

EurGeol Professor Paul D. Ryan, B.A., Ph.D., P.Geo, FGS.  
Emeritus Professor  
Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences  
NUI, Galway, Ireland  
paul.ryan@nuigalway.ie



Paul D. Ryan was a founder member of and is a member of the management board of the 'Tuning Project': the European Universities' response to the Bologna process. He Co-Chaired the Earth Sciences Subject area Group from 2000-2009 and was principal author of the validated Tuning Template for Earth Science Higher Education in Europe. He has given over 40 invited presentations on Tuning and the Bologna Process throughout Europe and has acted as adviser to both Government Agencies, Thematic Networks and Tuning Projects including: Africa; Georgia; Ireland; Russia; Spain; UK; USA; AFANET; MRENET, EurAges and EAR-HEI. He was appointed Founder Editor of the Tuning Journal for Higher Education in 2011. Paul graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in Geology and Chemistry from Keele University, Staffordshire where he also read for a Ph.D. In Geology. He worked at NUI Galway since 1970 until his retirement at the end of 2009. He was Professor of Geology since 1997 and acted as University Bologna Advisor since 2005. He is now Emeritus Professor and an active researcher in a wide range of fields in the Geosciences and in Higher Education with over 4700 citations.

### **External Consultancies and Engagements**

- 1988 – 1995 President Scientific Committee of World Underwater Federation.
- 1988 – 1995 Vice-President of World Underwater Federation.
- 1992 – 1995 External Examiner M.Sc. in Computing the Earth Sciences, Keele, UK
- 1992 – 1997 President of the DGXII advisory committee on Scientific Diving in the EU.
- 1995 – 2000 President of the European Union's (DGXII-MAST) Advisory Committee on Scientific Diving and Irish National Delegate to this Committee.
- 1999 Member of the Earth Sciences Review Panel for the Portuguese National Research Assessment
- 1999 – 2002 External Examiner in Geological Sciences, Durham, UK.
- 2001 – 2008 Subject area coordinator for the 'Tuning Educational Structures in Europe'.
- 2003 – 2004 Advisor to ANECA, the Spanish Government's Higher Education Authority
- 2003 – 2005 Tuning Advisor to the AFANET Thematic Area Group
- 2005 – 2010 Bologna Promoter for NUI, Galway
- 2005 – 2008 Tuning Advisor to MRENET Thematic Network
- 2006 Coordinator for the Portuguese Research Panel for Earth & Space Sciences
- 2007 – 2009 Educational adviser to the Republic of Georgia
- 2009 Educational adviser to the Tempus funded EuroAges project
- 2008 Member of the Departmental Research Assessment Panel, Università Roma-Tre
- 2008 Coordinator of the Portuguese National Research Unit evaluation in Earth and Space Sciences
- 2010 Member of the Jury for the award of the Galileo Galilei Prize for Science
- 2011 Educational expert Tuning Africa
- 2011– 2012 Educational expert Tuning Russia
- 2011– 2012 Educational expert Tuning EU-USA
- 2012 Educational expert EAR-HEI Europe
- 2011– Editor, Tuning Journal for Higher Education.

### **Research interests in the Field of Higher Education**

Reform of geological education in the context of the Bologna Process. I have authored the Tuning Guide to the development of Earth Sciences curricula in Europe in the light of the Bologna

Process, am a founder member of the Tuning Project and have advised European governments and higher education institutes on Earth Science curriculum reform. I will be giving a presentation on the Bologna Process to the Oireachtas Committee for Education and Skills in December 2012.

### **Relevant Publications since 2005**

- Ryan, P.D. 2005. The role of the Bologna Process in the Internationalization strategy of a University. *Proceedings of the IROICA Conference*, Debrecen, Hungary.
- Ryan, P.D. 2006. Redefining the expected competences of graduates , lessons learned from the Tuning Project. *Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Higher Agricultural Education*, KVL, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Ryan P.D. *et al.* 2005. The Earth Sciences template for Higher Education in Europe. In Gonzales, J and Wagenaar, R. (eds) *Tuning Educational Structures in Europe II, Universities' contribution to the Bologna Process*, University of Deusto Publications, Bilbao, p 69 -74.
- Ryan P.D. *et al.* 2009. The Earth Sciences template for Higher Education in Europe. *Tuning Educational Structures in Europe II, Universities' contribution to the Bologna Process*, University of Deusto Publications, Bilbao, 87pp.
- Boyle, A.P., Ryan, P., and Stokes, A., 2009, External drivers for changing fieldwork practices and provision in the UK and Ireland, in Whitmeyer, S.J., Mogk, D.W., and Pyle, E.J., eds., *Field Geology Education: Historical Perspectives and Modern Approaches: Geological Society of America Special Paper 461*, p. XXX–XXX, doi: [10.1130/2009.2461\(23\)](https://doi.org/10.1130/2009.2461(23))

### **Current Project:**

*Ryan, P.D.* Assessing compliance to the Bologna Process within Institutes of Higher Education.  
(in preparation)