

UTRECHT NETWORK was one out of five university networks involved in the CALOHEE project along with Asociacion Grupo Santander, Coimbra Group, Grupo Compostela de Universidades and Reseau des Universites des Capitales de l'Europe (UNICA).

The high aim of the project was to provide evidence tools to test and compare bachelor and master students' achievements in different European countries. Although there is a strong connection between the learning outcomes and recognition, the first question is "What should be learned?" and not "What should be assessed?" It is clear that assessment is a sensitive issue; academics seem to be quite positive, whereas QA agencies are more reserved.

The project covered five subject areas: Engineering (Civil Engineering), Health Care (Nursing), Humanities (History), Natural Sciences (Physics) and Social Sciences (Education). The hope and belief is that the methodology developed should also be applicable for other fields of study. A list of those Utrecht Network members that were actively involved and of the respective subject areas they contributed to can be found here together with more details on the project: <https://www.calohee.eu/>

For each of the five subject areas working groups were formed. All of them worked with designed frameworks describing

- knowledge
- skills and
- (wider) competences.

The relevance of that project for sure is accumulated in the third category "(wider) competences", which represents the most advanced form of education and as such the most difficult one to assess. This third framework describes how the knowledge and skills learned can be applied to society. To be more concrete: Nobody is interested in what, for example, civil engineers know or what their skills are. But: Are they prepared for their role in society in terms of civic and social engagement and employability?

With these descriptors of the societal impact of studies offered, universities are given a chance to have a look at their curricula from a different point of view, which could facilitate leaving the ivory tower, though...

Dear Sabine,

I did not find the time and the concentration to bring this issue to the discussion of the AGM, SC and above all with Alina. She will have to take care as the new President, but since I have started the process I here report what I think about this issue. Also Silvia doesn't know much about it.

1. CALOHEE is the project where UN is officially partner (Groningen coordinator), in which UN has the role to attend the Advisory board meetings.
2. Sabine has been the choice for the attendance of the meetings, officially nominated by the AGM and SC
3. The project foresees the reimbursement of Sabine's travel and a small amount of staff costs that cannot be received by the UN
4. My proposal was... I don't remember, but it was similar to IMPALA where Antwerp is in charge of the management of UN budget.
5. Groeningen now proposes to have an agreement between UN, Groeningen, GRAZ and Sabine to allow the management of this sum through GRAZ.
6. I signed a similar agreement with IMPALA, with no indication of the people involved. But IMPALA is different because many people from many UN members are implied. CALOHEE is Sabine only, as member of the Advisory Board of the project
7. My opinion is that this agreement should be signed and I am available to read it together with Alina, if necessary.

Alina, Silvia, please don't hesitate to contact me for further information.

Best regards
Francesco Girotti