



From Rhetoric to Reality – a lot left to do!

Pat Davies

Lille

Friday, 19 November 2010



What has EUCEN done?

- Responded to consultations and communications from the EU institutions: from 1991 to 2010
- Developed policy papers
- Engaged with the policy process at EU level: stakeholder groups, platforms, individual contacts



And projects – lots of them!

The early days:

- TheNuce
- Odeluce



Since 2000:

- Equipe (2002-5) and Equipe Plus (2005-8)
- Transfine (2002-3) and Refine (2004-6)
- Dolceta (2003-11)
- BeFlex (2005-7) and BeFlex Plus (2007-9)
- Observal (2007-10)
- EQF Pro (2008-10)
- ALLUME (2009-11)
- COMPASS (2010-11)



Still to come:

- Implement (2011-12)
- Dialogue (2011-13)

- DNA - possibly



Led by others:

- ICETEL (2002-3)
- ELLPROFT (2002-5)
- Unfold (2003-5)
- ADD-Life (2006-8)
- TULIP (2008-9)
- VALUE (2008-11)
- Virqual (2008-11)
- SIRUS (2009-11)
- Interface (2010-13)



What have we achieved?

Networking:

- between universities/higher education institutions
- with trade unions, adult education associations and institutions, vocational training providers, voluntary organisations, NGOs, consumer associations
- with national networks
- with European networks



A voice:

- in European policy making
- in university fora: conferences, seminars
- in universities' decision making



Concrete outputs:

- Recommendations
- Guidelines
- Checklists
- Tools
- Reports
- Models
- Testing and experimentation results
- Evaluations and assessments
- Surveys



Have we made a difference?

- Supported those wanting to further develop LLL
- Provided a wide range of tools for those wanting to get started or get better
- Offered a space for professional reflection and sharing of experience
- Staff development opportunities
- Provided arguments backed with evidence and examples of best practice



BUT



Quotes from policy documents

Universities should:

- 'support an expanding knowledge based economy';
- 'contribute to the single labour market for highly qualified personnel';
- 'widen access to higher qualifications'
- 'be more permeable to students who would receive credit for studies successfully completed in any part of it'



- 'offer opportunities for regular updating and renewal'
- form 'partnerships with economic life'
- blur the boundaries between initial and continuing education, where recurrent education throughout working life and beyond would become much more the norm in a learning society.'



- 'The positive policies which are to be observed in some institutions and which give credit for maturity and for knowledge and experience gained in the labour market ... need to be adopted on a wider scale'



- When was that said?
- By whom?



'Access into higher education should be widened by fostering the potential of students from underrepresented groups and by providing adequate conditions for the completion of their studies. This involves improving the learning environment, removing all barriers to study and by creating the appropriate economic conditions for students to be able to benefit from the study opportunities at all levels.'



- When was that said?
- By whom?



The first was:
Memorandum on Higher Education - CEC (1991)

The second was:
Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué 2009



- Trends 2003: 35% of institutions stated they had developed an overall LLL strategy
- Trends 2010: 39% had one
- BeFlex Plus 2009: 46%
- Compass 2010: 30% (+some)



**So we can be proud of what we have done but
we still have a lot to do!**



Future steps

Continue existing path of support and promotion at all levels:

- Individual professionals and groups
- Universities
- Partners and stakeholders
- Regions
- National ministries
- Europe

More, stronger, deeper connections



But more

We preach largely to the converted

- we need to engage more and more effectively with the unconverted
- within universities and in the political arena
- with new and different actors
- with those responsible for university strategy
 - institutional leaders
- with national ministries



- We work largely on safe territory – we need to take some risks
- EC wants positive results – stress on innovation but real pressure is to **fully** deliver what was offered - should be prepared to support risk taking



Lets see if we can use this conference and the workshops to:

- Generate new ideas and approaches
- Move things forward
- Step on the accelerator
- Create energy from crisis