

NATIONAL NETWORKS (NN) MEETING

Ljubljana, 15 March 2007



MINUTES

Present: Representatives from Austria, Finland, UK, Switzerland

1. Discussion of EUCEN paper sent to National Networks

It was noted that some national networks met infrequently and so could not feedback immediately to items such as this. General comments received so far by EUCEN President had been positive.

The meeting also noted that the NNs could be used by EUCEN as a resource for consultation when writing policy documents / responses to EU papers etc. This would require a clear process and mechanism for consulting the NNS.

AJH to take this back to EUCEN Executive Committee.

Also NNs could do work in their own countries (and often were doing so) that would support and underpin EUCEN's work in this regard. The overall theme was that EUCEN can use the NNs as a think tank.

A further point was that feedback needs to be two-way. The idea of the newsletter for NNs was discussed but some felt it was better to incorporate it into the usual EUCEN regular newsletter and just have a section in each one (as and when appropriate) for NNs.

AJH will consult other NN members to see if this is the preferred option.

It was felt that the NN meeting at EUCEN Conferences should precede the main conference rather than being slotted into a lunchtime or evening session during the conference.

AJH will consult other NN members to see if this is the preferred option.

2. Discussion of EUCEN information on NN conferences/issues

There was no detailed discussion but it was considered a helpful document, which should be web-mounted as it provides immediate links to EUCEN members who represent the NNs at EUCEN and also direct contacts within the NNs also



3. Discussion regarding EUCEN website – NN pages – suggestions re structure and content

It was felt that the EUCEN NN pages need more obvious exposure on the EUCEN website and it was acknowledged that the whole EUCEN website is being redesigned, which is a good opportunity to address a number of these issues.

Those present noted that it would be useful to have the following resources developed and then mounted on the website:

- A page for NN co-ordinators
- Document giving some guidance for those who do not have NNs on how to organise a NN and the pros and cons of being an informal or formal network. This had been discussed at the NN meeting in Paris.
- Links to UCEA
- Ensuring NNs link to this section of the website.
- Also ensuring there are links from NNs to EUCEN project websites e.g. Equipe Plus, BeFlex as these promote dissemination of project outputs

AJH to take these points back to the EUCEN Exec. Committee

4. Proposed study visit to Brussels

EUCEN will organise a study visit to Brussels for autumn 2007. It was suggested that a NN meeting could include a future session about tips on organising study visits like these, and this could then be a web-resource for EUCEN members. It was also noted that in future some study visits could be added onto EUCEN conferences, as per the EUCEN paper – but this would have to be considered on a case by case basis.

Future suggested topics for study visits included:

- the legal role of ULLL providers in different countries in CE provision
- changes within universities regarding ULLL and change management
- policy issues re quality assuring CE/LLL – the variety of national accreditation agencies and their roles. It was noted that the Equipe Plus project would provide information about this as partners were being asked to provide reports on how ULLL was quality assured at a national level.
- Quality management issues for ULLL

