

I) Realisation of Work Programme Objectives

EUCEN's objectives are explicitly:

- *To contribute to the development of Lifelong Learning in Universities by working at different levels:*
 1. *At European level - with the Commission, other European institutions and Higher Education networks (EUA, EURASHE, ESU, ENQA). In 2009 we worked in particular on the dissemination and the implementation of the ULLL Charter, on the reworking vision of both the Bologna and Lisbon processes for the future, on the adoption by our universities of European tools: qualifications frameworks, credits systems, learning outcomes, recognition of non formal and informal learning;*
 2. *At national level - in discussing and sharing our visions and approaches with national networks;*
 3. *At institutional level - in contributing to the implementation of ULLL policies through the publication of recommendations, the organisation of seminars, study visits and training sessions for our members, the dissemination of materials,...*

- *To participate in the European reflection on the contribution of Higher Education to the construction of a knowledge based society. Our workplan envisaged achieving this by working on the five following complementary dimensions:*
 1. *Give citizens the opportunity to develop skills through work and training within a LLL perspective*
 2. *Train people to profit from the opportunities offered by their environment at work, at home or in communities and to learn from all situations*
 3. *Increase the number of people adopting this personal positioning and involvement*
 4. *Create a European vision of facilitating mobility*
 5. *Take into account the increase of diversity of backgrounds and cultures originating from migration throughout Europe*

Thus, as set out in the 2009 project proposal, EUCEN's activities have been directly linked to the following specific goals:

Permanent discussions of the above objectives with EUCEN's members. In order to enable these discussions to happen, this year EUCEN has again been very active (i.e. participation in over 40 events) in strengthening relations with the EC and other important European stakeholders, contributing to the European Policy via participation in working groups, conferences and giving keynote speeches at European events. When information on developments were available to EUCEN, the Association has transferred the information to their members in two ways: (1) electronically, via EUCEN's website, EUCEN's Observatory for ULLL (www.lifelonglearning-observatory.eu), EUCEN's Newsletter and (2) face to face, with discussions, workshops and meetings at different events. This transfer of information has provided our members with arguments and material to mobilise in discussions at National or/and Institutional level. Debates between EUCEN, its members and the wider community of ULLL have taken place mainly in EUCEN's events (for more details visit EUCEN's website www.eucen.org). For example, during EUCEN's Conference in Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve (BE), 26-28 March 2009 (www.uclouvain.be/242847.html), where the participants (i.e. members and non-members of EUCEN) worked on the Recommendations for the Ministries of Education in relation to the Bologna Process in the area of LLL.

Support the involvement of national initiatives taken by National Networks. EUCEN has encouraged and supported National Networks discussions and meetings and included the experience of national initiatives by requesting the National Networks to contribute in consultations made by the EC through EUCEN. Thus, the National Networks have collected feedback nationally and sent this information to EUCEN. We have collated all the feedback from different countries and forwarded these views to the EC and/or passed all the individual feedback to the EC for their direct use. Last but not least, EUCEN has supported National Networks initiatives by attending their conferences and meetings as often as possible. For example during 2009 EUCEN has participated in events organised by networks in Spain, UK, Germany, France and Finland.

Contribute to the discussions undertaken at the European Commission and in other European associations. EUCEN has had periodical, face to face meetings with different representatives from different units at the European Commission during 2009 in both formal and informal meetings. This has given EUCEN deep understanding of the needs and interests of the Commission and contributed to the European policy development by passing on EUCEN's internal reflections, the results of our projects, the initiatives and best practices from our members, and so on. EUCEN has also participated in the EUCIS-LLL platform (i.e. the civil society platform of stakeholders) which gives EUCEN different perspectives and knowledge: that of the civil society, with their interests and worries and again offered the opportunity to feed in ULLL perspectives. EUCEN has as well continued reinforcing its contact and collaboration with associations such as EUA, ENQA, EURASHE, ESU, for example, by contributing in the preparation of proposals led by EUA and ENQA, and finally being partner in a project prepared by EUA, in which EUCEN has an important role. EUCEN is the only European network of universities that is actively engaged with other sectors and understands the importance of being linked with them in an active way,, with lifelong learning as a common objective involving all stakeholders, and has managed to contribute and participate by becoming a partner in projects focused on non-university environments, for example, in a project involving Trade Unions and another involving the Voluntary sector. This has strengthened and widened EUCEN's views and involved it with other sectors on concrete activities for the first time. This is in line with our strategic objective to be an interface between HE and other educational sectors, between HE and business, trade unions and, at large, the whole society

Feed the reflection in strategic projects. During 2009, EUCEN developed two new proposals (both were successful) directly linked to the implementation of the Bologna Process for Lifelong Learning Universities. One project (ALLUME) intends to contribute in the implementation of the process of adoption of the Bologna reforms in the ambit of LLL at university level. The other project (COMPASS LLL) will carry out a survey and analysis of policy documents of the state of implementation in different countries and will write a roadmap and recommendations for comprehensive and coherent national strategies. EUCEN has also fulfilled this objective by offering its members a timeslot in EUCEN events to discuss plan proposals for future calls. For example, during the Jönköping conference (autumn 2009) members had the opportunity to learn about the priorities of the EC and then, get together in groups and start working on the draft of new proposals for 2010. One more way that the reflection in strategic projects has been strengthened has been through post-project dissemination. EUCEN has been asked to participate in many events after projects have finished (e.g. BeFlex Plus) and to present the results and the feedback from the EC and the Ministries. This exercise has not only fed members' strategic reflection, but has also added extra value to EUCEN's finished projects.

The tangible objectives of the project during 2009 have been widely fulfilled.

EUCEN has disseminated and exploited the information received regarding LLL issues and also disseminated and exploited the resources and tools that we have created,

involving in this task not only members of the Steering Committee and staff (who are closely involved in all the development processes), but also other members of the Association (representatives of National Networks, for example, as well as existing experts within EUCEN).

EUCEN has opened discussions with its members in many crucial areas. In 2009, as a new approach, it decided to tackle two different fronts and to include members more actively in the:

- a. analysis and contribution to strategic policy papers and issues (normally the original request comes from DGEAC to EUCEN in the first instance) – in the past this has largely been done by the Steering Committee, and,*
- b. analysis of the Association itself, through an internal review of the strategies for the future of EUCEN (including members of the network, representatives of National Networks and members of staff).*

EUCEN organised workshops, study visits, seminars and other sessions addressing the current questions that interest and concern members and assisting them to think through solutions. This approach included 3 workshops and a roundtable in March and a variety of 10 different workshops in November (two of which encouraged discussion and assisted in drafting ideas for the next call of proposals).

EUCEN presented its work and/or its ideas in around 17 different events organised by the EC or other stakeholders.

EUCEN demonstrated its relevance and important contribution in the European discussion. Other networks at European, national or local levels requested EUCEN's contribution in their reflections.

II) Work Programme Activities and Outcomes

All the activities for 2009 that were programmed in the proposal have taken place. Table 1 below shows the distribution of tasks. Those slots marked in blue refer to programmed (scheduled) activities or events. Those slots marked in orange refer to non-programmed activities or events that EUCEN has also attended. In the central section (where we refer to Networking and Representation, both programmed and non-programmed), the slots have a number. This number shows the quantity of events that EUCEN has attended each month in each category. There are 44 different events spread over the year.

Events programmed in the proposal	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Study Visit (1st)													
Workshops and roundtables (1st)													
Policy Discussion (1st)													
Specific feedback collection													
Study Visit (2nd)													
Workshops (2nd)													
Policy Discussion (2nd)													
Networking and Representation	at EC formal events		3			3				1	1		
	with EC in informal meetings				1	1				2			
	participation at the EUCIS platform		1	1	3	1	1		2			1	
	other stakeholders' events				1	1	1			2			
	at National Network events					1	1		2			1	
	at member universities				1		1					1	
	to develop elearning and DL tools								1				
Participation in other non-programmed events	ADNMEE European Conference	1											
	UCEA Conference Boston				1								
	TULIP Conference laisi						1						
	DG SANCO Commissioner presentation									1			
	Seminar Educ. Permanent Journal									1			
	Bosh Foundation (Alumni Forum)									1			
	Confrontations Europe (InduServices)										1		
	Launch Conference on ECVET										1		
SEFI Conference											1		
Web site and info services	This activity takes place throughout the year												
Membership recruitment	This activity takes place throughout the year												
Management and financial administration	The general work of this activity takes place throughout the year												
Steering Committee meeting 1 (Barcelona)													
Steering Committee meeting 2 (Leuven)													
Steering Committee meeting 3 (Barcelona)													
Steering Committee meeting 4 (Jönköping)													
Staff meeting 1 - Barcelona													
Staff meeting 2 - Barcelona													
Staff meeting 3 - Barcelona													
Staff and Members Development event													
Auditor 1 - Barcelona													
Auditor 2 - Barcelona													
Auditor 3 - Barcelona													
Meeting with the Barcelona legal advisers													
Preparation of proposals													

Table 1

The activities undertaken during 2009 include:

- a total of 11 workshops (3 en Leuven and 8 in Jönköping) addressed particularly to managers of LLL centres but also to practitioners in ULLL, plus one Roundtable in Leuven
- two policy discussion sessions (one in Leuven and one in Jönköping) addressed particularly to EUCEN members, to be consulted about current issues and the direction EUCEN should take in future actions,
- two further workshops in Jönköping addressed particularly to aid members of EUCEN to plan and draft proposals for future calls,

- two Study Visits (in Leuven and in Jönköping), the first one addressed specifically to National Network representatives, to allow them to discuss themes that affect them directly. The second one open to all members of EUCEN attending the conference, to explore the Swedish Higher Education System, in particular to explore the Learning Centres (very specific to this country),
- collection of feedback throughout the year, but particularly in Jönköping, where specific questions and a dynamic approach was undertaken as a novelty in EUCEN events,
- organisation of a Staff Development event, with involvement of representatives of some of the National Networks members of EUCEN in order to plan an strategic approach for the future of the Association,
- personalised visits to different member institutions, sometimes to give support to that individual institution, sometimes to give support to their events,
- creation and design of a brand new web site (available from www.eucen.eu and from the usual www.eucen.org) with interactive features and more pro-active approach for the users, with review of its contents and structure,
- periodical updating of the Observatory for ULLL (available from www.lifelonglearning-observatory.eu), which is an important virtual space where members and non-members can find a range of resources, source documents and position papers on the key European themes in ULLL,
- preparation of the EUCENews (newsletter), including a brand new design and also a new way of distributing it, with publication of a total of 8 issues,

The more important outcomes achieved during 2009 include:

- scientific contribution to European policy and presentation in many different events organised by the EC,
- participation with different roles (i.e. speaker, presenter, etc) in a wide range of events organised by EUCEN's stakeholders including National Networks,
- recruitment of 14 new EUCEN members,
- printing of marketing material, including conference booknotes to distribute to participants and a promotional leaflet for the May 2010 conference which was distributed at the Jönköping conference,
- design, printing and use of a new interactive survey system used in Jönköping (members were asked to vote preferences in different areas of EUCEN's services), the results were measured and participants received feedback during the conference
- design and adoption of a full appraisal system for the staff of EUCEN,
- consolidation of a full set of financial procedures and control for the Association. Also monitoring and evaluation of these procedures by the external auditor,

III) Contribution to EU Policies, Impact and Dissemination

Contribution to EU Policies:

EUCEN has regular contacts with Directions A and B of the DGEAC, and especially with four units: A1, B3, B4 and B5.

- *EUCEN now forms part of the Adult Education Working Group that is placed under the responsibility of the Unit B4. EUCEN has always a representative present in their meetings (sometimes the President of EUCEN participates and sometimes one of the members of the Steering Committee represents the Association) and has been requested to contribute specifically with some concrete input (e.g. presentations, leading discussions, etc)*
- *EUCEN has been called to be in the final panel of the launching Conference of ECVET*
- *The Adult Education Unit of DG EAC has sought EUCEN's help to collect material related to job descriptions or educational programmes/courses for Adult Learning staff in Europe.*
- *Also, EUCEN has been invited to contribute in many European events to discuss issues related to:*
 - o *The development of EQF and NQF (with CEDEFOP)*
 - o *The EU 2020 strategy: a position paper has been drafted with the contribution of our members*
 - o *The future development of policy for Higher Education, LLL and Adult Education and its implementation*
 - o *University-Business collaboration and development (participation and contribution in all events organised by the Commission)*
 - o *The policy initiative "New skills for new jobs"*
 - o *The European guidelines for validation of non formal and informal learning*
 - o *Regional development*
- *EUCEN has become the mediator between institutions and policy makers, transferring ideas in both directions from bottom to top and from top to bottom*
- *EUCEN as member of the EUCIS-LLL platform contributes to a vision of LLL involving the main networks dealing with education and training issues*

Impact:

- *the number of invitations to participate actively in events keeps increasing*
- *invitation to participate in important stakeholders' proposals (i.e. EUA, EURASHE, ESU and ENQA)*
- *invitation to become one of the members of the Adult Education Working Group*
- *invitation to participate actively in all EUCIS-LLL events*
- *increased number of members*
- *successful proposals: all EUCEN's proposals focusing in strategic policy issues are granted, giving EUCEN the opportunity to involve more members in the Association's activity*

- *replies from the Ministries of Education in relation to the results from the Leuven conference*
- *extremely good feedback from the EC on the quality and usefulness of the materials produced for EUCEN projects*

Dissemination:

- *EUCEN's website*
- *Availability of contributions and presentations*
- *Newsletter*
- *EUCEN's Observatory for ULLL*
- *Mailing lists – distribution of specific information directly to members and re-distribution from them to thirds (e.g. from National Networks to their own members)*
- *EUCEN Conferences*
- *EUCEN's active participation in others' conferences*
- *Meetings with National Networks and participation in National Networks' events*
- *Active participation in more and more diverse stakeholders events*