European Universities Continuing Education Network

Tallinn, 8 November 2008

EUCEN NATIONAL & REGIONAL NETWORKS (NN) MEETING MINUTES

Present:
EUCEN Executive Committee Representatives: Alison J Hughes and Carme Royo
Austria: AUCEN (Andrea Waxenegger)
Estonia: ENUCE (Ülle Kesli and Kadri Kiigema)
France: CDSUFC (Jean-Marie Filloque)
Germany: DGWF (Helmut Vogt)
Portugal: AUPEC (Alfredo Soeiro)
Spain: ACECU (Charo Romano)
UK: UaLL (Alison J Hughes)

Apologies for absence from: Finland: UCEF

1. **Items from previous meeting (Edinburgh)**

   There was a continuation of the discussion about whether networks employ paid members of staff and also of the fees that networks charge to members and the services these cover:

   - **AT** has a part time member of staff (7 hours per week), who is already employed in a University LLL Dept in AT. Until end 2009 this person is located in Graz. The annual membership fee is €600, which often is covered/paid by 2 units in a university (LLL and the Human Resources Dept). There are 17 member institutions and an annual activity budget of c. €10,000. The network runs a number of seminars throughout the year which are highly subsidised from the membership fees so that the actual seminar fee is low.
   - **DE** – just started to employ a part time member of staff (20 hours per week). Annual membership fee being increased from €230 to €430 – this will be done in 2 stages
   - **EE** – membership is free as it is an informal network
   - **FI** – it was noted that the network has a full time paid member of staff and that the FI Education Ministry pays the salary.
   - **FR** – part time paid member of staff (20% FTE) – based in a university (currently Amiens). Annual budget for network activities of €75000. Annual membership fee is €535. Monthly

meetings, staff development – both for CLL directors and staff and a conference. The courses are partly paid for by the participating universities and the NN. In the past there has been some state funding of this activity.

- **PT**– no membership fee
- **Spain (ACECU)** –annual membership fee of €150
- **UK (UaLL)** – full time paid member of staff. Annual membership fee of £745 (c. €890). Various free events, annual conference, copies of 2 refereed journals

It was agreed that it would be useful to know of the position in other EUCEN member networks.
AJH to email a request for this information to all NN members.

2. Revision of NN pages on EUCEN Website

A few NNs have sent in their updated information for the newly formatted NN pages on the EUCEN website but quite a number have not.
AJH to email NN members again, requesting updated text for the pages and attaching the formatted template again also.

3. Future study visits

There will be a study visit in March 2009 organised in conjunction with the EUCEN Conference at Louvain/Leuven. Originally it had been proposed that it would focus on a visit to the EC/ EU Parliament in Brussels. After discussion, however, it was agreed that it would be more useful if someone from the Commission could come to Leuven to talk to the NN meeting. After discussion it was agreed that:

- Likely timing is Thursday 26 March between 3-5 p.m.
- it should be for NNs only as the discussion could be focused on more strategic issues than if it was open to all conference delegates.
- Suggested topic for this meeting - It is important to 'sell' the benefit of ULLL networks to the EC at this first meeting – to stress why they are important as major translators into action e.g. the growing role of the ULLL NNs as translators of EU policy to individual institutions in member states (the staff development impact of NNS)
- The connection between ULLL NNs and rector conference networks is an issue also, as these networks are often requesting information re ULLL from our networks

- As the EU Parliament is in session we won't be able to invite an MEP. Possibly someone from the Thematic Network team could address us (Brian Holmes was mentioned – AS would be able to contact him).
- Topic for future meetings with the Commission (if we decide to request them) could be on funding / fees of ULLL and - but it would be better to leave this until we had established the importance of ULLL NNs and EUCEN to the EC.

AJH to email all NN members and inform them that EUCEN will organise the study visit around the suggested discussion topic and ask for feedback about any specific questions they may wish to see addressed. Then AS will contact Brian Holmes to see if he is available.

There will be a SE study visit at the EUCEN Conference in Jonkoping in autumn 2009 – the SE hosts are planning this already.

4. **Future NN activities**
   For the next agenda – to discuss the new EUA European University LLL Charter

5. **Any Other Business**

   There was discussion about the proposition in the EUCEN General Assembly (8.11.08) that had been passed that all NN members become full members of EUCEN. It was noted from the discussion that:
   - Individual NNs might have to vote to decide if they wished to become full members (eg FR)
   - NNs won't be prepared to pay the full EUCEN fee - some would resign is they had to pay the full fee
   - The NNs are needed by EUCEN as relay points for information, dissemination etc and for the Association Project. EUCEN must recognise this in the fee they intend to charge to the NNS.
   - A 'symbolic' small fee would cost EUCEN more to collect that it would bring in and so isn't practical
   - On that basis the NNs should not pay a fee (as is the current situation)
   - The definition of membership could be drawn up by EUCEN so that NNs could only send 1 delegate to vote at a GA, and it was suggested that this delegate's institution should already be a EUCEN member.
   - The status of the informal NN networks was raised as they may not have full legal status and this could be a problem

for EUCEN. A draft memorandum could be drawn up that all members of the informal network could sign to state what they wished the network to be and do and to nominate their delegate.
AS has a draft document that might help and he will email it to the Group.
AJH to feed back this discussion to the EUCEN Steering Committee

ajh12.2008