

Action required – for approval

1 January 2016 – 31 March 2017 Task Force Report – Summer Schools Task Force

Members of the Task Force

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Sabine Pendl (Co-Chair)
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Meetings during 2016

Hull, June 26th – 29th
Istanbul, November 23rd – 26th

Minutes were sent to the secretariat.

Narrative report of activity

One summer schools took place in 2016, two had to be cancelled:

- 1) Professional English Summer School (Hull) – cancelled

The school had to be cancelled due to lack of participants at the language proficiency level requested. (min B2 – max C1).

The task force investigated the reasons and conditions in Hull in June, see minutes.

- 2) Growing Diversity as a Societal Challenge (Bologna, Rimini) - cancelled

The school had to be cancelled due to lack of applications among the new cohort, doctoral candidates.

- 3) “Societal Challenges past and present of Antislavery and Trafficking”, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, 21-25 November 2016

Organised by Queen’s University the school attracted 15 participants, 6 academic staff members participated. However, among the students the majority (10) came from other than UN institutions, two of the teachers were external. It is obvious that there is a direct relationship between the involvement of teaching staff and PhD candidates because – with the exception of a “lonely” participant from Hull – Brno, Belfast and Utrecht were present in both categories. The school did not benefit from a UN subsidy.

The school had been evaluated excellent by its participants.

General evaluation:

The Task Force is aware of the situation we have been exposed in 2016, which is a critical one. That is why we draw conclusions and would like to propose changes for the future, see work plan.

Statistics:

The survey on the participants of the Brno school will be handed in to the Secretariat as well requesting to add the figures to the excel file giving all the details of all schools, attachment.

Financial report

Task Force meeting (Hull) - €3,189.49

Task Force meeting (Istanbul) - €2,673.91

Total Expenditure - €5,863.40

1 April 16 – 31 March 17 activities matched against the Strategic Plan

Goals from the Strategic Plan (FORCES)	Task Force Planned Activities
Foster internationalisation of education	Short-term programmes per se add to curricula of universities.
Open up to new forms of cooperation	Continuation of the new format offering short term programmes also for young academics and doctoral students.
Respond actively to European HE policies	
Collaborate effectively within the Network	Students and teaching as well administrative staff of member institutions who took part, taught at and organised the school have developed a team spirit that could serve as a basis for further collaboration.
Enhance internationalisation processes in member institutions	
Strengthen the profile and global outlook of the Network	

1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 Task Force Workplan – Summer Schools Task Force

Planned meetings 1 April 17 – 31 March 18 (dates and locations if known)

- 1) Ljubljana in the context of the school
- 2) to be found

Planned activity for 1 April 17 – 31 March 18 and proposals agreed on

- 1) European Values in Crisis (July 9th – 15th, 2017 in Ljubljana): <http://lefsummerschool.eu>

Based on the excellent evaluation of the 2016 school by the participants the academic committee decided to offer a school in 2017 in Ljubljana. A preliminary programme is available. However, the Task Force encourages the academic committee to involve teaching staff from more member institutions, issue a call. Effects for that could be: improve recruitment conditions, increase visibility, and diversify themes.

A further funding of the series of three already agreed upon in 2018 should be under the condition that reports of the schools in 2017 will be handed in, and that more UN member institutions will be involved.

The Academic Committee of the school would like to pursue their joint activities by organising a series. It will be continued in Sarajevo in 2018, and in Bologna/Forli in 2019.

- 2) Professional English (in an English speaking country):

Hull has decided that they cannot offer a school in 2017 due to structural changes. Hull was asked to announce in June 2017 whether a school could be organised in summer 2018.

Alternative member institutions (Belfast, Cork) were asked for 2018. Both members responded positively. However, Queen's could offer a school whose costs would be unbearable for the UN and participants. Marita Foster will discuss the matter in early 2017 with her colleagues from the Cork Language Centre. A result has not been communicated yet.

- 3) The project proposal "Summer Schools in Europe", which was not approved by NUFFIC in 2016, will be renewed in 2017. NUFFIC has to reveal the reasons for denial.

- 4) Funding conditions:

- a) Subsidy for organising the school:

Patricia presented a proposal by the Academic Committee of the LEF schools to change the conditions for the organisational subsidy: min 40% participants from UN institutions and partner consortia, 60% from local UN Member and from outside the UN and its partner consortia. The Task Force discussed the proposal. It was decided not to accept the proposal. The reason is that it must be guaranteed that only a small minority of maximum 20% of participants should come from non-UN member and partner institutions if UN organisational funding is used.

- b) Hospitality Funding (HF) – as recommended for approval by the Steering Committee in Helsinki:

The situation right now is that HF is only allocated to schools that receive the organisational subsidy. Schools that comply with the definition of a UN school and therefore can use the label “UN international summer school”, but do not use an organisational subsidy by UN are excluded to receive HF. This regulation does not encourage organisers to plan the school without the organisational subsidy. The Task Force supports the proposal to **allocate HF to participants of UN international summer schools regardless of the organisational subsidy**. Maximal three schools can be supported either by an organisational subsidy and/or HF annually.

6) Additional measures to foster Summer Schools:

The Task Force discussed options to develop the concept of the schools (aims, conditions) further.

- a) The UN Secretariat should send out the call to organise UN summer schools again together with the announcement to be prepared by Jeroen (see c): <http://www.utrecht-network.org/activities/steering-committee-2/>
- b) València could be approached whether their proposal could materialise in 2018 (Svend).
- c) Members will be asked whether they could combine schools they already offer or they are ready to develop with other member institutions that offer a school of the same or similar theme. Two or three institutions then offer each a module that could be combined into a coherent short-term curriculum. A member institution proposes a topic, potential partner institutions from within the UN or its partner consortia will be asked to contribute with a module that is offered at a second location (Jeroen will prepare an announcement).
- d) Partner Consortia overseas will be asked to utter their demand with regards to summer schools (topics, conditions). (Jeroen will ask)
- e) Advertising of the UN schools could be improved using: <http://summerschoolsineurope.eu>
The organisers should be reminded by the Secretariat when they hand in the announcement for the publication on UN’s website.

Budget requested for 1 April 17 – 31 March 18 (maximum)

€7,000

1 April 17 – 31 March 18 planned activities mapped against the Strategic Plan

Goals from the Strategic Plan (FORCES)	Task Force Planned Activities
Foster internationalisation of education	Short-term programmes per se add an international dimension to curricula and doctoral training
Open up to new forms of cooperation	Continuation of the new format offering short-term programmes also for young academics and doctoral students, develop the Brno format further and involve more member institutions. A new idea came up: use existing schools at member institutions by selecting modules of them which may relate to a common topic to develop new schools.

Respond actively to European HE policies	
Collaborate effectively within the Network	<p>Students and teaching as well administrative staff of member institutions who took part, taught at and organised the school have developed a team spirit that could serve as a basis for further collaboration.</p> <p>A call for new summer school proposals will be send out.</p>
Enhance internationalisation processes in member institutions	<p>With the new idea of turning existing summer schools or developing parts of it newly into modules of a new school, the internationalisation of the summer school curricula will be further developed.</p>
Strengthen the profile and global outlook of the Network	<p>The visibility of the UN will be raised by entering the information on UN summer schools on the following page: www.summerschoolsineurope.eu</p>