

Action required – for information

Report on the meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC), Mrs Nasima Badsha, on February 25, 2016 in Cape Town/Wyneberg

Participants: Nasima Badsha (CHEC) - <http://www.chec.ac.za/index.html>
Anne Vorpapel (Utrecht Network (UN) – Joint Programmes Task Force)
Svend Poller (UN - TF Summer Schools)

Results:

The meeting was held in a very friendly and productive atmosphere. Nasima received the letter from President Sabine very late. However, she asked us to convey her gratitude.

Nasima explained the profile of CHEC as a network whose primary intention it is to foster regional co-operation of the four Higher Education in Western Cape: Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Stellenbosch University, the University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape. International co-operation has not been well developed so far, beyond support for Erasmus Mundus initiatives. However, it is part of CHEC's mission.

The representatives of the Utrecht Network illustrated the tasks of the Network, in particular with regard to its linkages with overseas partner consortia (AEN and MAUI, Consortium of Universities in Rio de Janeiro – exploration phase). It was mentioned that the involvement into the EUROSA initiated the idea to develop a consortia partnership with South African universities. It was proposed to identify projects and formats of co-operation that could be beneficial mutually.

Nasima openly explained that student exchanges following the model used with AEN and MAUI were currently not the priority for CHEC due to declining subsidies by the government and lack of scholarships and other reasons. She proposed to enter a test phase that could be used to find points of shared interest. She liked the idea to focus on doctoral candidates because capacity building among young academics in teaching is a key interest of CHEC. These ideas were discussed in particular:

- involving South African participants in the summer schools as external participants,
- involving European teaching staff in the short-term programmes run for doctoral candidates or managers (postgraduate diploma courses) at Universities in the Western Cape,
- meeting at international conferences to share ideas on recent developments in internationalisation on both continents and globally,
- organising a joint summer school in the Western Cape region for doctoral candidates (in the long run).

Nasima sent a project report on the SKILL's project funded by Nuffic that could be seen as a pattern for a joint project.

It was agreed that:

- Utrecht Network sends Nasima information on the summer schools,
- CHEC illustrates the requirements for short-term programmes,
- Nasima will present the proposal to the CHEC board in May,
- the Annual General Meeting in Belfast will be asked to agree with the next steps