

In this issue

1. JOI. Week at Leipzig University
2. Young researchers grant scheme
3. Summer Schools
ELTE-Utrecht Network Erasmus
Staff Week
4. News in brief

Welcome

As President of the Utrecht Network I welcome the publication of the first Network newsletter. I believe it will be a very useful vehicle for promoting our activities both internally and externally.

This is our first effort and the Steering Committee would welcome feedback and comments on the structure and content. We hope that this will be the first of many and that all members will contribute to future editions.

Marita Foster
President, Utrecht Network



Contact

For further information about the Utrecht Network, please contact:

Fiona Miller
Executive Secretariat
Utrecht Network
c/o The University of Hull
Hull, HU6 7RX
UK

info@utrecht-network.org
www.utrecht-network.org

UN staff training week

JOI.Week: International Partnership Forum on the Management of Joint Programmes at Leipzig University

The 'JOI.Week: International Partnership Forum on the Management of Joint Programmes', hosted by Utrecht Network and Leipzig University, took place in Leipzig between 20 and 24 January 2014. In total, 18 participants – 13 from UN partner universities and five participants from other universities – attended this Utrecht Network staff training week, which focused on the development and management of joint programmes.

The JOI.Week consisted of a three-day workshop and extracurricular activities. Themes included curriculum development and mobility, as well as funding opportunities within the new ERASMUS+ programme. On the second day, participants questioned joint programme coordinators from three different joint programmes currently run by Leipzig University, gaining real insights from leaders of established study programmes. Participants were also given the chance to meet other study coordinators from Leipzig University and to meet some of the trainers on a one-to-one basis.

The workshop was developed by members of the Utrecht Network Task Force on Joint Programmes, Hilde Elin Haaland-Kramer (University of Bergen), Francesco Girotti (University of Bologna) and Anne Vorpapel (Leipzig University, Joint Programmes Task Force chair). They were supported by Tabea Mager, who is Advisor on Joint Programmes at Leipzig University, and Svend Poller, Director of the International Centre at Leipzig University. Most of the trainers were also heavily involved in the JOIMAN and JOI.CON projects dealing with the development and management of joint programmes. The partnership forum was furthermore a joint initiative of two task forces within the Utrecht Network: Staff Training and Joint Programmes.

The participants were mainly members who already deal with joint programmes in various ways, either as an academic or administrative coordinator, support in the International Office or on the level of institutes or faculties. The range of experience with joint programmes and subjects of the joint programmes covered was varied, which contributed to interesting networking opportunities and exchange of experience and differing approaches.

Feedback on the JOI.Week was extremely positive, particularly praising the content and structure of the workshop with 'theory on day one, followed by the research in groups on day two and cementing what we learned on day three which worked really well'. Furthermore, the exchange of experience with expert joint programme coordinators was highly valued, as were the networking opportunities within the group with the reassuring finding that all participants have similar issues. Thus, the JOI.Week also created an 'opportunity to place one's own activities and developments in a broader context and allowing assessment of what we do well and what we do not'. Participants also learnt that 'with mutual trust and flexibility solutions can be found' despite different legal regulations in different countries and the lack of a universal blueprint of how to develop a joint programmes. And that 'when planning to do a project, you have to be realistic, creative, courageous and step away from your institution's own rules, regulations, tradition and find and implement what works'.

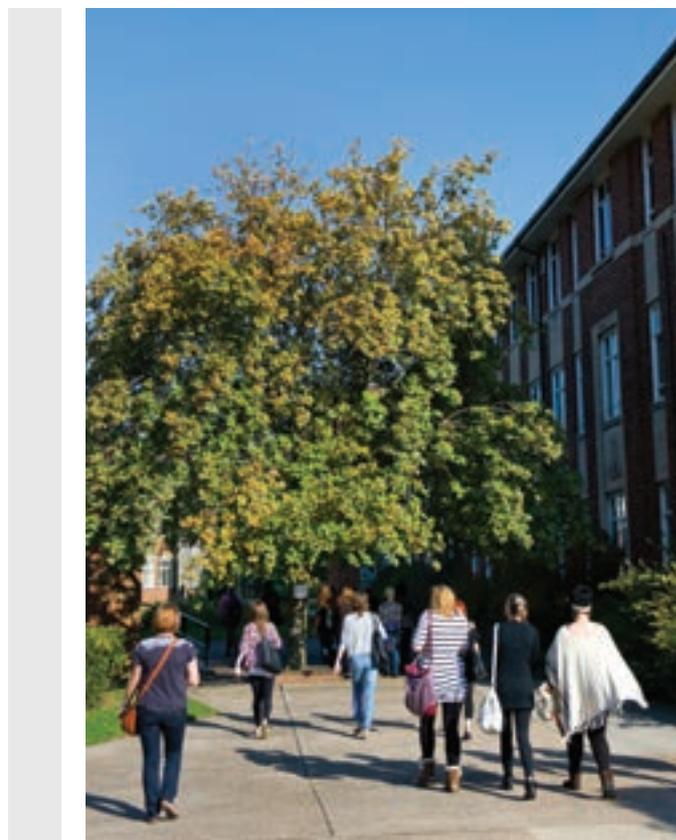
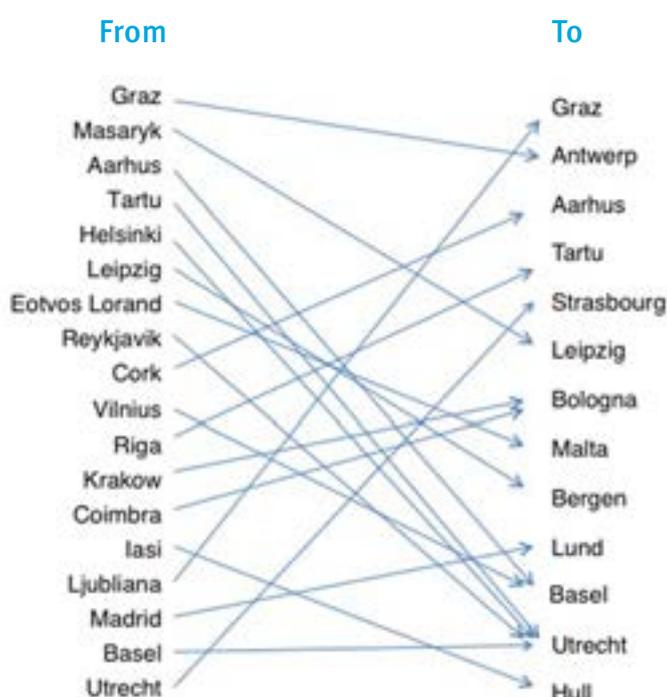
Young Researchers Grant Scheme

When the Task Force on student mobility began its work, it was mainly concerned with gathering and reporting statistics on student mobility and mobility agreements.

The Task Force decided to develop an additional mobility programme, creating opportunities for students not eligible for Erasmus grants for various reasons (e.g. length of stay, students had already been on Erasmus). After a two-year working process, the Young Researchers Grant was delivered into the Utrecht Network world and was positively received by member universities.

In 2012, there was a good start to the first round of our Young Researchers Grant, with five scholarships granted to applicants from member universities. The second application round in late 2013 proved more successful than anticipated: a remarkable 19 partner universities submitted applications on behalf of their students. With only 11 scholarships available, the selection committee was faced with the difficult task of choosing between those candidates. It was agreed that eight additional grants would be funded, enabling the Network to honour the work and effort all universities had put into the promotion of the Young Researchers Scheme. This meant that it was possible to support 18 (out of 19) students – 13 of these students undertook their research at doctoral level, and five at Masters level.

Utrecht Network members' involvement in the Young Researchers Grant Scheme



There is no restriction to field of study, so students from all areas were invited to apply for the grants. The strongest subject area in 2013 was Law, with five grantees. This was followed by Psychology and Anthropology, with two grantees each. Other subject areas were Sociology, Art History, Political Science, Cultural Studies, Marketing Communications, American Studies, Biology, Sustainable Development, and Biomedicine.

The most popular university by far was Utrecht University.

Utrecht University received a total of four candidates from Basel, Reykjavik, Helsinki and Tartu. Two grantees each went to Bologna and Basel.

Twenty five out of 31 UN universities were involved in the 2013 application round, with 18 institutions sending students and 13 receiving.

Information about the 2014 call for applications will be available on the Utrecht Network website in late May/early June 2014.

Summer schools

The Network continues its tradition of supporting innovative and exciting summer schools for students of its member institutions. The three summer schools being offered during 2014 are:

Professional English Summer School, 30 June–11 July 2014, Hull, UK

Hosted by the University of Hull, this is a programme of academic English for postgraduate students and newly appointed academic staff. The programme aims to increase knowledge of English culture as well as language skills.

Hidden Libraries Summer School, 30 June–11 July 2014, Graz, Austria

Hosted by the University of Graz, this school deals with the accessibility of historical libraries and the preservation of European heritage. The programme attracts many disciplines and is open for all levels of study.

Liberty, Equality, Fraternity Summer School, 7–18 July 2014, Utrecht, the Netherlands

Hosted by Utrecht University, the focus for this year's programme is equality. The programme is aimed at undergraduate students and will be a multi-disciplinary experience, exploring changing European attitudes to equality.

Further details of all the summer schools can be found at:

www.utrecht-network.org/en/site/summerschools



ELTE—Utrecht Network Erasmus Staff Week (23–27 June 2014)

Eötvös Loránd University, supported by the Utrecht Network, is hosting an Erasmus staff training programme from 23–27 June 2014.

The programme is open to all staff with an interest in any of the five strands which will be developed during the week:

- Botanical Gardens – including the economy of a botanical garden and the protection of endangered plants
- Career Centres – including information sharing and customer service and reaching target groups
- Disability Co-ordinators – including disability policies and supporting the mobility of staff and students with disabilities
- International Office – looking at mobility programmes, Erasmus+ and joint degree programmes
- Technology Transfer and Innovation Management – including technology transfer processes and the background of innovation management

More information on the staff training week, including details on registration, is available at:
www.elte.hu/en/erasmus_staffweek

NEWSinbrief

2014 Annual General Meeting



The Network's Annual General Meeting takes place in Kraków, Poland on 8–9 May 2014. The new Strategic Plan will be discussed and presented for approval during the meeting. The AGM will be preceded by a workshop focusing on Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020, and will explore synergies between these two programmes.



The workshop and AGM are being hosted by the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Jagiellonian University is celebrating its 650th Anniversary during 2014 and members have been invited to take part in the jubilee celebrations during the AGM.

Communication with the European Commission

The Steering Committee has been in communication with the European Commission regarding Network concerns over the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme. The Commission provided a detailed response to the Network's concerns and indicated its willingness to discuss issues further with the Network if required. The willingness of the Commission to discuss issues is welcomed by the Network, and the Steering Committee will look at the best means to take advantage of the invitation.

AEN and MAUI news

The AEN Secretariat has moved from Australia's Griffith University to Deakin University. The contact at Deakin is Anouk van der Vorst (anouk.v@deakin.edu.au).

MAUI and AEN will be hosting events at the NAFSA Conference (San Diego, 25–30 May 2014) for Utrecht Network members. These events provide an opportunity for further collaboration between the networks and the chance to put faces to familiar names.

The AEN meeting will take place from 12 noon – 2 pm on Tuesday 27 May and the MAUI meeting from 2 – 3.30 pm on Wednesday 28 May.

Further details of the MAUI event are available from Liz Shabani (shabanie@umsl.edu), and Anouk van der Vorst (anouk.v@deakin.edu.au) for the AEN event.



The JOI.Week: International Partnership Forum on the Management of Joint Programmes.



www.utrecht-network.org