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Welcome

You will find strong signs of life in Network activities over the last 6 months in this issue: at our annual meeting hosted by Jagiellonian University, Krakow we not only celebrated their 650th anniversary, but also had a very interesting workshop on possible overlaps between the two new European programs – Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020. At the AGM the new Strategic Plan of the Network was adopted; the topic of active membership was discussed, in a lively manner; our US colleague from the MAUI Network attended the meeting and connections were made with our Australian colleague from AEN via Skype, keeping her awake for that. In the future we will see whether first meetings with Latin American networks will become tangible. It is sure, though, that the Utrecht Network will continue to be the European Network with a global outlook. Enjoy!



Sabine Pendl
President, Utrecht Network

AGM of the Utrecht Network

The Annual General Meeting of the Network took place at Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland, 8–9 May 2014.

The meeting coincided with the 650th anniversary celebrations of the University and participants had the opportunity to attend some of the events which marked this auspicious occasion.

Responding to feedback from the attendees at the 2013 AGM in Bergen, the format of the 2014 meeting had been amended to encourage more sharing of ideas and active participation. The presentations by Masarykova and Helsinki universities on their respective internationalisation policies were well received and led to a discussion on the various internationalisation strategies which have been implemented by member universities.

One of the main focus points for the meeting was the approval of the Network's Strategic Plan for the period from 2014 to 2017. Following consultation with members since the Bergen AGM, a final draft of the plan had been produced by the Steering Committee, with input from the Task Force Chairs. Changes were suggested and agreed at the meeting and the plan was adopted.

The AGM saw the term of office of the President, Marita Foster (University College Cork) come to an end. Marita was thanked for her considerable impact on the work of the Network. The Network welcomed the new President, Sabine Pendl (University of Graz) and Vice-President, Francesco Girotti (University of Bologna).

Two long-standing institutional representatives – Lidia Dimitru, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iasi and Karitas Kvaran, University of Iceland – were attending their last AGM. Both Lidia and Karitas have been active members of the Network and had both served on the Steering Committee, whilst Karitas was a former President. They were commended for their contribution to the work of Network and wished all the very best in their future endeavours.

A social excursion to the Ojcow National Park took place on Saturday 10 May. Members spent an enjoyable day visiting the Polish countryside.



Utrecht Network award

Every two years the Utrecht Network recognises someone who has made a significant personal contribution to the work of the Network.

At the 2014 AGM in Krakow, Utrecht Network President, Marita Foster, was honoured to present the 2014 Utrecht Network Award to Professor Gianni Galloni from the Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna. Gianni is one of the founding fathers of the Network and over the years has actively participated in a wide range of Network activities. His insight and enthusiasm have contributed much to the vision and structure of the Network we share today.

In particular, Gianni should be remembered as the instigator of the Summer School activity within the Network. For six years Gianni ran the Utrecht Network Summer School on Human Rights, Democracy and Inclusion. This Summer School provided the model for future Summer Schools, which have provided a platform for members of staff and students across the Network to collaborate and work together in a multi-disciplinary setting.

Gianni was presented with a sculpture 'The Sky is the Limit' – a philosophy which Gianni has embodied throughout his work with the Network.



AGM Workshop

Continuing with the newly established AGM format launched in 2013 in Bergen, the Steering Committee organised for the AGM 2014 in Krakow a one-day workshop on the theme 'The new generation of European Programmes: Synergies between the Erasmus+ and the Horizon 2020 Programmes'.

The workshop, held the day before the AGM, was aimed at international relations officers and research managers of the Utrecht Network member institutions and was devoted to the presentation of the framework of the two EU Programmes. The goal was to focus on the common routes and synergies between the two new initiatives.

Starting from the synergies of the Programmes, the main objective of the workshop was to create a discussion platform amongst research officers and international relations officers and to foster the participation of a new target group in Utrecht Network activities.

The workshop was attended by 33 participants from international offices and research offices who worked together in team work activities and actively participated in the discussions.

The comments received from the participants have been extremely positive and the initiative has impacted well beyond the short term aims of the workshop. In particular, after the conclusion of the workshop, a new 'network in the network' has been created. A research managers group has been formed which will meet together to discuss common and good practices in the management of research grants. The possibility of establishing a new task force will be considered.

A special thanks for the contribution to the initiative goes to our speakers, team leaders and organisers:

Marco Degani – University of Bologna

Marita Foster – University College of Cork

Francesco Girotti – University of Bologna

Paola Motetti – University of Bologna

Samo Pavlin – University of Ljubljana

Sabine Pendl – University of Graz

Svend Poller – University of Leipzig

Petra Rabitsch – University of Graz

Fiona Miller – University of Hull

Miroslaw Klimkiewicz – Jagiellonian University of Krakow

The initiative has impacted well beyond the short term aims of the workshop.

Meetings with AEN and MAUI at NAFSA

This year's NAFSA conference took place in San Diego, USA (May 25–30).



The meetings of UN members with their partner institutions in the US and Australia have become traditional checkpoints over the years. Both meetings were well attended: Anouk van der Vorst from Deakin University organised an AEN meeting in which the Europeans were invited to a fantastic lunch. The relaxed atmosphere made it very easy to talk about the strong links with our Australian partners. The meeting

with our US partners provided a valuable networking opportunity in a classic setting: Liz Shabani from the University of Missouri organised for the meeting with our MAUI partners a meeting room at one of the hotels during the lunch break. The round table discussions reminded of speed dating and were very effective. Thanks again to our two partner networks for these unforgettable meetings!

Erasmus Mundus projects

The Utrecht Network continues to play a role as an Associate Partner in Erasmus Mundus projects (EMAIL III, EUROSA+, IBRASIL and EUR∞SA). The Network is keen to ensure that it adds value in its role as an Associate Partner and the Steering Committee has therefore been tasked with ensuring this continues to be the case.

Strategic Plan 2014–2017

The AGM adopted in Krakow a new strategic plan for 2014–2017 which has been thoroughly prepared and discussed by the Steering Committee, Task Forces and members at large during the past year.

FORCES is the aim for the coming years: **Foster** internationalisation of education, **Open** up new forms of cooperation, **Respond** actively to European Higher Education policies, **Collaborate** effectively within the Network, **Enhance** internationalisation processes in member universities, **Strengthen** the profile and the outlook of the Network.

In the frame work of today's globalised world these goals underline the continuation of the Network's traditional activities and the development of new forms of collaboration and activities responding to the changing international context as well.

Members, Task Forces and the Steering Committee will propose activities in connection to the specific aims. The aims have been formulated to allow freedom on how they will be achieved on an annual basis.

Steering Committee meeting – Bologna

The Steering Committee met at the University of Bologna 9–10 October 2014. A full agenda was planned for the meeting and discussions included the planning of the 2015 AGM, the development of an induction programme for new representatives and members, the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the issue of how to encourage active membership and the specification for a new website.

The Steering Committee continues to facilitate links with EC projects and is actively looking to develop links with South American and South African Networks.

There will be two vacancies on the Steering Committee from May 2015. A call for nominations will be made in March 2015. Members requiring further information about the role can contact either the President, Sabine Pendl or the Secretariat, Fiona Miller.



Steering Committee members l-r, Patricia De Clopper, Ülle Tensing, Sabine Pendl, Fiona Miller (Secretariat), Francesco Girotti, Alina Gržibovska

Summer Schools

Lucky numbers

Summer Schools have been one of the key products of the Utrecht Network in the last 13 years. Three summer schools were offered in 2014. The School on 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity' in Utrecht, funded under the ERASMUS scheme, has the longest history as this series started with the first UN summer school in 2002.

'Hidden Libraries' in Graz and the School in Hull on 'Professional English' were new schools that turned out to be a success. The Network thanks all who were in charge of organising the three schools in the thirteenth year of Network summer schools.

Hidden Libraries – Making Historical Libraries Accessible

For two weeks, in June/July 2014, University of Graz hosted a summer school dedicated to the various aspects of 'Hidden Libraries'. It uncovered and discussed manifold realities of hiddenness, from clandestine collections of historical books to the library of fragmented books. Relevant aspects of preservation, care of books and digitisation were included.

The 34 participants came from 15 countries. One of the highlights was the visit to a monastery library from the baroque period, which actually is a hidden one. It really helped to bring the discussions during the school to life.

To summarise it with the voice of a participant:

'Great summer school! The teachers prepared and delivered really good presentations and workshops; we found out new information, we learned a lot and acquired new skills. We found out the real meaning of the word hidden for libraries, museums, archives etc. The visit to a monastery library was a great opportunity to see in practice what we learned in lectures throughout the summer school. We got to know each other, we had a great time together, teachers and students. I saw that the city of Graz was a really great and pleasant place to stay; also the accommodation and food was great. Thank you for everything.'

Professional English Summer School – Hull

'This programme was useful for many reasons. There were some very interesting lectures, and also discussions outside of class, which helped me to understand Britain much more.'

'I had no prior perceptions concerning this part of the UK, but it was very useful to get some explanations about the changes that the UK in general has faced since the 80s and still faces (unemployment, diversity...). I think I could develop a greater understanding of English culture by talking freely with natives teaching on the programme.'

'Also, we could address, in English, a question in such a way that the audience, which was not specialised in our field, could understand and be interested in it.'

'I really liked that we could participate in some collective decision-making processes in a critical way.'

'We could also demonstrate our written and oral competency in English. We had some useful tips on giving a presentation, including introductions, organising the main structure, greeting the audience and so on.'

'We could also develop advanced-level managerial skills such as working collaboratively in a team or communicating ideas effectively in English, both orally and in writing, in a multicultural context.'

'I would like to continue the conversation.'

Jocelyne Yalenios, University of Strasbourg



Above;

The Deep, one of the UK's best aquariums, is an award-winning attraction in Hull.

Right;

One of the books from the 'hidden library'.



Summer Schools continued

Summer school on Equality in Utrecht

Last summer, a second summer school in a cycle of three schools was held in Utrecht. The series is inspired by the ideals of the French Revolution and the ‘Liberty, Equality and Fraternity’ motto that summarises boldly the founding ideas of modern Europe.

The question that the summer school set out to answer was ‘What remains of these core values in Europe in the 21st century?’ How should we understand changes in how ‘Liberty, Equality and Fraternity’ have been interpreted and implemented over the last 200 years? A different facet of ‘Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity’ is examined each year.

Host institutions have been carefully selected to suit the specific theme each year. In the first year, the focus was on ‘Liberty’ and the school took place in Motovun, Croatia, the youngest full member state of the EU. The school of 2014 in Utrecht explored ‘Equality’. Under the banner of equality a wide variety of issues were addressed: legacies of the French Revolution, The Millennium Development Goals as an

example of international solidarity, lessons to be learned from The theatre of the Oppressed, modern slavery and human trafficking, LGBT rights, as well as the delicate question of welfare, the growing poverty within Europe, youth unemployment and the new North – South divide in Europe in particular. The school opened with an impressive keynote address and dialogue with Naema Tahir, a British-Dutch writer, lecturer and human rights lawyer, of Pakistani origin who is considered to belong to the avant garde of women in Europe today who strive towards the emancipation of Muslim women.

More than 30 students and 11 teachers from 12 EU countries and UN partners, supplemented by students from Stellenbosch, South Africa and Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN, USA) attended the school. Twenty six of the students benefitted greatly from a generous scholarship offered by the Utrecht Network Hospitality Fund. Content and impact-wise the school was evaluated as a great experience.

From the mouth of the students:

‘I truly had a phenomenal experience in Utrecht and got more of an insight into Dutch and European culture than I ever could have imagined’ and ‘I never lived so intensely together with such a diverse group of people in my whole life – and I totally loved it’.

Fraternity or solidarity will be the ‘leitmotiv’ of the 3rd projected summer school. Here issues related to cultural and social coherence in Europe will be addressed. The venue of that school will be Antwerp. Stay alert for the announcement on our website www.lefsummerschool.eu. You don’t want to miss that one!



LEF Summer School participants 2014.



Task Force Joint Programmes – Survey results

Collaboration between academic institutions and employers within International Joint Programmes (JP)

The Task Force Joint Programmes would like to thank the members of the Utrecht Network for their participation in the survey “Collaboration between academic institutions and employers within International Joint Programmes (JP)”. We have received 20 valuable responses. The results essentially support our future Task Force focus – the management of JP collaboration with employing organisations, as a sustainability aspect.

All of the responding institutions offer at least three JP during the academic year 2014/2015 and for 75% of them, the establishment of JP constitutes an integral part of the internationalisation strategy of their university and plays an explicit role in their institution’s ECHE (Erasmus Charter for Higher Education). However, the viability of some JP is uncertain. Half of the respondents state that they have had to terminate a couple of JP since 2009/2010 and confirm that additional JP are about to end in the next few academic years. In spite of evidence, the investment in the development of JP continues unabatedly. 16 institutions are planning to start up quite a number of new JP in the near future.

As for the reasons of closing JP, the majority ticked financial concerns – 39% because of lack of finances or ending of external funding and 24% added difficulties within the consortium. A lack of consortium difficulties and administrative support is apparently an exacerbating factor.

5.2. What were or are the main reasons for JP closure or withdrawal? (multiple answers possible)

	Answer Percent	Answer Total
consortium difficulties	24.24%	8
finances	24.24%	8
ending of external funding	15.15%	5
administrative support	12.12%	4
programme attractiveness	9.09%	3
key staff changes	9.09%	3
promotion	6.06%	2
Total answers		33
Unique Respondents		12

The necessity to further investigate the management of JP collaboration with employing organisations as one sustainability aspect is vindicated by the results. Only 45% of the responding institutions indicate that most of their JP actually collaborate with employing organisations. According to the answers of these institutions, collaboration has often been initiated just after the start of the JP. The main formats of collaboration stated are internship provision and participation in teaching. The more commitment and integration becomes apparent, the fewer collaborations are recorded. Therefore only few successful examples state employing organisations as consortium or board members and as players in the JP curriculum development.

8.1. Please specify the format of collaboration with ‘enterprises’ (any type of employing organisation)

	Answer Percent	Answer Total
internship provision	20.37%	11
teaching/ training	14.81%	8
thesis assessment	12.96%	7
collaborative research	12.96%	7
alumni centres and job fairs	9.26%	5
consortium member	5.56%	3
curriculum development	5.56%	3
needs analysis	5.56%	3
financial support	5.56%	3
board member	3.7%	2
support to start-up enterprises	3.7%	2
Total answers		54
Unique Respondents		14

Although the alumni-student network is proven the most valuable according to other studies, still only half of the respondents can witness that for the JP a record of the alumni careers is kept. This fact justifies one more time the need to investigate further in the subject and this will be the focus of the Task Group going forward.

Coming up

- A call for new initiatives for 2015 was launched in October 2014. New initiatives should link directly to the aims in the Network's Strategic Plan.
- The Network will be holding a Staff Training Week prior to the AGM in Tartu in May 2015. The Staff Training Week will have as its focus facilitating Researcher Mobility in the Utrecht Network.
- The 2015 AGM will be held on 7 – 8 May 2015 (arrival on 6 May), hosted by the University of Tartu, Estonia. The AGM will feature an introductory session for new representatives.
- The Network will be running the following Summer Schools in 2015:
LEF Summer School in Antwerp – focusing on Fraternity or solidarity
Professional English Summer School in Hull

Further details of all of the above will be made available on the Utrecht Network website (www.utrecht-network.org)



The University of Tartu, Estonia, venue for the 2015 AGM.

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