Summary Report
National Networks Forum
44th EUCEN Conference
University of Malta, 07 November 2012 – 15:30 to 16:30

Prepared by Balazs Nemeth   **Date** 15 November 2012   **Version** 1.2
Distributed to all current National Network Representatives; all the individuals who attended the meeting

Participants

- **DGWF** – Germany, Representative: Helmut VOGT (Moderator);
- **MELLearN** – Hungary, Representative: Balázs NÉMETH;
- **PULL** – Polish Universities of Lifelong Learning (organisation under formation),
     Representative: Maria MENDEL;
- **ENUCE** – Estonia, Representative: Ulle KESLI;
- **RUIAP** – Italy, Representative: Gabriella DODERO and Giuliana MERAVIGLIA;
- **SwissUni** – Switzerland, Representative: Suzanne DE JONCKHEERE;
- **RUEPEP** – Spain, Representative: Charo ROMANO;
- **UCEF** – Finland; Representative: Kari SEPPÄLÄ

Agenda

Point 1. Notes from the previous meeting
The network representatives approved *the report of the previous national network forum* held at the University of Graz, 43rd EUCEN Conference, 09 May 2012.

Point 2. General points
- Alfredo SOIERO sent his apologies for not being able to attend the MALTA Forum of the National Networks;
- Helmut VOGT informed the representatives attending the Forum that any changes in status, representation, etc of national networks are to be indicated to EUCEN head quarters in order to update information on national networks on the EUCEN website and to enable them to address the right person.

Point 3. National Networks Reporting
- **MELLearN** (Hungarian Universities Lifelong Learning Network) has decided to formally join the National Networks' Forum of EUCEN to create a bridge between Hungarian and other European universities trying to promote and research lifelong learning with the university engagement. MELLearN is interested in collecting and sharing experience based on university continuing education and lifelong learning activities through projects and partnership-based development initiatives with the help of EUCEN and its members;

- **The RUIAP** representative informed the participants of the Forum that a new law is passed in Italy dealing with university lifelong learning, also stimulating the reform of the labour market. Gabriella Dodero underlined the importance of co-operation with SIE-L, the e-learning network of Italian universities, to promote RPL actions. Also, RUIAP has stated to organise seminars with the support of Bologna experts.

- The **PULL** representative reported that on the 25th of October a meeting of the Polish vice-rectors conference responsible for teaching took place at the Poznan University. Helmut Vogt attended this meeting instead of Andrea Waxenegger (unable to travel due to illness) and delivered a presentation on "Collaboration at European level: Possibilities and benefits for national University Lifelong Learning Networks" which turned out to be a success: The attendees decided to build up an informal network on ULLL in Poland as a first step.

- The **SwissUni** representative indicated that a big change is witnessed in Swiss higher education as universities will be directly linked to the Ministry of Economy (same trends are experienced at some German Länder/States). It was mentioned that SwissUni has reinforced links with the Rectors' Conference on themes of teaching and learning development. Also, they have developed links with German universities and Lichtenstein on the aspects of quality improvement;

- The **RUEPEP** representative reported that public universities are facing a severe cut of 25% in their budgetary support from the State, which will result in raising the costs of courses and fees. Most students have difficulties in being able to match such challenges. Universities are hardly able to develop their educational services, but do their best to provide more on-line and e-learning oriented courses in order to reduce their additional costs. This trend will lead to more consultations with EUCEN on how to tackle recent challenges by providing better educational services at a time of worsening conditions.

- The **UCEF** representative pointed out that a new president of UCEF from Aalto University will lead the organisation in Finland. There is an orientation towards the realisations of aims having been defined by the GA of the organisation. A very significant perspective for 2013 is to sell courses and training programmes abroad, especially in the developing part of the world. Another element of such orientation is to focus on specialisation and expertise of students through training programmes in between the level of an MA and a doctorate degree by concrete continuing professional development programmes.

- The **ENUCE** representative also provided some information on the informal network of six Estonian universities. The short summary was outlined in a poster which was presented at the Malta conference. Recent issues of development signal an orientation towards quality issues; short courses focusing on RPL in continuing education and new work-related study forms.

- The **DGWF** representative outlined that the DGWF is the oldest network in university continuing education in Europe with about 280 members. A latest conference event in Munich was well-organised and had more than 260 participants. The conference focused on "*Grows together what belongs together? UCE – part time studies – LLL*". In the general assembly which took place after the conference ended, the new executive committee was elected. The new chair of the DGWF is Beate Hörr, University of Mainz, who is a member of EUCEN's steering committee, too.

Point 4. Next Survey
Participants of the Malta Forum session decided to stick to **the questions** of the first enquiry. They recommend to send out the same questionnaire in the beginning of the next year and to continue to do so during the following years. Thereby it will be possible, so they hope, to find out which changes take place and which trends are visible in the European field of ULLL.

Point 5. Date of the next meeting
Planned for the 45th EUCEN Conference in Geneva (CH), 29 May 2013.

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