



Newsletter

Summer 2005

Message from the President

Welcome to the Summer 2005 edition of the FEDORA Newsletter.

Many of us have just come back from one of our two very successful conferences this year, the FEDORA Summer University **"Knowledge and Transitions: Challenges for Guidance and Counselling within the Context of Globalization and the Enlarged European Union"** that took place in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 13 - 17 July. Again I would like to thank all those who helped to make this conference a success. A huge thank you goes to Anna Zembyla-Kalli and her local team for the wonderful local organisation and their kind hospitality, to Paula Ferrer-Sama for her work on the programme and also to the whole organisation committee.

We had 29 workshops and 68 participants. Each day was introduced by a key lecture. The speakers were Peter Wells (UNESCO-Cepes), Kate Geddie (EUA), Phidias Pilides (PricewaterhouseCoopers) and Peter Englert (University of Hawaii). Unfortunately, Miss Uvalic-Trumbic of UNESCO had to cancel her key lecture last-minute. The conference provided a good learning environment and with the contributions and input from all participants we achieved a high quality of exchange of experiences and ideas and an intensive dialogue.

Within the framework of this conference we gained a realistic outlook on the Bologna Process and came to the conclusion that guidance and counselling needs to play a bigger role in the process, especially in the first transitional stage, since there is still some confusion about the stage of implementation of the Bologna Process in the various countries and its adaptation to the respective learning tradition. Although 2010 seems to be a realistic goal with regard to the structural changes, acceptance by the academia will take much more time. The results of the Bologna Workshop as well as the Mission Statement of the Summer University will be published on the internet as soon as possible. The conference proceedings will also be published in a print and an electronic version in the near future.

The second major event this summer was the PSYCHE conference in Groningen on **"Internationalisation within Higher Education in an Expanding Europe; New Developments in Psychological Counselling"**,

8-11 June. It picked up the topic of internationalisation and helped to identify how specific fields of professional expertise such as psychological counselling and web based counselling are connected to larger questions of internationalisation. Though not many colleagues could attend both conferences this summer, the PSYCHE conference provided quite a number of ideas and inputs to the Summer University.

The Groningen event was an excellent conference that showed a high standard of professionalism and demonstrated not only the necessity of psychological counselling, but also the quality of methodology and knowledge psychological counselling provides to fulfil its tasks. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ton Boekhorst, Inger Stevens and Erwin Uildriks for the on-site organisation and their kind hospitality as well as to all those who were committed to making this conference a success.

The future framework for conferences with the Congress in 2006, specialized conferences of the working groups in 2007 and a Summer University in 2008 will facilitate the balance between the acquisition of specialized knowledge and its communication to the broader membership.

Finally, I would like to announce that the proceedings of the PSYCHE conference on **"Cognition, Motivation and Emotion - Dynamics in the Academic Environment"** in Lisbon in 2002 are now published. I would like to thank Graca Figueiredo Dias, Jean Paul Broonen, Pierpaolo Luderin and Alexandre Pinto for making this publication a reality. I would also like to extend my thanks to all those who offered their support with the printed publication. The proceedings can be found online at:

<http://elpub.bib.Uni-wuppertal.de/edocs/dokumente/zsb/fedora/conf2002/fedora02.pdf>

The printed version will be sent out to all contributors soon. Everyone else who would like to order a copy can contact me.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer.

Gerhart Rott

FEDORA Message from Cyprus

FEDORA will aim to meet the challenges for HE guidance & counselling within the context of globalisation and the enlarged European Union by:

1 European Level

Putting guidance and counselling on the agenda for the European Higher education Area and the wider world context and looks forward to doing so in close collaboration with the EUA and UNESCO / CEPES.

2 Institutional Level

Encouraging its members to establish greater awareness of the need to create more opportunities in the curriculum for personal, social and career management skills development and for study abroad, as well as wider extra curricular activities for students.

3 Professional Level

Working towards a European Code of Practice for good conduct and practice in guidance and counselling in the European Higher Education Area.

4 Individual Level

Tracking the obstacles and problems facing students in the process of transition and providing the best guidance and support possible to overcome these.

Conclusion

FEDORA wishes to express its gratitude to the University of Cyprus for hosting the 2005 FEDORA Summer University, this creating a unique opportunity for members of FEDORA to address these important issues.

Dr Gerhart Rott

President

On behalf of FEDORA

12.7.2005

Graduate Destination Tracking Across Europe

As part of the FEDORA Summer University, Paul Norris & Paul Hacking from Nottingham Trent University presented a workshop explaining and contextualising their experiences of tracking the destinations of students five years after graduation.

At Nottingham Trent, we view graduate tracking as more than an administrative process, but a professional feedback tool to aid careers guidance and programme development and quality assurance. The survey therefore included a variety of questions relating to graduate skill development in addition to an exploration of employment history.

During the workshop, it became apparent that a great deal of work is going on relating to graduate tracking in European institutions, but that there is variation in methodology on factors such as the number of students surveyed, whether complete cohorts or samples are used and length of time after graduation.

As an extension of our work, we would like to explore in more detail the ways in which graduate destinations are tracked in each of the FEDORA member countries, with an aim to sharing good practice and experience.

We have designed a pro-forma for colleagues to complete asking for details of any surveys that have taken place relating to their own country and institution. It can be found as part of our workshop report at:

<http://www.nuim.ie/service/careers/cypruswkshops.shtml#9>

Our findings will be shared through the FEDORA website.

We would be grateful if you could you return details to: paul.norris@ntu.ac.uk as soon as possible.

FEDORA Summer University addresses the challenges of the new Europe

The 2005 Summer University of Fedora, held at Cyprus, from July 13th to 17th addressed the Challenges of guidance and counselling in the context of globalisation and the enlarged European Union.

Fedora Summer University is intended to be a ground for common exchange of experiences under a topic that is important in the field of guidance and counselling at a specific time. It embraces workshops and presentations related to the topic, as well as time for the Working Groups to get updated on their projects and concerns, all sprinkled with activities aimed to feel and understand the culture of the host country.

With more than 60 delegates, 34 presenters and 4 keynote speakers, the Summer University unfolded through 4 key issues for guidance and counselling facing the challenges of the new Europe: Skills and Development, Transitional Stages, Equal Opportunities and the Bologna Process.

The outcomes of this event led the participants to suggest 4 levels of involvement for Fedora members on the topic addressed here:

At European level, by including the aspects of guidance and counselling on the agenda for the European Higher Education Area and a worldwide look forward to doing so in close collaboration with EUA and UNESCO/CEPES.

At Institutional level, by establishing awareness of the need for more room in curricula for extra curriculum activities and study abroad.

At Professional level, by working towards a European charter for good conduct and practice in guidance and counselling in the European Higher Education area.

At Individual level, by tracking obstacles and problems facing students in the process of transition.

Fedora wants to express its gratitude to the University of Cyprus for hosting the summer university 2005, thus creating a unique opportunity for members of Fedora to address this important issue. Special mention must be made of the indefatigable Anna Zembyla-Kally, without whose memorable contribution as organiser of the whole event would not have been such a success.

Also to the keynote speakers, Peter Wells (Programme Specialist at the UNESCO's European Centre for Higher Education), Kate Geddie (EUA's Coordinator for Bologna activities), Phidias K Pilides (Chief Executive Officer of PwC Cyprus), and Peter Englert (Chancellor of the University of Hawai's Manoa campus) for their effort to share with us their relevant job on the field of guidance and counselling in Higher Education in the UE. And of course to the participants, for the quality of their presentations and the charming spirit that they all have infused to this event in the sunny Cyprus.

Paula Ferrer-Sama

FEDORA National Coordination in Spain

Programme Coordinator for Fedora Summer University 2005

FEDORA Newsletter

Contact Details

Loretta Jennings
Editor

National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Co Kildare, Ireland.

Tel: +353 (0) 1 7083653 Fax: +353 (0) 1 7083508 Email: loretta.jennings@nuim.ie

9th Collective Consultation UNESCO/NGO on Higher Education

The meeting took place in the UNESCO building in Paris from 6th till 8 of April.

More than 200 delegates representing more than a hundred NGOs amongst which FEDORA attended the meeting.

After the morning plenary sessions, the afternoon meetings were devoted to workshops discussions. Three main thematic workshops had been setup:

Higher education and education for all

Higher education for sustainable development

Higher education and the challenges of globalization

By setting up these conferences, UNESCO aims to give as much time as possible to discussions with the NGO representatives. This is then also the reason why, during the debate with the participants, a large variety of issues are addressed sometimes rather far out of the scope of the workshop main topic.

G. Rott and I attended the workshop about "Higher Education and Globalisation".

During the workshop several issues were discussed for instance:

Higher Education as public service and the importance of fostering the research in universities.

The "pro" and "contras" of the use of NTIC in higher education.

Student's mobility in higher education.

The importance of quality insurance and also the role and independency of the quality agencies; the criteria for the accreditation of those agencies.

Amongst all the questions that have been discussed we would like to emphasize the following:

-The facts that if quality in our days represents an essential feature of higher education it is also a

powerful promotional and "advertising" argument of the higher education institutions. It is thus critical that the quality agencies have their judgements established on well known and internationally accepted criteria; this in turn raises the question of the independence and accreditation of the agencies on an international, -worldwide basis.

- The encouragement for student mobility also raises several problems among which :

-There is a need for transparency in the higher education offer: students should be cautious about false universities and fake certificates or diplomas.

-The trade in higher education represents a business worth more than a million dollars. It is clear that student mobility provides, via the application fees, a substantial income for certain universities. In this context how will other institutions which do not benefit from such kind of financial resources be able to survive in the future?

From the discussion about NTIC it became obvious that while they open very large opportunities for students in countries from the Southern countries they however do not always contribute to the democratisation of education. Several examples have been given illustrating the fact that the NTIC have deepened the gap amongst student populations.

Amongst the issues "out of topic" we would like to retain a strong discussion about higher education teacher's evaluation by the students. Representatives of students unions and teachers associations expressed had rather contrasted opinions. It became however clear from the debate that teacher's evaluation is a current practice, even if it organized and used in very different ways, in many European countries.

At the end of the meeting the "reporters" of the different workshops presented a summary of the discussions in each group. The conclusions of these reports will in turn be used to prepare a list of suggestions and recommendations for the UNESCO action plan in the next years.

Louis De Vos



**University of Crete
Counselling Center
for Students**



**FEDORA SUMMER
UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS, NICOSIA,
CYPRUS**

***Copies of presentations and
workshop/seminar reports are
currently being posted to the
website. A number can currently be
accessed at:***

**[http://www.nuim.ie/careers/
2005cypruswelcome.htm](http://www.nuim.ie/careers/2005cypruswelcome.htm)**

We have the pleasure to inform you that next FEDORA-PSYCHE Conference will take place in Rethimnon, Crete, in May or June 2007.

The Counselling Center for Student at the University of Crete and the University of Crete will host the Conference in collaboration with counselling services for students across Greece and the Divisions of Clinical and Counselling Psychology of the Hellenic Psychological Society.

In line with PSYCHE conferences' fine traditions, the local Organizing Committee will put every effort to achieve an excellent meeting in a pleasant environment.

We feel that Rethimnon will provide the backdrop for a time to remember.

Looking forward to welcoming you in Crete.

Evangelos C. Karademas



Internationalisation within Higher Education in an expanding Europe: New developments in Psychological Counselling

Conference Groningen, 8 - 11 June 2005

70 participants from 17 EU-countries were together for 3 days in the Academy building of the University of Groningen.

The program started on Wednesday with very inspiring opening speeches by Prof. Dr Frans Zwarts, Rector Magnificus of the University of Groningen and Dr Gerhart Rott, President of FEDORA.

On Thursday Prof. Dr Eric Depreeuw (Catholic University of Brussels, Belgium) gave a Key Lecture with the title: *Student counselling in a cross-cultural perspective: theoretical framework and practical guidelines*. This lecture can be seen as representing the state of the art on this subject.

On Friday Piotr Pawlowski (Warsaw University, Poland) also gave an excellent Key Lecture on experiences in combining didactic teaching, research and psychotherapeutic practice in aid of students from Warsaw.

During the three days the participants could choose between various workshops and seminars which were offered in parallel sessions (22 in total). In every round it was possible to choose from one of the different sub-themes: (Internationalisation, state of the art concerning psychological counselling in different EU-countries, new developments like counselling procastinator, webcounselling or the use of internet technology in counselling).

The program and the contents of the key lectures, the workshops and the seminars can be found on the congress website:

<http://www.rug.nl/fedora2005>

In the closing session the participants made a communique with the following content:

The participants of the conference would like to thank the Rector and the administration of Groningen University for hosting the participants from 17 EU countries.

Special thanks go to the representatives of the Bureau Studentenpsychologen en Studie

Ondersteuning of Groningen University for their superb organisation and generous hospitality during the entire conference. Impressed with the existing standard of the counselling services at Groningen University, the participants consider this institution to be an example of best practice in counselling.

Conscious of the implications and consequences of the ongoing Bologna Process within Higher Education, and in the light of the evidence of the effectiveness of psychological counselling in supporting students to achieve academic and personal goals, the conference recommends:

1. The strengthening of cross-cultural competence in counselling for international students should be a prime target considering the expected increase in the number of international students. Special training for counselling staff and the establishment of university-wide networks are needed to cope with future demands.

Opportunities and resources should be provided for the dissemination within the wider university of the knowledge and skills gained by counselling services through their work with international students.

2. The implementation of the Bologna process will lead to increasing demands being made on services offered by psychological counselling services within the university. Increasing emphasis on selection, competition, and increasing pressures of time will require the support of adequately equipped institutions. Existing institutions should be supported and resources provided where adequate conditions do not exist.

3. The possibilities of new technologies (e.g. e-learning, web-counselling) in counselling should be explored to see how they can be integrated into or developed to supplement already effective counselling services.