

National Networks Forum 2/2011

Genoa, 16 November 2011

15:15 – 16:15

University of Genoa, Faculty of Economics

Via Vivaldi 5, Genoa (IT)

Aula Teledidattica, 1st floor

Present: Beate Hörr, Aureliana Alberici, Helmut Vogt, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, Ülle Kesli, Cécile Sztalberg, Jean-Marie Filloque, Luigia Melillo, Charo Romano, Reinhardt Schmidt, Eva Bodnar

MINUTES

I. Welcome

Beate Hörr welcomes everybody to the second National Networks Forum in 2011.

II. Introduction of the Italian Network of Lifelong Learning

Aureliana Alberici announces that the Italian Network for Lifelong Learning (RUIAP) was formed today, on 16th November 2011. She is the president and vice-president is Mauro Palumbo.

5-6 years ago there was an attempt to form the Italian Network, but at that time the situation was difficult in the education field as well as politically.

But fortunately now there was the possibility to work together with EUCEN and make more connection.

5 universities of the network are members of EUCEN:

1. University of Roma 3
2. University of Roma 2, Tor Vegata
3. University of Rome "Foro Italico"
4. Free University of Bozen-Bolzano
5. University of Genoa

A document (Statuto) containing their goals will be made available online in the following few days. This could help improve other networks, give new ideas etc.

A letter will be sent to the new president of university of research asking him to take part and engage in the activities of the newly formed network.

It will also be distributed to the rectors of universities in Italy, national organisations with professors, who decide about new university activities, didactics, PhD etc.

A copy of this letter will be sent to the participants of the National Networks meeting, as well.

The legal status of the Italian Network at the moment is formal free association. Mainly education institutions can become members but the association is also open to other organisations dealing with their topic. At the moment only universities are members (who can be full members, associates or individuals).

Later on the network will make steps to transform its status into legal because that way it will be possible to apply for public funding.

III. Presentations on each national network:

Spain – RUEPEP Red Universitaria Estudios Postgrado y Educación Permanente (by Juan Carlos Rodriguez)

The Spanish network was founded 11 years ago and only became legal 3 years ago. Since then even the Spanish Ministry of Education works with them. It has around 50 members and the membership fee is 600 EUR annually.

Estonia - ENUCE (by Ülle Kesli)

Since Estonia is a very small country, only 6 universities are members of the Estonian network. That is why their status is informal. It would be too expensive and complicated to become formal.

They had a successful application for a project (national project by EU funds) which addresses 3 topics:

1. common principles of continuing education, Quality Assurance for short courses
2. accreditation of prior learning (APL)
3. individual studies and continuing education programs

All the members of the network participate in this project.

Belgium (French) – ETALV (by Cécile Sztalberg)

Formal Network with the objective to give advice to the minister in charge of higher education. The director of the network is Françoise de Viron. Seven universities are members (French Belgium). In Belgium the universities are also merging.

In 2004 a working group for lifelong learning was created. They are involved in a project (2008 to 2013) funded by the European social fund.

They received an invitation to work together with the Flemish, where lifelong learning will also be a topic.

France - Conférence des Directeurs de SUFC (by Jean-Marie Filloque)

It was formed in 1962-1963 and became formal in 2004. Only universities can become members. At the moment it has 83 member universities, however universities are constantly merging (so the number of members decrease for this reason).

It is recognized by the Rector's Conference as the experts in the field of HE. It has permanent contacts and representative in two groups (pedagogy and quality / RPL); 8 working groups with staff from the Universities and staff development (with fees)

Current issues they are dealing with are:

- reforms in education (lot of reforms are being made since 2007)
- autonomy: the budget of the universities come from the state. Most people do not want to change this and would like to keep higher education as a public service. This leads to debates.
- vocational/continuous education
- regional organisation

To discuss the above mentioned issues they meet very often.

Their aim is:

- to be recognised by the conference of rectors
- to create a connection with the finance commission: money for public education comes from the state at the moment, but the funds for continuing education has to come from elsewhere.
- to connect workgroups, non-representative staff of member universities.

They are also involved in staff development program, supported by the National Agency. They have 30 days a year for staff for this purpose and it has proven to have very positive result.

They only have income from members and do not get any money from the state. The membership fee is 600 EUR. They use this money to cover their travel expenses. They have one employee from one of the member universities. The president, Jean-Marie Filloque is working for free, since it is an association.

Germany - DGWF Deutsche Gesellschaft für wissenschaftliche Weiterbildung und Fernstudium e.V.(by Helmut Vogt)

It is the oldest association of LLL networks in the EU, it was formed in 1970 (had its 40th anniversary in 2010)

They have one employee in the University of Hamburg. DGWF reimburses the money to the University of Hamburg.

Not only universities, but individuals can also become members.

They have about 160 institutional members (the majority are universities) who pay a fee of 320-340 EUR.

The number of individuals are 120-130 whose fee is 70 EUR per year.

They are dealing with 3 sections:

1. continuing education
2. distant education
3. learning in later life (university at the 3rd age – 50+)

Since Germany is a Federal Republic, the higher education is the responsibility of the state.

The network has 4 regional groups, and a 5th one is to be founded in Hessen.

Each September the network has its annual conference with 150-200 participants. On top of this, each regional group has their own meetings and there might be special conferences, as well.

A journal is also published twice a year about the proceedings.

IV. Next steps:

It would be a good idea to ask for a chance to have a workshop for the National Networks at the next EUCEN conference.

It would also be useful to choose a specific topic for the next workshop.

Next meeting will take place during the EUCEN conference in Graz (AT), 09-11 May 2012.