

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DIALOGUE – Analysis of constraints and opportunities and opening up of the network	1
OBSERVAL-Net – Kick-off project meeting in Barcelona	2
A unique opportunity to join IMPLEMENT!	4
Final results of the ALLUME project	5
MOBILISE: submitted follow-up project of ALLUME	5
Next EUCEN meeting: GRAZ CONFERENCE!	6

DIALOGUE – Analysis of constraints and opportunities and opening up of the network



The DIALOGUE meeting in Potsdam (DE) in January set the cornerstone for the second year of the project, which will be dedicated to the further analysis of produced case studies and national overviews and a gradual involvement of LLL stakeholders in the project. The 16 partners of the DIALOGUE network aim to bridge the gap between academic research on ULLL and the professional practice around adult teaching, learning and guidance within LLL provision in order to improve policy and practice in the LLL field. Therefore, the network concentrates on four distinct theme topics of ‘Access and Progression’, ‘Learning and Guidance’, ‘New Media’ and ‘Quality’.



During this partner meeting, a facilitator supported the internal group communication processes and helped bridging the gap between researchers and practitioners.

While partners produced case studies about best practices or failing dialogue between research and practice in their thematic working groups and national state-of-play reports in the first year of the project, the second year will focus on the analysis of the gathered materials to identify the main barriers and to find out solutions for the creation of a real DIALOGUE. Furthermore, the network will be opened up gradually by investigating the role of other LLL networks in bridge-building activities and discussing preliminary findings with LLL stakeholders. The next important project activities consist in the separate thematic working group meetings taking place from June to September 2012, in which the findings of the analysis will be discussed and shared. While most of the project tasks have been organised at the level of thematic working groups so far, the findings will be discussed at institutional level under consultation with other adult education and LLL professionals.

This gradual opening of the network will prepare the next and final step of the project: The formulation of multi-level recommendations aiming at the promotion of a sustainable ULLL DIALOGUE. The first outline of these recommendations will be presented at the next partner meeting in Glasgow (UK), 22-23 March 2013, to which external partners will be invited to enrich the project with their contributions. For more information, please see <http://dialogue.eucen.eu>



OBSERVAL-Net – Kick-Off project meeting in Barcelona



The Kick-Off meeting of EUCEN's new project, OBSERVAL-Net, took place in Barcelona in December 2011.

Building on OBSERVAL, this two-year project funded under the KA1-Networks action intends to set up a **stakeholder-centric network** of organisations supporting the **validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNIL) in Europe**. The core of the network will lie in the formation of national working groups in seven European countries. Like in OBSERVAL, each national working group will organise a series of national stakeholder forums, bringing together key stakeholders in VNIL and political decision-makers **to coordinate policy implementation** in the field.

These national networks will be supplemented by a cross-national level of networking. It will be made up of three expert committees which will examine the themes of:

- ✘ Bottom up approach - the role of grassroots initiatives in supporting VNIL, and strategies towards their mainstreaming
- ✘ Work Based Competence Development and Recognition - success factors in the implementation of VNIL in employment settings
- ✘ The new profession - the competence profile required for VNIL advisors

In addition, a fourth committee will be made up exclusively of policymakers and related VNIL initiatives, with the aim of forming a peer-learning group for sharing strategies on VNIL at high level.

Aims and Objectives

- ✘ Create transversal networks capable of developing national and transnational evidence-based models of best practices in VNIL
- ✘ Develop coherent, comprehensive and flexible models for VNIL practices and recommendations, drawn from a comparative analysis of examples of best practices across European countries
- ✘ Mainstream these practices through strategic development and policy making at national-regional level

The content work of the project will be supported by the case database of the OBSERVAL repository, which has collected over 100 high quality documents on state-of-VNIL in European countries and of specific strategies supporting implementation.

Engage with OBSERVAL-NET!

OBSERVAL-Net's consortium is now creating a new website which will contain all the documents collected and will have new built-in tools for visitors to use, download files and upload new information. The new website will be open and before summer. If you have any materials and/or case studies in 'Bottom up approach', 'Work Based Competence development and recognition' or 'New professions' themes, please, start preparing your contribution. We will be collecting new materials soon!

OBSERVAL-Net is built with network sustainability in mind and will work on network capacity building from the early stages of the project.

If you are interested in being informed about this project and the developments in these areas, and/or you believe you will be interested in actively contributing to the content that the project is gathering and producing, please contact the EUCEN Executive Office in Barcelona projects@eucen.org and you will be added to the network for experts in Validation.

A unique opportunity to join IMPLEMENT! Why IMPLEMENT?



How can universities do justice to their responsibility and role as “important social actors contributing to the better integration of adult learners”?

How can universities be supported “to invest more in services for learners” and to “better use their partnerships and effectively communicate the results of their cooperative activities”?

How can they become truly LLL universities?

And most importantly how can you and your colleagues develop your skills, competences, understanding and professional networks to enable you to be more effect change agents in your institution?

Register for the moderated on-line workshop in real time on ‘Regional Collaboration and Partnership in University Lifelong Learning (ULLL)’

Time: starting from 14h30 on Thursday, 10 May 2012

Registration to **the session will be free to participants** (workshop supported by the EC though the IMPLEMENT project). A **maximum of 20 participants** can be registered to the session, so be quick and **contact us before 2 May**.

For more information, please see <http://implement.eucen.eu/TrainingEvents>

If you would already like to have more concrete ideas about the IMPLEMENT project, you can **engage with the IMPLEMENT training materials!**

We have already developed a printed and downloadable version of a training pack for use by managers and trainers in higher education as staff development activities – take a look at <http://www.eucen.eu/BeFlexPlus/index.html> and click on ‘Training materials’.

We are now updating and adapting these as new face-to-face activities and as on-line courses for individuals or for managers/trainers to use as a resource for working with groups.

While a second topic – Curriculum in partnership – will be presented in a face to face session alongside the Graz conference, 3 other topics will follow and be ready for the autumn this year:

- Diversity in University Lifelong Learning
- Recognising Prior Learning
- Institutional development for ULLL

Contact EUCEN if you want to be kept informed about the developments of this project: projects@eucen.org

Final results of the ALLUME project

The ALLUME project (October 2009 - November 2012), investigated universities' strategic processes to formulate flexible tools to assist policy-makers, deciders and practitioners in developing and implementing successful LLL strategies – and ultimately to become LLL Universities. The final tools were based on case studies of successful LLL strategies at work in the 10 consortium partners and were tested in 6 structured peer-visits in additional European universities.

The main results include:

- The **publication 'Pathways and Policies – recommendations'** intended for senior managers of universities, vice-rectors as well as regional, national and European public authorities. After introducing briefly the project's main aims and methodologies, it presents the main results of the transversal analysis on the content of ULLL strategies and of the transversal analysis on the process of developing ULLL strategies, and gives recommendations for the creation of LLL strategies to achieve Lifelong Learning Universities
- The **publication 'Tools and Results'** contains the technical results of the ALLUME project and targets practitioners and staff involved in the actual strategy creation processes on the ground. It comprises the three tools focusing on the content of ULL strategies, the process of creating ULLL strategies and a benchmarking part against the 10 commitments of the EUA charter. In addition, the two transversal analyses in full length and background papers are included in this publication
- One **executive summary**

The pdf versions of the publications are available for download on the project website <http://allume.eucen.eu/documents>

MOBILISE – Mobilising expertise to strengthen environments in LLL universities

EUCEN submits the follow-up project of ALLUME

The need of further developing and improving the tools and data, as well as the methodology of structured peer-visits of the ALLUME project, was clearly demonstrated by the positive feedback received and visible impact in some of the tester institutions. The West University of Timisoara included, for instance, LLL as one of the fundamental principles of acting in the draft of its Charta. Therefore, a follow-up project, MOBILISE, was submitted 29 February 2012 under the current call EAC/27/11.

The main objectives of the proposed project are:

- A strengthened learning environment
- Extended expertise by partners through training and additional testing visits
- Improved tools and models
- Dissemination of the refined and tested tools

The consortium of the proposed project includes 10 EUCEN members from 8 different European Member States. The project proposal has included 14 additional universities involved as Associate Partners for testing the improved learning environments.

Next appointment: EUCEN's Conference in Graz!

Universities engagement in and with society. The ULLL contribution



The Preliminary Programme and other relevant information to make travel arrangements for the 43rd EUCEN European Conference (Graz, AT, 09-11 May 2012) is available on-line on the conference website <http://eucen.uni-graz.at>

The confirmed keynote and panel speakers are:

- Alex Withnall – University of Warwick
- Lyn Tett – University of Edinburgh
- Maria Helena Nazaré – President of EUA
- Josephine Finn – National University of Ireland, Maynooth
- Xavier Verboven – European Economic and Social Committee

The four topics of the conference are:

- *Innovation in regional business & industry, NGOs and the public sector – the role of ULLL.* Chair: Hanna-Riikka Myllymäki, Aalto University.
- *Community-based education and learning as part of ULLL.* Chair: Alison Hughes, University of Liverpool.
- *An ageing Europe and the role of ULLL.* Chair: Prof. Dr. Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha, University of Tübingen.
- *Supporting the individual learner in ULLL.* Chair: Ing. Lucia Hrebenárová PhD., University of Zilina.

Early Bird registration finishes 28 March 2012. Registration will close 25 April 2012. <http://www.uni-graz.at/weitabww/weitabww-registration.htm>

If you are a Full Member of EUCEN, remember that the next **EUCEN General Assembly** will be held in Graz. You can now download the papers for the meeting from the Members' Room in EUCEN's website. For further details please write to executive.office@eucen.org

We look forward to seeing you in Graz!