SIRUS
SHAPING INCLUSIVE AND RESPONSIVE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIES

A project implemented by:

EUA
European University Association

EADTU

EUCEN   EUROPEAN ACCESS NETWORK

Shaping Inclusive and Responsive University Strategies – Project description

Duration: 2 years (October 2009 – September 2011)

Project participants: 29 universities in 18 countries, selected through a competitive call for participation (see below for overview).

Project context: At the EUA Autumn Conference on "Inclusive and responsive universities" that took place in Rotterdam on 23-25 October 2008, EUA members from all over Europe adopted the European Universities' Charter on Lifelong Learning.[1] The purpose of this Charter - written in the form of commitments from universities in addressing the development and implementation of lifelong learning strategies, with a set of matching commitments for government and regional partners to make - is to assist Europe's universities in developing their specific role as lifelong learning institutions forming a central pillar of the Europe of Knowledge.

The SIRUS project aims at supporting universities in implementing the commitments made in the Charter. The underlying assumption is that many universities already contribute substantially to lifelong learning (LLL), but that these approaches are confined by national legal frameworks and financial provisions, and are often not guided by institutional strategies for LLL. This project therefore offers universities with different profiles and interests in LLL, and which are at different stages of LLL implementation, an opportunity to develop and enhance their strategic LLL approaches, in interactive discussion with colleagues from all over Europe. At the same time, it will allow them to contribute to the development of policy recommendations for the European Higher Education Area.

Project aims:
- Supporting universities in developing and enhancing lifelong learning strategies
- Implementing and testing the commitments adopted in the European Universities' Charter on Lifelong Learning
- Ensuring the wide dissemination of existing best practices in the field to universities, governments and stakeholders
- Contributing to the further development of policy recommendations.

Main activities: The participating universities will conduct two major activities in the framework of this project. Firstly, they will conduct an institutional SWOT analysis on their lifelong learning activities and share the outcomes of this exercise with their peers in a meeting on 3&4 June 2010. Secondly, the outcomes of this analysis should feed into a new or revised institutional LLL strategy, which should be presented by the university at a meeting on 25&26 November 2010.

Project methodology: To allow for direct interaction, analysis and exchange of ideas, the participating universities have been split into thematic working groups. This should allow for a community of peers and facilitate the development of the institutional LLL strategy. A holistic perspective on LLL will be guaranteed, through plenary sessions with all thematic working groups and input speakers.

Project outcomes: The project will produce a Compendium publication based on the reports from the four thematic working groups and examples of good practice and strategic approaches demonstrated during the lifespan of the project. This publication will be presented at a dissemination conference in September 2011.

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[1] http://www.eua.be/fileadmin/user_upload/files/Publications/European_Universities__Charter_on_Lifelong_learning.pdf

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Name Institution	City	Country
University of Vienna	Vienna	Austria
University of Antwerp	Antwerp	Belgium
Université Libre de Bruxelles	Brussels	Belgium
Ghent University	Ghent	Belgium
Catholic University of Leuven	Leuven	Belgium
Aarhus University	Aarhus	Denmark
University of Helsinki	Helsinki	Finland
University of Turku	Turku	Finland
University of Lille 1	Lille	France
University of St. Quentin en Yvelines	Versailles	France
Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)	Tbilisi	Georgia
Leuphana University	Lüneburg	Germany
University of Ionnina	Ionnina	Greece
Budapest University of Technology and Economics	Budapest	Hungary
National University of Ireland Maynooth	Maynooth	Ireland
University of Camerino	Camerino	Italy
Vilnius University	Vilnius	Lithuania
Mykolas Romeris University	Vilnius	Lithuania
University of Twente	Enschede	Netherlands, the
Open University	Heerlen	Netherlands, the
Silesian University of Technology	Gliwice	Poland
Technical University of Lodz	Lodz	Poland
Wroclaw University of Technology	Wroclaw	Poland
Kazan State Technical University	Kazan	Russian Federation
Moscow State University for Economics, Statistics and Informatics	Moscow	Russian Federation
University of Zilina	Zilina	Slovakia
Open University of Catalunya	Barcelona	Spain
Universitat Rovira i Virgili	Tarragona	Spain
University of Southampton	Southampton	United Kingdom