



With the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission

Lifelong Learning Programme

## Shaping inclusive and responsive university strategies – SIRUS

### Call for participation

**Deadline: 11 December 2009**

### 1. INTRODUCTION

At the EUA Autumn Conference in Rotterdam on “Inclusive and responsive universities” that took place on 23-25 October 2008, EUA members from all over Europe adopted the European Universities’ Charter on Lifelong Learning.<sup>1</sup> 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.

EUA, in a Consortium with the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU), the European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN) and the European Access Network (EAN), is launching a project entitled ‘Shaping Inclusive and Responsive University Strategies (SIRUS)’, to support 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 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.

The project approach would require the participation of a senior representative (vice-rector) in 4 working meetings in 2010/11, and some preparation and follow-up with other staff members at the participating institutions.

SIRUS will cover the participation costs, including travel and accommodation.

Should your institution be interested, kindly submit your application by **12.00 (midday) CET on 11 December 2009**.

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<sup>1</sup>[http://www.eua.be/fileadmin/user\\_upload/files/Publications/European\\_Universities\\_\\_Charter\\_on\\_Lifelong\\_learning.pdf](http://www.eua.be/fileadmin/user_upload/files/Publications/European_Universities__Charter_on_Lifelong_learning.pdf)



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## 2. OBJECTIVES

The project has four main objectives:

- Supporting universities in developing and enhancing lifelong learning strategies
- Implementing and testing the commitments adopted in the European Universities' Charter on Lifelong Learning, using the Charter as a basis for an institutional SWOT analysis and as a framework for discussion
- Ensuring the wide dissemination of existing best practices in the field to universities, governments and stakeholders
- Contributing to the further development of policy recommendations.

## 3. ACTIVITIES

Both universities aspiring to develop a strategy on lifelong learning and universities wanting to revise their current strategy are invited to apply.

Selected universities will be grouped into four thematic networks, considering their preferences as indicated in the application, each co-ordinated by one of the consortium partners and addressing one of the following thematic priorities:

- Network 1: Embedding concepts of widening access in institutional lifelong learning strategies, enabling currently underrepresented groups to participate in higher education (EAN)
- Network 2: Strengthening the provision of university continuing education, catering to the needs of adult learners (EUCEN)
- Network 3: Consolidating reforms in creating a flexible and creative learning environment, making best use of new technological opportunities (EADTU)
- Network 4: Strengthening the role of universities in their regional context, by fostering for example better university-business collaboration (EUA)

### Indicative meeting schedule

Representatives of institutions will be invited to participate in a series of meetings between March 2010 and February 2011. External input speakers will contribute their expertise to the discussions. The project will furthermore involve social partners and student representatives as observers. Plenty of opportunity will be provided for discussion between the different thematic networks, as the goal of the project is to contribute to the development of efficient and feasible institutional LLL strategies.

### Project Launch event: Friday 19 March 2010, Brussels, Belgium

The first meeting will bring together all thematic networks and observers for an introductory seminar.

### Thematic networks meeting I: 3 & 4 June 2010, Lille, France

The first thematic networks meeting will focus on the results of the institutional SWOT analysis prepared by the participating universities.



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### Thematic networks meeting II: 25 & 26 November 2010, Location TBC

The second thematic networks meeting will present the draft institutional strategies developed by each participating university.

### Joint Network meeting: 25 February 2011, Location TBC

At the final joint meeting of all thematic networks the network reports will be presented and discussed.

### Dissemination conference: September 2011, Location TBC

At the end of the project, a project dissemination conference will be organised, which will be open to a wider public.

## **4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS**

- Each of the participating institutions will nominate a senior member of staff to attend and contribute to the launch event and to **all** thematic and project meetings (four in total, as listed above)
- Each participating institution will provide a SWOT analysis in relation to the framework provided by the LLL Charter and present the outcomes at the first thematic networks meeting
- Each institution will prepare or amend its Lifelong Learning strategy and present this strategy together with a matching implementation plan at the second thematic network meeting
- Each participating institution is committed to sharing experiences at the European level through a discussion of institutional good practices.

## **5. SELECTION OF INSTITUTIONS**

A total of 20 institutions will be selected to participate in the project through this call. Each participating institution will be represented by a senior staff member (e.g. vice-rector). This person commits to attend all four project meetings (cf. section 3).

Selection will be based primarily on the quality of the application in response to the questions in the application form, but geographical and disciplinary balance will also be taken into account.

## **6. ELIGIBILITY**

This project is open to all EUA individual full and associate members located in a country eligible for funding under the lifelong learning programme<sup>2</sup>. However, institutions located in other countries can also apply and EUA will support (but not be responsible for) these institutions' search for funding to ensure their participation if selected.

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<sup>2</sup> The 27 member states of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey



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## 7. TIMETABLE

Deadline for receipt of applications: **11 December 2009, 12.00 (midday) CET**

Decision and notification on successful proposals: End of January 2010

Please fill in the attached application form, signed by the head of the institution (Rector, President, Vice-Chancellor) and send it by e-mail to [michael.horig@eua.be](mailto:michael.horig@eua.be) or by fax to +322305751.