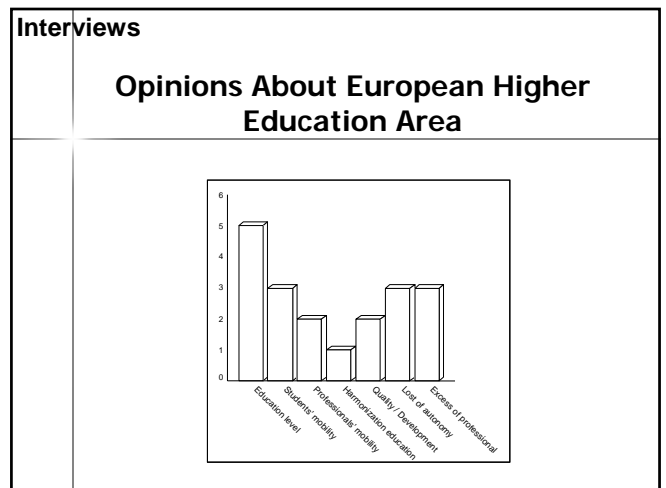
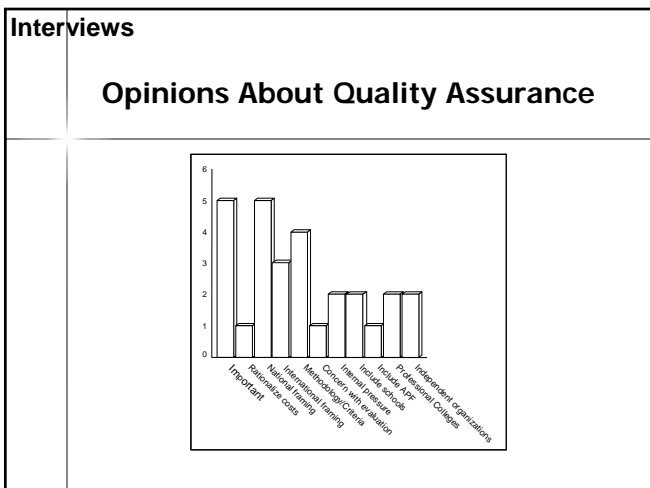
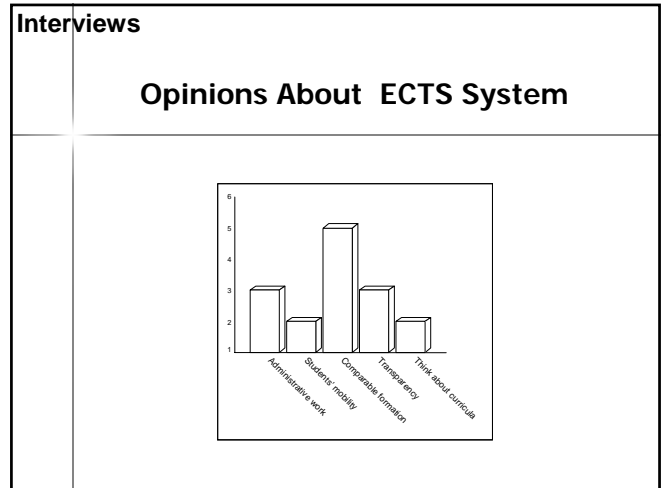
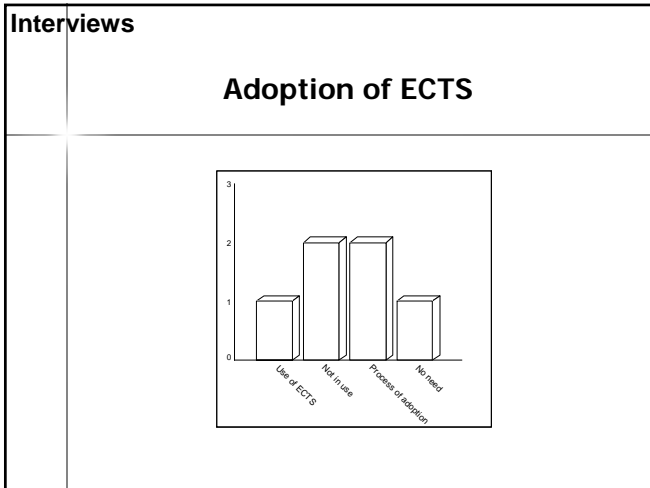
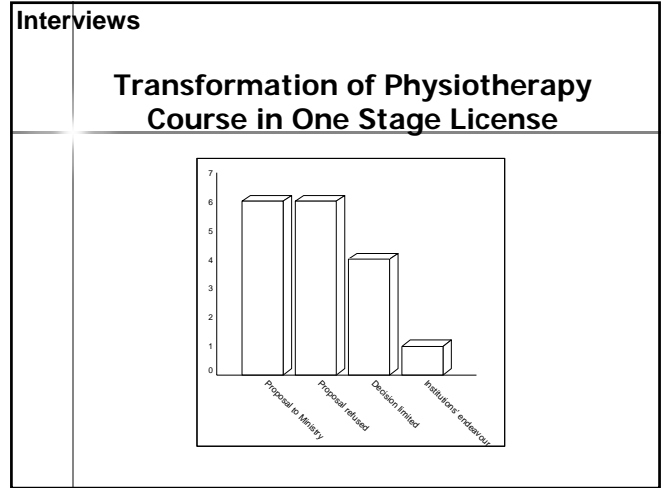
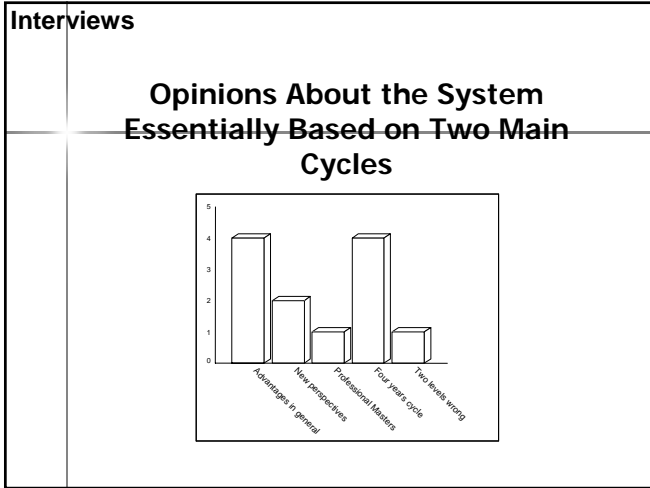
	<h2>Research Questions</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the opinions from the coordinators of Portuguese Physiotherapy Schools, concerning European Higher Education Area?</li> <li>• Which difficulties have the coordinators of Portuguese Physiotherapy Schools found with the implementation of Bologna's Declaration?</li> <li>• What do Portuguese Physiotherapy students know about the Bologna Declaration?</li> <li>• What are the opinions from Portuguese Physiotherapy students about the implementation of the European Higher Education Area?</li> </ul>

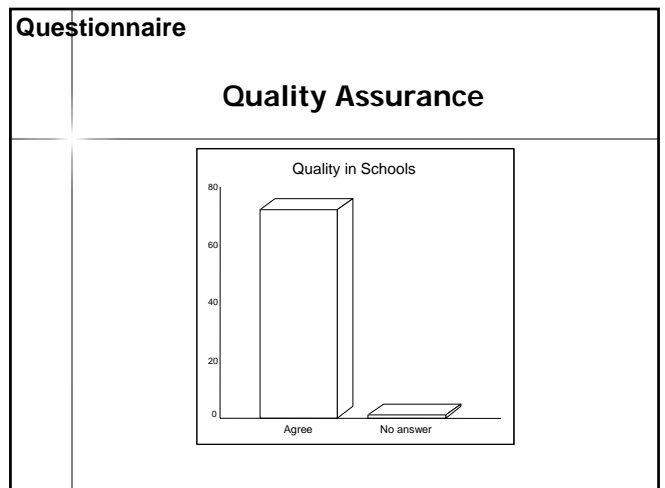
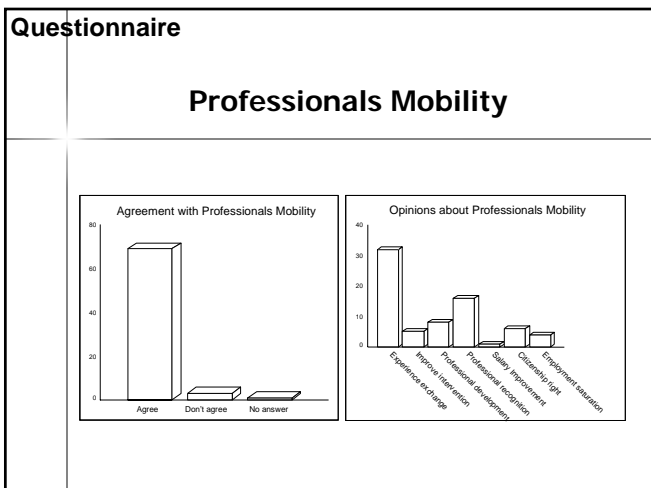
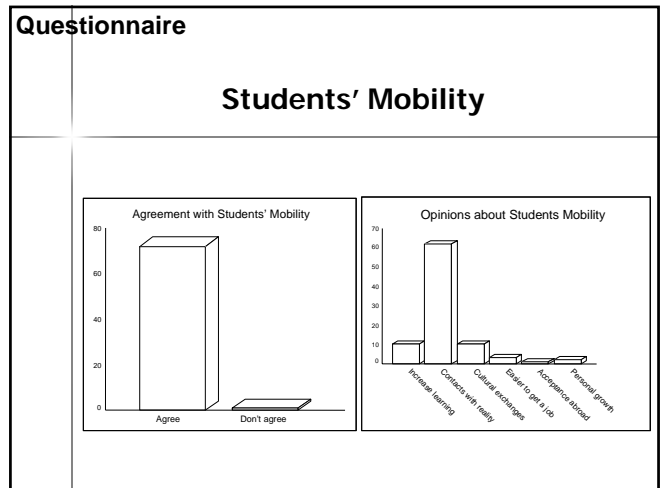
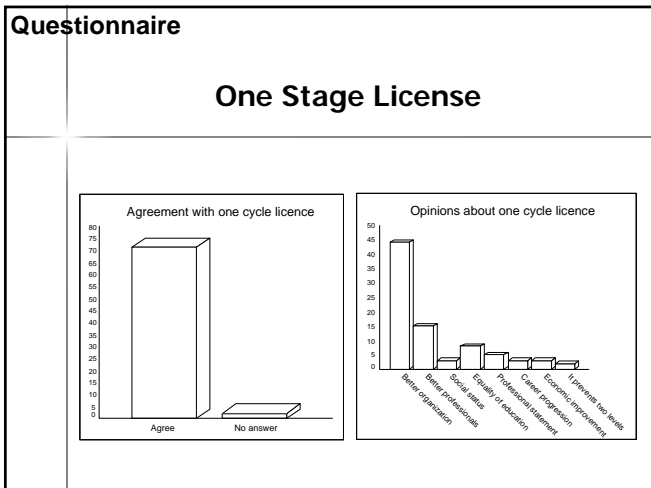
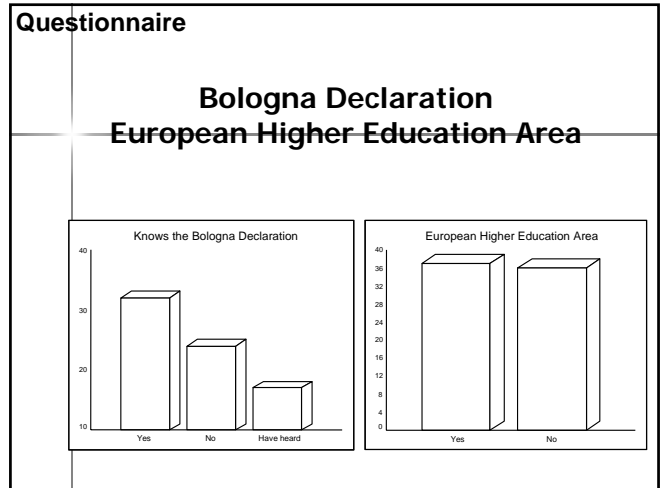
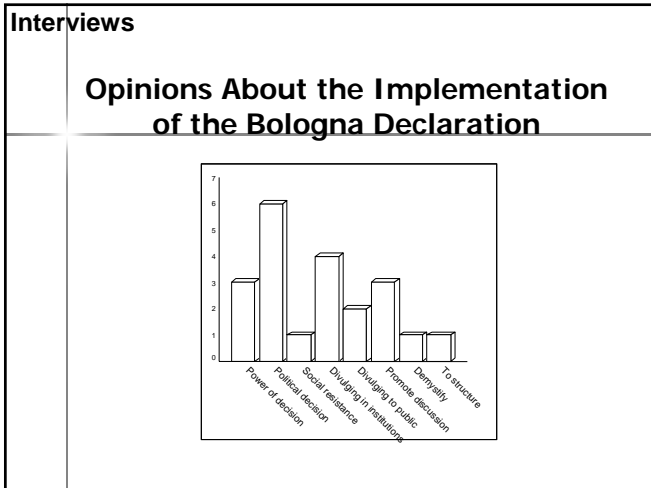
	<h2>Sample</h2>
	<p>Six higher education institutions which have been teaching Physiotherapy for at least one year</p> <p>In each institution we have selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physiotherapy Course coordinators;</li> <li>• Sample of 73 Physiotherapy students from different course years</li> </ul>

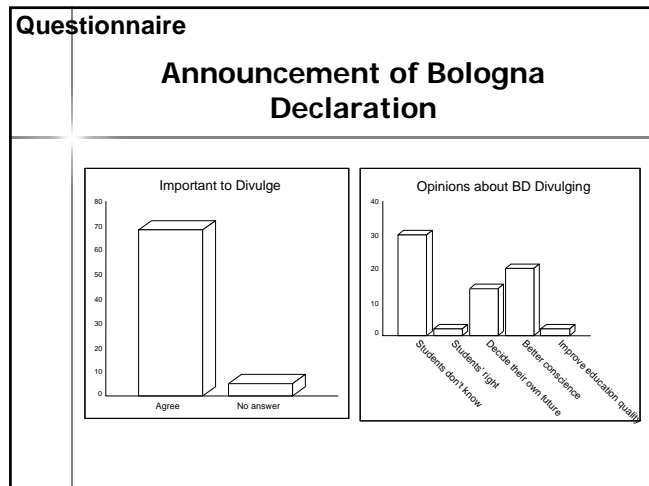
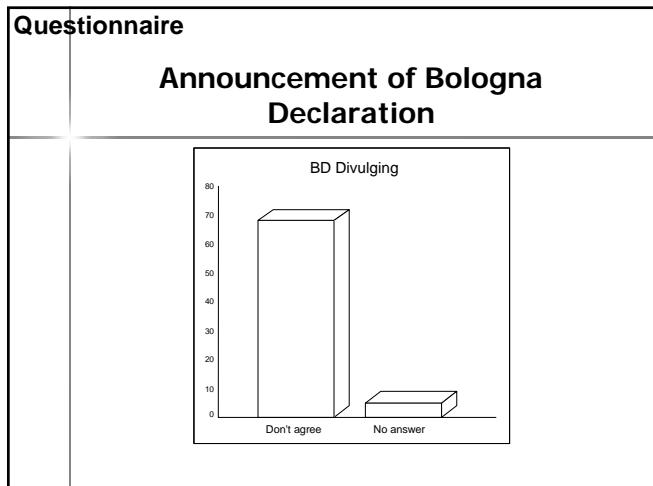
	<h2>Instruments</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Half-structured interview to inquire opinions from Physiotherapy course coordinators;</li> <li>• Questionnaire to inquire students' opinions</li> </ul>

	<h2>Interviews</h2> <h3>Inter-institutional Co-operation</h3>														
	<table border="1"> <caption>Interviews by Institution</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Institution</th> <th>Number of Interviews</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Santa Maria</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preliminary visits</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Estoril</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Freixo de Gouveia</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leiria</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ENPHE</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Institution	Number of Interviews	Santa Maria	1	Preliminary visits	1	Estoril	4	Freixo de Gouveia	1	Leiria	2	ENPHE	1
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	<table border="1"> <caption>Opinions on Degree System Aspects</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Aspect</th> <th>Number of Opinions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Good for mobility</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good for professional development</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good for recognizing</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good for learning</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More competitive system</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Linking between countries</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equality of education</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Aspect	Number of Opinions	Good for mobility	5	Good for professional development	3	Good for recognizing	2	Good for learning	2	More competitive system	2	Linking between countries	1	Equality of education	1
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**Conclusions**

- Physiotherapy course coordinators advocate positive opinions concerning the Bologna Declaration, emphasizing the possibility to transform the two stage license in one stage license with 4 years duration;
- ECTS system is welcome by Physiotherapy course coordinators, because it allows a real comparison between curricula, institutions and education systems;

**Conclusions**

- Mobility is positive considered in general, although the interviews show some worry concerning the possibility to have a situation of employment saturation;
- All coordinators are concerned with quality assurance and quality certification of institutions. They consider important to define methodology and criteria that should be adopted, in order to develop credible evaluation systems;

**Conclusions**

- Physiotherapy course coordinators agree with inter institutional cooperation;
- European Higher Education Area is considered as a positive context to Physiotherapy in Portugal;
- Difficulties are related to the lack of decision power by institutions and lack of announcement and promotion of public discussion;

**Conclusions**

- The Majority of Physiotherapy students don't know the content of Bologna Declaration or it's aims;
- Students agree with a one stage licence in Physiotherapy with four years;
- Students also consider that the government does not announce the BD among higher education students, even though it is a matter of great importance on which they have the right to be informed;

<b>Conclusions</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concerning students' mobility, opinions are very positive, however professionals' mobility, although positive, it origins worry related with the possibility of saturation of employment in Portugal;</li><li>• All students agree both with quality evaluation and co operation between national and foreign institutions;</li><li>• Students agree with European Higher Education Area. This opinion is similar to the opinion of the coordinators.</li></ul>

	<p>Thank you</p>
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