

**Steering Committee 2014 report and 2015 Work Plan**

|                                    | <b>Strategic Plan</b>  | <b>2014 Activities (from Work Plan)</b>        | <b>Achievements</b>  | <b>2015 Work Plan</b>  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Foster internationalisation</b> | Foster the internationalisation of academic curricula                  |  |  |  |
|                                    | Explore and promote new and alternative forms of mobility              |  |  |  |
|                                    | Develop and offer improved professional services for all target groups | To ensure the effectiveness of the Task Forces | <p>The SC has continued to work with the Task Forces to ensure that their activities meet the needs of the Network (through the Joint Meeting). Improved reporting against the Strategic Plan has been discussed.</p> <p>The SC reviewed the Profiling and Promotions TF and, with the agreement of the Chair of the TF, the TF was dissolved.</p> | <p>Improved Task Force reporting against the Strategic Plan will be implemented (after discussion with TF Chairs at the Joint Meeting).</p> <p>Continue to review the effectiveness of the TFs and provide support to TF Chairs when needed. Ensure that the needs of members are met through Network and TF activity.</p> |

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|   |   |  | The SC organised and delivered the AGM 2014 Workshop. Out of this workshop came a proposal for a Research Managers Network.       | Continue to evaluate the format of the AGM to encourage professional development for members e.g. the introduction of a new members session and dynamic working groups. |
|   | Promote students' personal and professional development   |  |   |   |
|   | Provide financial support to encourage the mobility of top-ranked graduate students within the Network                              |  | More stipends were available through the Young Researchers' grant scheme.   |   |
| <b>Open up new forms of cooperation</b>         | Investigate and implement other forms of cooperation between HE institutions and the labour market and/or non-academic stakeholders |  |   |   |
|   | Initiate cooperation with other university networks   | The SC will continue to look at developing links with non-European Networks. | The SC has identified and initiated meetings at NAFSA and EAIE with potential partner Networks in Chile and Brazil.               | Continue to develop links with non EU partner networks eg in Chile, Brazil and South Africa.  |
| <b>Respond actively to European HE policies</b> | Explore synergies between Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020   |  | The Steering Committee organised the 2014 AGM Workshop looking at the synergies between the Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 programmes. |   |

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|  | Exploit opportunities offered by European funding  |   |   |   |
|  | Utilise the Network's expertise in the field of internationalisation to engage and influence European policy and practice in this area |   | <p>The SC contacted the EC on behalf of the Network to express its concern regarding the implementation of Erasmus+.</p> <p>The Network was subsequently invited to take part in a EC consultation on learning agreements.</p> <p>The SC is coordinating further correspondence with the EC regarding Erasmus+ and experiences to date. The Network's expertise and willingness to work with the Commission in a consultative role going forward will be highlighted.</p> <p>The EIS study has been published with the Network's contribution acknowledged.</p> | To continue to build on links with the EC with the aim that the EC will see the Utrecht Network in a consultative role. |
|  | Collect, share and disseminate information from the EU   |   | Members have been encouraged to share information relating to their   | Members will be encouraged to continue to share information   |

|   | Strategic Plan   | 2014 Activities (from Work Plan) | Achievements   | 2015 Work Plan   |
|---|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
|   |  |                                  | experiences of Erasmus+. Members were invited to take part in an EC consultation about Learning Agreements.  | and best practice (eg member presentations at the AGM).  |
| <b>Collaborate effectively within the Network</b> | Encourage new initiatives and the exchange of good practice in the area of international education |                                  | <p>The new Strategic Plan (2014-17) was approved at the May 2014 AGM (after consultation with TF Chairs and the Network as a whole).</p> <p>The Steering Committee sent out two calls for new initiatives during 2014.</p> <p>The 2014 AGM featured presentations from two member institutions with the aim of sharing good practice in the field of internationalisation.</p> <p>The Utrecht Network Newsletter was launched during 2014, with the aim of sharing Network activities and good practice.</p> | <p>To identify gaps in provision in the Strategic Plan and encourage the development of activity in these areas.</p> <p>To continue to encourage the sharing of best practice at the AGM.</p> <p>To develop the internal section of the new website to allow members to share good practice.</p> <p>Continue to produce 2 editions per year of the Newsletter.</p> |

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|  | Develop strategies and tools for outreach and internal cohesion       | Encourage active participation by members | <p>Members have been encouraged to take part in various consultations during the year (eg website, second Spanish partner, Erasmus+).</p> <p>The format of the AGM has been reviewed and plans have been put in place to ensure that the 2015 AGM will be more interactive. The review is based on members' comments in an on-line evaluation of the AGM, administered and reviewed by the SC.</p> | <p>To look at the pros and cons of recording members' activeness.</p> <p>To continue to refresh the AGM structure including the introduction of dynamic working groups.</p> <p>To develop a session for new representatives at the AGM.</p> <p>To develop an induction programme for new members.</p> <p>To review the Network's calendar year from 2016 with the aim of enabling more effective planning of joint activities.</p> <p>To continue to ensure that internal communication flow within the Network is effective (eg availability of SC and TF minutes and communication of issues).</p> |
|  | Encourage co-operation between Network Task Forces on specific issues |   | The SC continues to facilitate co-operation through the Joint SC/TF Chairs meeting.  | Continue to encourage cooperation between the TFs.   |

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| <b>Enhance the quality of internationalisation processes in member institutions</b> | Support the professional development of staff working in the field of internationalisation          |  | The SC organised the 2014 AGM Workshop.  |   |
|   | Develop international training initiatives  |  |  |   |
|   | Share best practice in internationalisation strategies  |  |  | To encourage the sharing of best practice at the AGM.   |
| <b>Strengthen the profile and global outlook of the Network</b>                     | Connect to partners in other countries and continents in the context of the Network's global policy | To facilitate the introduction of a second Spanish member institution. | The SC facilitated the process leading to a site visit to the University of Valencia.  | To continue the process leading to AGM adoption of a second Spanish member.   |
|   | Strengthen existing links with MAUI and AEN partners  |  | Links continued to be strengthened through reports at the AGM (for the first time via Skype) and meetings at the NAFSA conference. | Look at the format of the MAUI/AEN presentations at the AGM to encourage greater understanding of the institutions in the Networks. |
|   | Develop UN initiatives as a brand   |  | The Newsletter, a major publicity tool for the Network, was launched in 2014.  | Develop the brand through the UN website, Newsletter and production of new publicity materials.                                     |
|   | Enhance the external and internal (ie intra-institutional) visibility of the Network aided by the   |  | Two editions of the Network's Newsletter have been produced.   | Continue to produce two editions of the Newsletter per year.  |

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|  | development of effective promotional tools. |   | The specification for the website has been produced. | Launch the new Utrecht Network website. |

#### Steering Committee Meetings held in 2014

30 January – 1 February – Cork  
 29 – 30 January – Cork (Joint meeting with Task Force Chairs)  
 7 May – Krakow  
 9-10 October – Bologna

#### Skype meetings

28 February 2014  
 1 April 2014  
 30 June 2014  
 2 December 2014

#### 2014 Expenditure

Steering Committee and Task Force Chair Joint meeting (Cork) - €6,183  
 Steering Committee meeting (Krakow) - €403  
 Steering Committee meeting (Bologna) - €4,104  
 Expenditure relating to 2013 -€256  
**Total Expenditure - €10,946**