

National Networks Forum 3/2012

Graz, 9 May 2012

15:00 – 16:00

University of Graz, Center for Continuing Education

Harrachgasse 23, 2nd floor, Graz

Present: Beate Hörr (DE), Andreas Fischer (CH), Jean-Marie Filloque (FR), Henrique Fonseca (PT), Ahidoba De Franchi (CH), Daniela Genser (AT), Hanna-Riikka Myllymäki (FI), Mauro Palumbo (IT), Daniela Pichler (IT), Juan Carlos Rodriguez (ES), Charo Romano (ES), Lucília Santos (PT), Gabriele Schaub (DE), Kari Seppälä (FI), Alfredo Soeiro (PT), Nino Tomaschek (AT), Françoise De Viron (BE), Helmut Vogt (DE)

MINUTES

I. Welcome

Beate Hörr welcomes everybody to the National Networks Forum in Graz.

II. Presentation of Survey

Beate Hörr presents to the participants the results of the feedback of the survey started in April.

National Networks May 2012

Prepared by: Beate Hörr

9 May 2012

Participants: National Networks in EUCEN

Austria	AUCEN - Netzwerk für Universitäre Weiterbildung und Personalentwicklung in Österreich
Belgium	Commission "ETALV" - "Education tout au long de la Vie" du CIUF - Conseil interuniversitaire de la Communauté française
Estonia	ENUCE - Estonian Network for University Continuing Education
Finland	UCEF - University Continuing Education Network in Finland Yliopistojen Aikuiskoulutusverkosto
France	CDSUFC - Conférence des Directeurs Service Universitaire Formation Continue
Germany	DGWF - Deutsche Gesellschaft für wissenschaftliche Weiterbildung und Fernstudium
Italy	RUIAP - Rete delle Università Italiane per l'Apprendimento Permanente
Lithuania	L3Net - Lithuanian Universities Continuing Education Network
Portugal	AUPEC - Associação de Universidades Portuguesas para a Educação Continua

Spain	RUEPEP - Red Universitaria de Estudios de Postgrado y Educación Permanente
Spain	ACECU - Associació Catalana d'Educació Continua Universitaria
Switzerland	Formation continue universitaire suisse
United Kingdom	UALL - Universities Association for Lifelong Learning
United Kingdom	SUALL - Scottish Universities Association for Lifelong Learning

National Networks: May 2012

Name of National Network:

Austria AUCEN – Netzwerk für universitäre Weiterbildung und Personalentwicklung in Österreich

Respondent: Daniela Genser

Question 1: What were the main working themes and what was the focus of your work in the last year?

- LLL Strategies;
- Quality trends in Continuing Education at Universities;
- National Qualification Framework;
- Business/Finance Model in Continuing Education.

Question 2: In your opinion, what will be, in the future, the main issues in the field of Lifelong Learning at Universities? What challenges do we have to face?

- To have a strategy → see SIRUS (EUA Publication);
- Widening Access;
- Student-centered learning approach;
- Adressing LLL in a regional context.

Question 3: Our perspective on LLL: What would we be able to contribute to the key issues of European Universities in the future?

- To open the university more for LLL issues
- To raise consciousness for LLL at all

Name of National Network:

Belgium Commission "ETALV" - "Education tout au long de la Vie" du CIUF - Conseil interuniversitaire de la Communauté française

Respondent: Jean-Marie Dujardin

Question 1: What were the main working themes and what was the focus of your work in the last year?

- Financing lifelong learning activities in the universities;
- Validation of prior learning;
- Statistics about lifelong learners at university;
- Harmonization of practices: common framework for the management of lifelong learning in universities.

Question 2: In your opinion, what will be, in the future, the main issues in the field of Lifelong Learning at Universities? What challenges do we have to face?

- Structural financing of lifelong learning activities and validation of prior learning;
- Quality in lifelong learning programmes;
- Positioning lifelong learning programmes in the future NQF of Belgium;
- Specificity of University lifelong learning in the global lifelong learning landscape.

Question 3: Our perspective on LLL: What would we be able to contribute to the key issues of European Universities in the future?

Support of the Ministry of Higher Education and of the rectors of the universities to develop and finance lifelong learning activities in the universities
 Support of EUCEN as an international network : sharing of best practices, research in lifelong learning at European level, link between lifelong learning and fundamental research in universities : those topics could be explored in the future conferences.

National Networks: Survey May 2012

Name of National Network:

Estonia ENUCE – Estonian Network for University Continuing Education

Respondent: Ülle Kesli

Question 1: What were the main working themes and what was the focus of your work in the last year?

- Cooperation within ESF project:
 - Common principles for Quality Assurance of CE
 - Working out common principles for RPL in CE courses
- Comments on new version of Adult Education Act

Question 2: In your opinion, what will be, in the future, the main issues in the field of Lifelong Learning at Universities? What challenges do we have to face?

- Financing of professional development courses and adult education in general
- Pressure to add VAT to CE fees

-The role of the universities in providing CE to nontraditional target groups (unemployed people, migrants, etc)

Question 3: Our perspective on LLL: What would we be able to contribute to the key issues of European Universities in the future?

Lobbying at European level that CE is one main role of the universities and there should be also mechanism for financial support to participate in short professional courses provided by the universities.

National Networks: Survey May 2012

Name of National Network:
Finland UCEF – University Continuing Education Network in Finland
Yliopistojen Aikuiskoulutudverkosto

Respondent: Kari Seppälä

Question 1: What were the main working themes and what was the focus of your work in the last year?

Embedding LLL in the university strategies and their interaction with the society has developed greatly in recent years. The same processes seem to be relevant all around Europe.

Question 2: In your opinion, what will be, in the future, the main issues in the field of Lifelong Learning at Universities? What challenges do we have to face?

The modification and tailoring of potential capacity into export products will demand more efforts.

Question 3: Our perspective on LLL: What would we be able to contribute to the key issues of European Universities in the future?

Embedding LLL in the university strategies and their interaction with the society has developed greatly in recent years. The same processes seem to be relevant all around Europe.

National Networks: Survey May 2012

Name of National Network:
CDSUFC - Conférence des Directeurs Service Universitaire Formation Continue (France)

Respondent: Jean-Marie Filloque

Question 1: What were the main working themes and what was the focus of your work in the last year?

- Cooperation with professional organizations,
- Relations with Ministry of HE, Ministry of labor and Social Cohesion, Conference of Rectors
- Staff development program
- Apprenticeship

Question 2: In your opinion, what will be, in the future, the main issues in the field of Lifelong Learning at Universities? What challenges do we have to face?

- The clarification of the financing model
- The strategic orientation of the university concerning LL
- The cooperation and partnership with professional organizations

Question 3: Our perspective on LLL: What would we be able to contribute to the key issues of European Universities in the future?

To have the support of a recognized and strong (by authorities...) organizations supporting the strategy concerning LLL for Higher Education either at national or international level.

National Networks: Survey May 2012

Name of National Network:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für wissenschaftliche Weiterbildung und Fernstudium e.V., Germany

Respondent: Beate Hörr

Question 1: What were the main working themes and what was the focus of your work in the last year?

Admission of Adult Learners with professional background and without university entrance qualification

Recognition of Prior Learning

Cooperation with Stakeholders and regional / local businesses

Question 2: In your opinion, what will be, in the future, the main issues in the field of Lifelong Learning at Universities? What challenges do we have to face?

State Universities and the private university sector

New perspectives for Master Study Programmes in Germany and Europe

New target groups (non traditional students) and new formats

Question 3: Our perspective on LLL: What would we be able to contribute to the key issues of European Universities in the future?

Experience of dealing with new target groups and adult learners in the Master Programmes

Controlling and Quality Assurance in Lifelong Learning Processes

Opening the University to new target groups and cooperations

National Networks: May 2012

Name of National Network:

Italy RUIAP - Rete delle Università Italiane per l'Apprendimento Permanente

Respondent: Aureliana Alberici

Question 1: What were the main working themes and what was the focus of your work in the last year?

- Becoming a full member of EUCEN
- Improve relationships with the most relevant Italian University organizations (i.e. Italian Conference of Rectors (CRUI), the National University Board, Ministry of University etc.)

Question 2: In your opinion, what will be, in the future, the main issues in the field of Lifelong Learning at Universities? What challenges do we have to face?

- strategic orientation of the university concerning LLL;
- raise awareness at University level about the relevance of this issue;

- Developing models for innovation in didactics and organizational field;
- Bridging the gap between University's activities and stakeholders' needs
- Recognition of Prior Learning

Question 3: Our perspective on LLL: What would we be able to contribute to the key issues of European Universities in the future?

- To coordinate lobbying activities to gain the commitment of national and international organizations/institutions
- Development of LLL at University level in different aspects, such as active citizenship and active policies for labour.

National Networks: May 2012

Name of National Network:

Portugal AUPEC - Associação de Universidades Portuguesas para a Educação Continua

Respondent: Alfredo Soeiro

Question 1: What were the main working themes and what was the focus of your work in the last year?

The network has as president the Universidade Tecnica de Lisboa and as Chair of the General Assembly the Universidade de Aveiro. There were no registered activities of the network except the cooperation with EUCEN.

Question 2: In your opinion, what will be, in the future, the main issues in the field of Lifelong Learning at Universities? What challenges do we have to face?

The funding of LLL: the universities have reduced public funding and have no plans for self supporting financing activities. The AUPEC, for instance, has practically no activities.

Question 3: Our perspective on LLL: What would we be able to contribute to the key issues of European Universities in the future?

Support the transformation to LLL universities

Name of National Network:

Spain RUEPEP - Red Universitaria de Estudios de Postgrado y Educación Permanente

Respondent: Juan Carlos Rodriguez

Question 1: What were the main working themes and what was the focus of your work in the last year?

- Develop a legal framework for Lifelong Learning, that allows the registration of certain education programmes in the register of universities and degrees of the ministry of education
- Recognition of professional experience and continuing education in the graduate studies

Question 2: In your opinion, what will be, in the future, the main issues in the field of Lifelong Learning at Universities? What challenges do we have to face?

- Training programs within a quality assurance system allowing the national and international recognition
- The impact of the crisis in spanish universities

Question 3: Our perspective on LLL: What would we be able to contribute to the key issues of European Universities in the future?

- International policy fellowships and grants
- International mobility and agreement between universities
- New profiles of continuing education students in accordance with the new careers

Name of National Network:

Switzerland, Formation continue universitaire suisse

Respondent: Suzanne de Jonckheere

Question 1: What were the main working themes and what was the focus of your work in the last year?

- Quality
- Policy and strategies of continuing education in the swiss educational landscape
- NQF, NCR and EQF
- Statement to the Federal draft law of continuing education

Question 2: In your opinion, what will be, in the future, the main issues in the field of Lifelong Learning at Universities? What challenges do we have to face?

- Provide University courses to new target groups in a perspective of LLL
- Promote curriculum developments adapted to a knowledge society and to the students' needs (LO, NTI, new fields of research and teaching)
- Clarify the relation between continuing education and LLL

Question 3: Our perspective on LLL: What would we be able to contribute to the key issues of European Universities in the future?

To promote cooperations between Universities through European LLL projects and recommendations

III. Presentation on the forum:

Survey of the National Networks

Question 1: What were the main working themes and what was the focus of your work in the last year?

Question 2: In your opinion, what will be, in the future, the main issues in the field of Lifelong Learning at Universities? What challenges do we have to face?

Question 3: Our perspective on LLL: What would we be able to contribute to the key issues of European Universities in the future?

Question 3: Our perspective on LLL: What would we be able to contribute to the key issues of European Universities in the future?

The Lifelong Learning (LLL) experts at european universities developed useful methods, tools, instruments and did a lot of research within the field of LLL.

f.i. EUCEN : tools/methods in quality assurance, in LLL strategy design, in LLL strategy implementation

To strengthen the link with research

A list of indicators has been established to measure social engagement. This may explain to university administrators how to benchmark the LLL

The responsible staff and units of LLL in the universities have a lot of experience in new formats, new target groups, in questions of strategic and structural questions as well as in finances and

controlling, knowledge which is very useful in times of fundamental structural change within the HE system

LLL contributes a lot to social interaction;
universities as organizations play an important role in social interaction especially in times of crisis

LLL has to be a university strategy, it has to be implemented within the structure of research and teaching and has not to be seen as an "add on" or something different from the universities heart core activities

LLL is used to deal with the needs of non-traditional students, it has an inclusive approach and aims at open the university to new target groups needed on the labour market, civil society, communities ...

Let's share our knowledge and work together on the key issues of European Universities in the future

Promote University LLL through

collaboration and cooperation with HE organizations, ministries, stakeholders...

Legal framework (including definition of University role, recognition, finances ...)

IV. Next steps:

Establish a web space within the EUCEN web page with these informations.
To do this kind of survey each year.

Next meeting will take place during the EUCEN conference in Malta on 07-09 November 2012.





