



EUCEN NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES CONTINUING EDUCATION NETWORK

n°9, December 1995

Conferences

The biannual conference on Professions in Comparative Perspective is dedicated to the theme "Deconstructing Professions: Professional identity and professional order in comparative perspective" and it will take place in Gízkokoa, 24/26 Apr 96. *For more information please contact:* Serena Barkham-Huxley, International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Apdo 28, 20560 Oñati, Gízkokoa, España, t: 34-43-783064, f: 34-43-783147, e: scxiislr@sc.chu.es.

The Center on Education and Work of the U. Wisconsin - Madison will have the conference "Workplace Learning - The Strategic Advantage" in Milwaukee on 29/30 Apr 96. *Contact:* Jenn Gonnering, Center on Education and Work, U. Wisconsin - Madison, 1025 West Johnson Street, Room 964, Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1796, USA, f: 1-608-2629197, www.cew.wisc.edu/html_docs/conference/wpconf17.html.

The conference "Hypermedia's et Apprentissages" will be held in Chateauf-Malabry, France on 9/11 May 96. *Contact:* E. Bruillard, IUFG de Creteil, f: 33-49563791, e: bruillard@citi2.fr.

The EAEEIE, European Association for Education in Electrical and Information Engineering, will hold the 7th annual conference in Oulu, Finland dedicated to Telematics for Future Education and Training on 12/14 Jun 96. *Contact:* Prof. P. Lappalainen, U. Oulu, Dept. Electrical Engineering, FIN - 90570 Oulu, t: 358-81-5532780, f: 358-81-5532612, e: pll@ee.oulu.fi.

EDEN (European Distance Education Network) has opened a call for papers for the conference "Lifelong Learning: Open Learning: Distance Learning" to be held in Futuroscope, Poitiers on 8/10 Jul 96. *Contact:* Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance, BP 300, Asterama 2, 86960 Futuroscope Cedex, France, e: cneddg@iway.fr.

CALISCE96, the 3rd International Conference on Computer Aided Learning and Instruction in Science and Engineering will be held in San Sebastian, España, 29/31 Jul 96. *Contact:* I. Fernandez-Castro, Informatika-Fakultatea 649 PK, E - 20080 Donostia, t: 34-43-218000, f: 34-43-219306, e: calisce96@si.ehu.es, www.sc.ehu.es/calisce96.html.

The Fedora Summer School entitled "Decision Making for Life Long Learning" will be held by the U. Amsterdam on 27 Aug/1 Sep 96. *Contact:* Ms. A.M. Klavier, U. Amsterdam, Loopbaan Advies Centrum, t: 31-205252934, f: 31-205252941, e: amklavier@bdu.uva.nl.

Publications

The CRE has published the newsletter 4 in October 95 dedicated to Strategy and Guidelines for activities (1994-1998). It describes Strategy, Priority areas for action, CRE's mission and Working method among other topics. More information can be obtained from EUCEN Secretary General.

A list of URL's of home pages of Depts/Centers/Units of Adult/Continuing Education in the UK is available on www.ex.ac.uk/~PRFChani/ACE/UK_CE_Depts.html.

The Continuing Education Research Center of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore is compiling a database on CE. To supply information or access the information contact A. Ceriani, Cenifop, Via Morozzo della Rocca n. 2a, I-20123 Milano, t: 39-2-4981115, f: 39-2-4690625.

Research in Universities — CRE's Inquiry

EUCEN has recently been asked by the CRE for its views on a number of specific questions concerning university research. The response had to be made in about a month. The following was drafted by the Secretary General and commented on by the Steering Committee before sending it off. If any member has comments on the responses to the CRE's questions, please send them to Prof. Thomas who will pass them on the CRE.

Letter sent to CRE on 29 Sep 95 — Research in Universities

Thank you for your letter of 25 August asking for views from EUCEN concerning the above topic. In the time available, it has not been possible to gather views widely from our members but the issues have been considered briefly by the members of our Steering Committee. We hope that these views will be of use. We have confined ourselves to comments concerning continuing education in universities and will address specifically the questions you have raised:

• What is your policy on research?

One of EUCEN's functions is to support its members in carrying out whatever research on continuing education they may wish to undertake. We can often help them to enhance this by adding a European dimension. EUCEN does not take a view on more detailed issues concerning the strategies that its member universities might use: it sees this as an issue for individual universities.

• Which research fields are most important to you?

Research on continuing education very broadly is our concern. This includes topics around the efficient provision of continuing education and the effective teaching of adults in a wide range of settings and contexts. It has been a feature of many EC schemes that research on continuing education, if it has been included at all, has appeared only on the margins. If European continuing education providers were able to make available more effectively what society needs, and if adult learners were significantly better able to learn from this, the effects on European society and its economy would be immense.

• Are the issues enumerated above really those confronting universities in Europe?

All the topics you list (research planning, training and mobility, management of research, dissemination of results) are important but they are issues which have been considered by Europe's universities for a century or more and many strategies have been developed which cope with them. Undoubtedly we could all do better but we suspect that we already do quite well with these. These issues pale into insignificance when compared with your other topic, the

availability of funding. This is undoubtedly a problem for all subjects but, in our view, it is a particular problem for continuing education. Taking into account the present paucity of research on continuing education (which has resulted from low levels of funding in the past) and the considerable importance of the subject, it is likely that increased funding here would produce a high return for Europe as a whole.

• *How do you think a European research policy should evolve?*

This is not a topic that we have considered.

• *Which fields are better supported at the European than at the national level and when are European partnerships most valuable?*

We suggest that those topics which are affected by the culture of the society in which they find themselves are the most appropriate for European support. We would include continuing education in this category. By carrying out research in different countries the cultural effects should be revealed and the patterns underlying the subject should become more evident as a result. Research on continuing education and similar subjects differs from the pure sciences in this way: physics, for example, should be no different in one country from another.

• *What are your experiences with the EU Fourth Framework Programme?*

This Programme is a good example of the point made above about the marginal treatment of continuing education in EU research funding. The only opportunity in FP4 to bid for funding for continuing education is in one part of the relatively small sub-programme on Targeted Socio-Economic Research. As a result, the funding available is very small and the competition for it particularly strong.

We hope that these comments are of help and look forward to hearing the outcomes of your inquiry in due course.

EUCEN Working Groups

1. Information on University Continuing Education in Europe

MEMBERSHIP OF THE WG: Prof M Amenise, IT-Bari; Mme G Auroi-Jaggi, CH-Geneve; Mrs H Baramki, Israel/West Bank - Birzeit; Prof E Goncalves, PT-Algarve; Prof E Mastrojannis, GR-Patras; Mr E Mathieu, BE-Antwerp; Mrs V Mitchell, GB-Coventry; Mr A Palomar, ES-Barcelona; Prof M Parjanen, FIN-Tampere; Mr M Richardson, GB-Cambridge; Prof A Soeiro, PT-Porto; Prof E Thomas, GB-Bristol; Prof L Venturelli, IT-Chieti; Prof K De Witte, BE-Leuven. Additional members of the Working Group are welcome.

ACTIVITIES: The Group currently has two activities: to collect and make available information about EUCEN member universities; and to provide broad information on university continuing education in each European country.

REPORT: 1. *Information about EUCEN members* • A draft questionnaire has been produced for Karel De Witte as part of a student project. Comments on the questionnaire were sent to Karel after the meeting of the Working Group at the Glasgow Conference. When the necessary amendments have been made the questionnaires will be circulated to all EUCEN Representatives. It is aimed to complete the data collection in the Autumn, preferably before the Kortrijk Conference. The data can then be discussed there. • 2. *Broad information on university continuing education* • The content of the information packs that it would be useful to have for each country was discussed at the Glasgow Conference and it was agreed that four members of the Working Group would attempt to assemble this information for their own countries (Italy, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom) as pilot ventures. It is hoped that the information collected will be circulated to the members of the Working Group

just before the next Conference and the lessons to be drawn from the pilot experience and the way to take this activity forward will be discussed there. • 3. *Survey and analysis of new and effective methods of training for vocational training personnel* • Since the last meeting of the Working Group, the details of the Surveys and Analyses strand of the LEONARDO project (Strand III.2.a) has been published. One of the projects proposed by the European Commission was on the collection of information on training for vocational training personnel. This was within the range of interest of some members of the Working Group and a team was put together to make the bid taking into account the interests of members, their geographical spread, and the countries that could be included. The bid was submitted at the end of August and had partners from Belgium, Finland, Greece, Portugal and the United Kingdom. • 4. *Further bids for European Country funding* • It is likely that further opportunities for EC funding for continuing education information projects will become apparent as the details of the SOCRATES scheme are published during the early Autumn. These will be considered by the Working Group as they occur. Other opportunities may also arise to bid for funding from the LEONARDO scheme when the arrangements for the second year of this scheme are announced in the Spring or early Summer, 1996. Members of the Working Group will be welcome to be included in these bids as the opportunities arise.

2. Further Education in the Theatre

The WG on Further Education in the Theatre has become the WG on Arts and Culture in Continuing Education. The areas of preliminary interest are Pricing policies and payments in the field of art and culture in CE, International comparability of study credits, The function and value of art and culture as part of CE, Staff exchanges, Innovation in cultural programmes and workshops in Barcelona Summer School and Helsinki Act 1997. *Contact:* Marjatta Hatti-Horkeila, Finnish Theatre Academy, or Dr. Raymond Thomson, U. Strathclyde.

Latin America — CRE/Columbus

I was a representative of EUCEN and of U. Porto in the 2nd Conference on Continuing Education organized by CRE-Columbus and U. Concepcion held 27/28 Sep 95 in Concepcion, Chile. I have participated also in the Workshop Institutional Strategies on Continuing Education in the Group led by Prof. Marti Parellada, U. Barcelona. The conference had over 70 participants and the Workshop more than 35 participants from all Latin America. I have presented EUCEN in the session International Networks of Continuing Education together with IACEE and WLLI. There was a great individual and collective interest in EUCEN networking activities. It was decided to create a Latin American Network on Continuing Education and EUCEN is providing its support following a request from its Secretary General, Prof. Alexandra Leal Castellanos. I think there are great opportunities to cooperate for EUCEN members and for the networks. Please contact me if you need further information.

Alfredo Soeiro, University of Porto

Listserver and Homepage

The U. Porto did not receive an assistant as scheduled for the maintenance and improvement of EUCEN Listserver and Homepage. Therefore it will wait until the Commet office, where EUCEN Vice-President Prof. Victor de Kosinsky has found the previous and actual assistants, has somebody available to come to Porto and do the job. If any of the members has a suggestion please send asap.

availability of funding. This is undoubtedly a problem for all subjects but, in our view, it is a particular problem for continuing education. Taking into account the present paucity of research on continuing education (which has resulted from low levels of funding in the past) and the considerable importance of the subject, it is likely that increased funding here would produce a high return for Europe as a whole.

• *How do you think a European research policy should evolve?*

This is not a topic that we have considered.

• *Which fields are better supported at the European than at the national level and when are European partnerships most valuable?*

We suggest that those topics which are affected by the culture of the society in which they find themselves are the most appropriate for European support. We would include continuing education in this category. By carrying out research in different countries the cultural effects should be revealed and the patterns underlying the subject should become more evident as a result. Research on continuing education and similar subjects differs from the pure sciences in this way: physics, for example, should be no different in one country from another.

• *What are your experiences with the EU Fourth Framework Programme?*

This Programme is a good example of the point made above about the marginal treatment of continuing education in EU research funding. The only opportunity in FP4 to bid for funding for continuing education is in one part of the relatively small sub-programme on Targeted Socio-Economic Research. As a result, the funding available is very small and the competition for it particularly strong.

We hope that these comments are of help and look forward to hearing the outcomes of your inquiry in due course.

EUCEN Working Groups

1. Information on University Continuing Education in Europe

MEMBERSHIP OF THE WG: Prof M Amenise, IT-Bari; Mme G Auroi-Jaggi, CH-Geneve; Mrs H Baramki, Israel/West Bank - Birzeit; Prof E Goncalves, PT-Algarve; Prof E Mastrojannis, GR-Patras; Mr E Mathieu, BE-Antwerp; Mrs V Mitchell, GB-Coventry; Mr A Palomar, ES-Barcelona; Prof M Parjanen, FIN-Tampere; Mr M Richardson, GB-Cambridge; Prof A Soeiro, PT-Porto; Prof E Thomas, GB-Bristol; Prof L Venturelli, IT-Chieti; Prof K De Witte, BE-Leuven. Additional members of the Working Group are welcome.

ACTIVITIES: The Group currently has two activities: to collect and make available information about EUCEN member universities; and to provide broad information on university continuing education in each European country.

REPORT: 1. *Information about EUCEN members* • A draft questionnaire has been produced for Karel De Witte as part of a student project. Comments on the questionnaire were sent to Karel after the meeting of the Working Group at the Glasgow Conference. When the necessary amendments have been made the questionnaires will be circulated to all EUCEN Representatives. It is aimed to complete the data collection in the Autumn, preferably before the Kortrijk Conference. The data can then be discussed there. • 2. *Broad information on university continuing education* • The content of the information packs that it would be useful to have for each country was discussed at the Glasgow Conference and it was agreed that four members of the Working Group would attempt to assemble this information for their own countries (Italy, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom) as pilot ventures. It is hoped that the information collected will be circulated to the members of the Working Group

just before the next Conference and the lessons to be drawn from the pilot experience and the way to take this activity forward will be discussed there. • 3. *Survey and analysis of new and effective methods of training for vocational training personnel* • Since the last meeting of the Working Group, the details of the Surveys and Analyses strand of the LEONARDO project (Strand III.2.a) has been published. One of the projects proposed by the European Commission was on the collection of information on training for vocational training personnel. This was within the range of interest of some members of the Working Group and a team was put together to make the bid taking into account the interests of members, their geographical spread, and the countries that could be included. The bid was submitted at the end of August and had partners from Belgium, Finland, Greece, Portugal and the United Kingdom. • 4. *Further bids for European Country funding* • It is likely that further opportunities for EC funding for continuing education information projects will become apparent as the details of the SOCRATES scheme are published during the early Autumn. These will be considered by the Working Group as they occur. Other opportunities may also arise to bid for funding from the LEONARDO scheme when the arrangements for the second year of this scheme are announced in the Spring or early Summer, 1996. Members of the Working Group will be welcome to be included in these bids as the opportunities arise.

2. Further Education in the Theatre

The WG on Further Education in the Theatre has become the WG on Arts and Culture in Continuing Education. The areas of preliminary interest are Pricing policies and payments in the field of art and culture in CE, International comparability of study credits, The function and value of art and culture as part of CE, Staff exchanges, Innovation in cultural programmes and workshops in Barcelona Summer School and Helsinki Act 1997. *Contact:* Marjatta Hatti-Horkeila, Finnish Theatre Academy, or Dr. Raymond Thomson, U. Strathclyde.

Latin America — CRE/Columbus

I was a representative of EUCEN and of U. Porto in the 2nd Conference on Continuing Education organized by CRE-Columbus and U. Concepcion held 27/28 Sep 95 in Concepcion, Chile. I have participated also in the Workshop Institutional Strategies on Continuing Education in the Group led by Prof. Marti Parelllada, U. Barcelona. The conference had over 70 participants and the Workshop more than 35 participants from all Latin America. I have presented EUCEN in the session International Networks of Continuing Education together with IACEE and WLLI. There was a great individual and collective interest in EUCEN networking activities. It was decided to create a Latin American Network on Continuing Education and EUCEN is providing its support following a request from its Secretary General, Prof. Alexandra Leal Castellanos. I think there are great opportunities to cooperate for EUCEN members and for the networks. Please contact me if you need further information.

Alfredo Soeiro, University of Porto

Listserver and Homepage

The U. Porto did not receive an assistant as scheduled for the maintenance and improvement of EUCEN Listserver and Homepage. Therefore it will wait until the Commet office, where EUCEN Vice-President Prof. Victor de Kosinsky has found the previous and actual assistants, has somebody available to come to Porto and do the job. If any of the members has a suggestion please send asap.