

Report on the general meeting of the Utrecht Network Bochum, 11 and 12 May 1990

Participants:

Aarhus	- Niels Holger Skou
Antwerp	- Patricia de Clopper
Bochum	- Gerd Stratmann Manfred Nettekoven Hr. Schwarze
Bologna	- Gianni Galloni repr. Università
Coimbra	- Jorge Veiga
Hull	- Richard Craven-Green Jacky Peters
Lille I	- Jean Claude Starek
Lund	- Karl Axel Nilsson
Madrid	- Ingeborg Kunath
Strasbourg III	- Marc Arnold
Utrecht University	- Kathelijne van Kammen Jeroen Torenbeek Maurice Harper
Utrecht School of the Arts	- Miek Krol

Absent: Strasbourg I
 Strasbourg II

Agenda

1. Welcome by the Rector of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum
2. Short presentation of the participants
3. Settlement of the definitive agenda
4. Reports on visits to Greece/Ireland
5. Network Info package
6. Reception of students at host university
7. Procedures staff mobility/language courses/orientation visits/ international officers (pink paper)
8. Intensive Programmes
9. Other (EC) programmes: TEMPUS, COMETT, LINGUA, Jean Monnet, Nord-Plus
10. Information by a representative of the ERASMUS Student Network
11. 1991/92 application

Ad 4. Report on visits to Greece and Ireland

At the last general Network meeting in Coimbra (April 1989) one had decided to explore the possibilities to include a Greek and an Irish university in the Network. Therefore, visits have been made to the universities of Athens and Thessaloniki in Greece (Utrecht/Bochum), and to Trinity College Dublin and the University College

Cork in Ireland (Utrecht).

Criteria to be taken into account were: 'academic standard' in general; integration into the ERASMUS programme; organisation of International Relations at institutional level; housing facilities and linguistic preparation; interest from their side, both at faculty level and at central level; attractiveness city/student life.

The proposal to invite the Aristotelian University Thessaloniki and the University College Cork to join the Network, was approved.

Special efforts will be made to set up a separate ICP on Arts, which includes the Faculties of Arts of Athens, Utrecht and Bochum (and others).

Ad 5. Network Info package

After some discussion one has agreed that the Network name will remain 'Utrecht Network'. In all publications, the participating institutions will be mentioned. In framework publications of EC programmes, Lund will be referred to as an 'attached member'.

The draft version of the info package introduction was discussed.

Changes were introduced to emphasise that the Utrecht Network functions as a starting point for participation in different EC programmes (not only ERASMUS).

In the chapters on the different institutions, the parts on credits, grades and certificates must be clarified. Additional expenses for the student, such as obligatory membership to a student union or university insurances, should be mentioned.

Again, it was emphasised that the recognition of credits is something that in principle ought to be arranged before the student's departure.

The persons mentioned in the info package will be the ones directly in charge of the incoming students, i.e. the persons who feel primarily responsible for the students and their problems.

Ad 7. Procedures staff mobility etc.

The procedures as proposed in the 'pink paper' (see attached sheet) were approved without any modifications.

Ad 8. Intensive Programmes

The project on Geology is again included in the 1990/91 application. If it will be rejected by ERASMUS, then alternative funding will be searched. The initiative, however, has to come from the departments of Geology involved.

Future inclusion of Intensive Programmes in the Network application is still possible providing the initiative comes from a (group of) faculties and the plans are in an advanced stage.

Ad 9. Other EC programmes

TEMPUS

The programme as such did not need an introduction. Proposed is to apply for TEMPUS with a framework network similar to the existing ICP. This framework JEP would be the basis for a whole series of projects in different disciplines. A framework JEP would give the same kind of flexibility we enjoy within the ERASMUS programme; a flexibility which in the case of co-operation with Eastern Europe might turn out to be even more important. And a future fusion between ERASMUS and TEMPUS will be easy to deal with.

A rough inventory of existing (formal) contacts in Hungary and Poland was made:
Bochum: Krakow, Wroclaw, Debrecen

Lille: Rostow
Aarhus: Budapest
HKU: different academies in Poland
Coimbra: Budapest
Bologna: Pécs
Lund: Gdansk, Warsaw, Debrecen, Budapest
Utrecht: Budapest, Lodz
Hull: Budapest, Lodz, Krakow
Strasbourg III: Lodz

Bochum and Utrecht together will inquire in Brussels what might be the reactions on a framework JEP, and then will formulate a plan.

LINGUA

Discussed was the need for a separate application of the Network under LINGUA. The problem is that a transfer of all the language students from the ERASMUS ICP to a LINGUA ICP, would mean a serious loss of flexibility in the original ICP. After all, the most frequent exchange pattern within our network is the sending of language students and receiving of (social) sciences students in return, or vice versa.

Utrecht will inquire in Brussels which possibilities there are to receive both ERASMUS and LINGUA fundings in one and the same network.

NORD PLUS

Karl Axel Nilsson from Lund University gave an exposé of the NORD PLUS programme, which may be considered a blue print of the ERASMUS programme. Participating countries are Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland. Lund University has NORD-PLUS agreements with most of the Nordic universities. An integration of ERASMUS and NORD PLUS can not be expected before 1993, i.e. after the holy year 1992. The Network was invited to the 1993 general meeting in Lund.

Ad 10. ERASMUS Student Network

Désirée Majoor, ERASMUS Student Network International's president, explained the aims and activities of this organisation. ESN-International is an initiative of students from different EC countries, often former ERASMUS students. They are setting up sections at universities in all EC countries. ESN-International has close contacts with the ERASMUS Bureau in Brussels. Their main aim is to improve the availability of information on ERASMUS for students, and the social integration of incoming students. They are setting up mentor systems for incoming foreign students and a database on European universities.

Désirée received the names of potentially interested student organisations at the different Network universities.

Ad 11. 1991/92 Application

The most important changes in ERASMUS II were briefly mentioned:

- Applications can now be made for a three-year period; a detailed description is required for the first year and an outline has to be given for the next two. The second and third year only an update of the student mobility flows and the budget have to be sent to Brussels.
- Minimum duration of study abroad is still 3 months (not 6 as was proposed).
- Inclusion of students up to and including the doctorate level.

02.08.1990, HP/KvK