
A LLLU: Shared vision or Single university approach? Networked University? Collaboration and Networking?

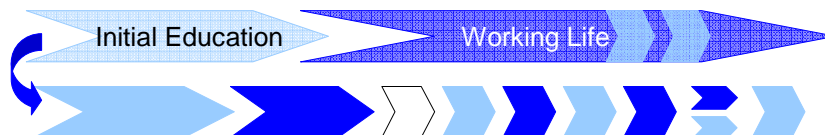
19 November 2010

Pr. Françoise de Viron
Université catholique de Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve)
Dr. Beate Hoerr
University of Mainz

Lille Conference – November 2010

Networking and University?

- Knowledge Society:
 - Multiplication and diversification of times and locations of knowledge production
 - People learn life wide and lifelong
 - Fragmented knowledge
 - University = a place to re-structure, re-organize, extend his/her knowledge
- Rapid changes in Lifelong learners' environnement - working life, personal, civil or social life : multiple transition points



- University : new provision for transition points
 - More cooperative methods regarding teaching, knowledge creation, knowledge transferring or even human resource development
-

Lille Conference – November 2010

University should ... Develop the concept of a “networked university”

involving different stakeholders (other educational sectors and providers, professional associations and social partners, enterprises, local authorities and other regional (and national) partners)

in sharing knowledge and sharing teaching and learning, in cross-fertilizing approach developing a common language, belonging to the learners with no monopoly on knowledge activities

- ➔ developing platforms, joint staff development and funding streams to support the networking

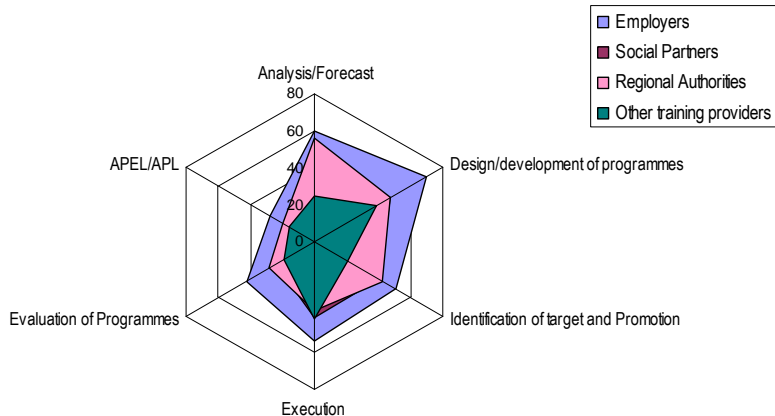
Exploration ‘Networked University’ Concept

- Different types
 - **Cooperation**: working or acting together for mutual benefit
 - By both intentional and non-intentional agents , In harmony, side by side.
 - **Collaboration** : a recursive process of working jointly with others (individuals, groups or institutions) in an intellectual endeavor
 - By sharing knowledge, learning and building consensus → requires leadership
 - **Networking** : the exchange of information or services among individuals, groups, or institutions
 - Engaged in creating products or services
 - On **implicit and open-ended contracts** to **adapt to environmental contingencies**
 - Coordination characterized by organic or informal social systems
 - ↔ bureaucratic structures & formal contractual relationships
 - Contracts are socially - not legally- binding
- Different dimensions
 - Local, regional collaboration and community engagement
 - Shared learning processes and knowledge partnerships
 - Social responsibility

Some Beflex+ Results



Beflex+ - Types of Collaboration - LLL provisions

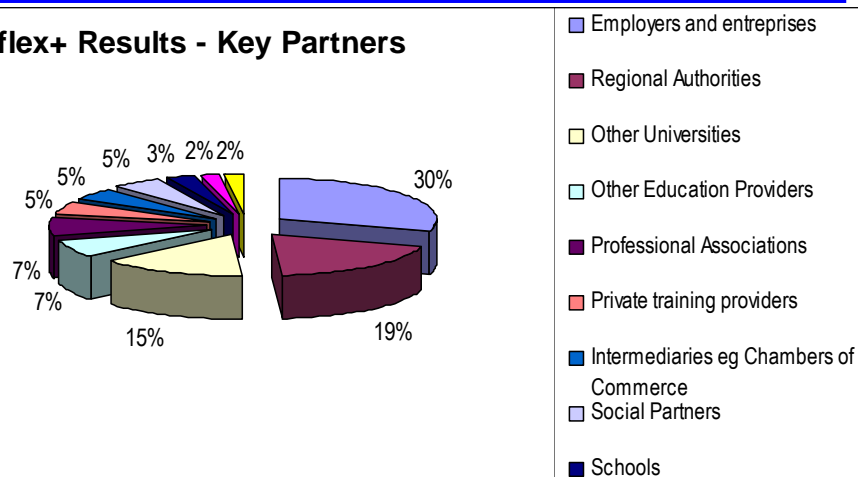


Lille Conference – November 2010

Some Beflex+ Results



Beflex+ Results - Key Partners



Lille Conference – November 2010

Networking Practices in LLL provisions



Networking for what ?	With whom ?
Needs or Demands Analysis	
Design	
Promotion	
Sharing Teaching & Learning	
Assessment /certification / APEL	
Evaluation	
Others ?	

Lille Conference – November 2010

Governance of Collaboration or Networking



- How collaborative or networking practices have emerged ?
- How to set up adequately structured networks and collaborative models?
 - Initiator ? Organizer ? Maintainer ?
 - Approach ?
 - centralized or de-centralized
 - formal or informal
 - bottom-up or top-down
 - loose or tight coordination
 - Competencies for networking or collaboration?
- LLL networking or collaboration different from mainstream university provision? Or should they be different?
 - Compared other networks in Research / Erasmus exchanges ?

Lille Conference – November 2010

Governance of Collaboration or Networking



- **Networking involves:**
 - establishing goals and sharing them
 - analysing the type of assistance needed to achieve the goals
 - defining mutual expectations among actors
 - developing the people skills
 - acknowledging and addressing competition issues
 - building and cultivating the network (regular contacts)
 - maintaining the networks to the years!
- **Collaboration involves in addition:**
 - clear agreement on the finances and the practicalities
 - clear allocation of tasks and responsibilities
 - planning for follow-up
 - legal and administrative supportive framework

Lille Conference – November 2010

Workshop objectives



- Explore with the participants different dimensions of the Networked University, such as regional collaboration and community engagement, shared learning processes and knowledge partnerships, social responsibility;
- Identify with the participants already emerging networking practices (regarding teaching, research or services to society), to discuss how they have emerged and how to set up adequately structured networks and collaborative models;
- Draw up some recommendations to develop a vision of a Networked University within a knowledge-based society in order to fulfil its mission of reflection, tradition and innovation.

Lille Conference – November 2010

Workshop synthesis



Practices and observation (1/2):

- Collaboration is more formal. Networking more informal and « down to the ground »
- The type of cooperation-collaboration-networking depends on who is initiator of networking
- Different types of networking depending on the cultures (not only at the university level, but also at the unit or faculty level): we observe very different kind of developed networking depending on which dept /faculty
- Benefit of networking is very different

Lille Conference – November 2010

Workshop synthesis



Practices and observation (2/2):

- Current status of networking:
 - mainly dedicated to design of training
 - But also validation of needs; evaluation of program together (students and teachers)
 - But also in a learner-centred approach: teaching and learning shared
- Specific unit for networking
- Examples of networking or collaboration:
 - working with companies
 - discuss with learners about their assessment, about the survey
 - elaborate the same language about ex given competences
 - networking between universities for APEL in Holland

Lille Conference – November 2010

Workshop synthesis



Questions:

- Do we need a coordination for networking?
 - Advantages and disadvantages
- Role of the **Learner** /Teacher in a learner-centred approach : self assessment of learner and teacher ?
- What are the real expectancies of LLLearners?
- Follow up of LLLearners after training?
- How to communicate the work within a network to staff?

Lille Conference – November 2010

Workshop synthesis



Recommendations

- Networking should be targeted: there should be an objective
- Importance of local contacts, but also of regulations
- The focus should be on LLL!

Lille Conference – November 2010