

2013 Steering Committee report

Members

Marita Foster, University College Cork (President)
Sabine Pendl, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz (Vice-President)
Kaja Nørgaard Henneberg, Aarhus Universitet (until April 2013)
Francesco Girotti, Università di Bologna (from April 2013)
Patricia De Clopper, Universiteit Antwerpen
Ülle Tensing, Tartu Ülikool

Meetings

The Steering Committee met three times during the year (Aarhus –February 2013, Bergen – April 2013 and Antwerp – November 2013). The usual meeting at the EAIE Conference did not take place due to unavailability of members and the amount of business to be discussed. The meeting was replaced by the Antwerp meeting in November.

In addition two skype meetings took place, in July 2013 and December 2013.

Report against planned activity

Support the Executive Secretariat at the University of Hull as it takes on sole responsibility for the activities of the Utrecht Network during 2013

The Steering Committee has provided support to the Executive Secretariat throughout 2013. This has ensured a smooth transition between Universiteit Utrecht and the University of Hull.

Compile a draft for a strategic plan for 2013-2017

The Strategic Plan (2014 -17) has been discussed extensively by the Steering Committee during 2013. The first draft of the Plan was presented to the 2013 AGM by the Steering Committee and comments on the Plan were noted and further comments invited. The Steering Committee then elaborated a more detailed draft Plan which will be discussed further at the Joint Task Force Chairs/Steering Committee meeting in January 2014. The Plan will then be circulated to members for final comment before approval at the 2014 AGM.

Membership activities

The Steering Committee has undertaken an exercise to measure participation in Task Forces etc by member institutions. However it is recognised that this is a quantitative not qualitative evaluation and means by which to encourage active participation by all member institutions will continue to be discussed.

Working and training opportunities for members

The Steering Committee continued in 2013 to provide support for the professional development of members. This was mainly through the delegation of activity to the Staff Training Task Force and the organisation of the AGM workshop by the Joint Programmes Task Force. A Steering Committee member gave a presentation on Erasmus + at the April AGM.

An evaluation of the 2013 AGM and workshop was undertaken by the Steering Committee to help with future planning and ensure that the AGM format and the topic of the workshop best meet the professional needs and development of members.

Task Forces - The SC will standardise the reporting, planning, implementation and evaluation of Task Force activities and new initiatives.

This item has been placed on hold during 2013, pending the adoption of the new Strategic Plan. All reporting, planning, implementation and evaluation of Task Force activities will, in future years, be directly linked to the Strategic Plan and its objectives.

Explore 'Erasmus for All' and opportunities for the Utrecht Network

A presentation on Erasmus + was given by a Steering Committee member at the 2013 AGM. Due to the unavailability and confusion surrounding information from Brussels it has not been possible to progress this item further. The Steering Committee has written to the Commission, on behalf of the Network, to express its frustration with regard to the implementation process for the new programme.

Support the Network's participation in the 'Impact of Erasmus mobility and Intensive Programmes on skills development, employability, institutional development and the internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions' project'?

Patricia De Clopper has attended relevant meetings during the year on behalf of the Network. Updates have been given at Steering Committee meetings and the AGM. Various requests for information by the Project team have been circulated to members for action by the Secretariat during the year.

Investigate developing links with non-European Networks including following up on contacts with Grupo Montevideo in relation to possible collaboration between the two associations

Communications were received from Grupo Montevideo expressing interest in establishing relations with the Network. A response was made by the President requesting details on how Grupo Montevideo envisaged the partnership would work. The AEN and MAUI partnership agreements were cited as examples of Network partnerships. No reply was received.

Communications were initiated with two Brazilian Networks with regard to possible partnership arrangements. A reply was not received from the Networks.

The Joint Steering Committee and Task Force Chairs Joint meeting agreed in February 2013 that, as a first step to links with EUROSA, two places per summer school would be allocated to South African students.

2013 Expenditure

Steering Committee and Task Force Chairs Joint Meeting (Aarhus) - €9,586

Steering Committee meeting (Antwerp) - €3,208

Total expenditure - €12,795