

Conference Reports

Report of the 10th General Assembly of the Conference of European Rectors (CRE) Budapest, 31 August - 3 September 1994 ¶ Continuing education featured prominently to each of the three plenary presentations made at the recent General Assembly of the Committee of European Rectors (CRE) and it was appropriate that EUCEN should be represented there by both the President and the Secretary General.

The meeting, which had the overall theme of "A University Policy for Europe", started with an address from the retiring President of CRE, Professor Heinrich Seidel, of the University of Hannover. His starting point was that the development of European universities is indissolubly linked with the development of European society and culture; universities are a European invention and all the changes in European society in the last 500 years have been reflected in the history of the universities.

The past five years, since the last CRE General Assembly, have been momentous in Europe's history, most notably with the break up of the former Soviet empire. This has now made the 320 million East Europeans close neighbours of the 370 million of us in the West; it is now much easier for the 750 or so universities in the enlarged Europe to talk together and think together. The large participation at this Conference from the former Soviet bloc countries will undoubtedly help universities on both sides of the former Iron Curtain; major examples are the accelerating growth of knowledge in many fields and the growing intolerance in some countries, regrettably including some in Europe. Adjustment to these requires changes in both the content and the structure of the teaching curricula in universities.

Professor Seidel stressed the growing need for lifelong learning and the integrated development of initial and continuing higher education. Universities have a moral responsibility to address the burning issues of our time and continuing education can clearly make a major contribution to this.

A more focused vision for a European higher education policy for the coming years was provided by Professor Antonio Ruberti, the Commissioner responsible for training and research. His first concern was the role that universities can play in promoting the European dimension, helping to plan the future of Europe. Secondly he stressed the increasing responsibility of universities to provide continuing training and he called upon universities, alongside public bodies and businesses, to play a key role in continuing training systems. He noted the coming together of education and vocational training. This requires universities to partially redefine their tasks. In support of this he mentioned the efforts that have been made in the LEONARDO scheme to achieve a better balance in future between initial and in service training, and the emphasis that this scheme will place on the development of multimedia techniques and of distance learning and training.

The third, and final, plenary presentation was a report of the joint Forum of the European Round Table of Industrialist and CRE called "Reshaping Education in Europe", which focused on the current changes in society and the responses that should be made by Europe's universities. Professor Philippe de Woot (Université

Catholique de Louvain) gave a perceptive analysis of the changes in society in Europe and the World generally. These lead clearly to intensifying demands for a new balance between the different stages of the education process from the pre-primary stage through the primary, secondary and tertiary stages to higher education (including continuing higher education). Examples of the necessary changes he cited for higher education were greater availability, more flexibility, more opportunity for the development of international and international skills, a more open educational system with better partnerships between the key participants, and an increasing necessity for lifelong learning.

In summary, the CRE General Assembly saw an increasingly important role for continuing education in linking Europe's universities and society. If members of EUCEN would like to have copies of any of the papers produced to accompany the three plenary sessions please contact the EUCEN Secretary General.

The 8th EUCEN European Conference took place in Olympia, GR, 21-23 October 1994. The theme was Multimedia Methods and University Continuing Education and was hosted by the University of Patras. It was initially affected by the floods especially for the participants making the trip from Athens to Olympia on Friday. Some took 8 hours to make the trip. The sessions themselves were intensive and well participated. The social programme was also a busy time for the participants, including the Greek dancing.

Workshop on Multimedia Course Design and Delivery ¶ The results of two active hours at the Olympia Conference produced by enthusiastic participants were grouped around decision (why?), design (what?) and delivery (how?), questions concerned with multimedia courses. The ten most important reasons to carry out this type of courses were richer curriculum/diversity, improvement of student adsorption, new ways of learning, topic for research, support from administration, academic recognition, economic advantages, stimulate and motivate staff, adaptable timing of material and balance information/formation. The ten most cited issues to be addressed at the design stage were topic/aims/objectives, market research, money availability, student target group, courseware material, human resources, integration of planning, course material and support, financial evaluation, adaptability of software and planning/project management/timing. The ten most important related to planning and delivery were documentation/validation, time of staff, motivation of staff, test of pilot version, updating feedback, supporting development team, ongoing staff training, ongoing technical support, possession of material and project management. Other information is available from the Vice President of EUCEN, Alfredo Soeiro.

Telematics for education and training ¶ A conference was held on 24-26 November 1994 in Ulm, D, organized by the German Telekom. It was subsidized by the Delta programme "Telematic networks and services applied to flexible distance learning". For further information contact Gabriela Schmotz, P.O. Box 3000, D-89070 Ulm, tel: 49-731-1001811, fax: 49-731-32625.

Next EUCEN Conferences

The 9th EUCEN European Conference will be held in Glasgow, 21-23 April 95. The theme is Funding of Continuing Education and the host is the University of Strathclyde. The final announcement is about to be mailed. The contact is Dr. Raymond Thomson, Continuing Education Centre, University of Strathclyde, McCance Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ, Scotland, Tel: 44-41-5524400 (ext. 2239), fax: 44-41-5520775.

The 10th EUCEN European Conference will take place in Kortrijk, B, organized by the Catholic University Leuven. The University of Lille will cooperate in the programme. It will be held 26-25 October 1995. The theme is University Continuing Education Meeting the Needs of the Region. For further information contact Dr. Frank Baert, P.U.C. WestViaanderen, K.U. Leuven Campus Kortrijk, E. Sabelaan 53, B - 8500 Kortrijk, tel: 32-56-246184, fax: 32-56-246998.

Training Courses

The European Association of International Education (EAIE) is delivering two courses at the University of Limburg in Maastricht, NL. These are Introduction to the Administration of International Education and Decision Making in International Education. The first one will be held on 26-30 June 1995 and will have a maximum fee of Dfl 2800. The second will take place on 4-7 July 1995 and will have a maximum cost of 2600 Dfl. For further information contact the EAIE Secretariat, tel: 31-20-6252727, fax: 3120-6209406.

Project Cooperation

Women and Work Programme ¶ There is a Centre for Women's Education, Training and Research based at Coventry University. The Centre is currently developing projects for Leonardo and Socrates within the framework of the European Commission's Training Programmes 1994/99. The Centre would like to establish contact with institutions interested in developing joint projects in the following areas: information technology training for women, management training for women, training for trainers, development of women's training methodologies and development of teaching and learning materials. For further information contact Liz Pearson, The Women and Work Programme, Coventry University, Priory Street UK - Coventry CV1 5FB, tel: 44-203-838903, fax: 44-203-838784.

EUCEN Working Group — Occupational Forestry and Environmental Studies ¶ The Working Group is proposing a project aimed at organizing international continuing education for European professionals in forestry and the environment. It is intended to improve participants skills, increase professional contacts at the European level, compare applications and develop an information network.

The project seeks partners from universities from Europe, mainly from Spain, Germany and the United Kingdom. Their complete report is available from the Convenor, Hannele Parviainen, Continuing Education Centre, University of Joensuu, P.O. Box 111, Tulliportinkatu 1, SF - 80101 Joensuu, tel: 358-73-1511, fax: 358-731514538.

Documentation

Finnish report ¶ The summary of a report written by Matti Halonen was sent to EUCEN by Leena-Maija Salminen, from the Turku School of Economics. This was produced out of the request by the Finnish Ministry of Education and aims at investigate questions relating to university eligibility, student selection, right to study, credit transfer and the structure of the academic year in Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. The complete summary is available from the EUCEN Secretary General.

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Please note that

Members are invited to participate in the Newsletter. Send news, advertisements, invitations, ideas that will help EUCEN Newsletter to be of more use to all of us. The Steering Committee suggests that members should use the Newsletter to present the members' institution. The dates of the next issues are Feb95, May95, Sep95 and Nov95. News should be received by 31 Jan95, 30 Apr95, 31 Aug95 and 31 Oct95.

Finally, EUCEN wishes *Happy Holidays* to all Members.



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