



Newsletter

Winter 2005-2006

Message from the President

Welcome to the Winter 2005 edition of the FEDORA Newsletter.

Christmas is fast approaching and I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about what awaits FEDORA in the next year. As you already know, there will be some challenging events taking place in 2006.

We aim to provide FEDORA with a strong professional voice in the field of guidance and counselling within the emerging European Higher Education Area. We want to enhance the networking of the professionals within the enlarged European Union and beyond and to strengthen our links with a wide variety of stakeholders who will, we hope, facilitate the fulfilment of our professional tasks.

The first event will be a symposium in Krakow, Poland. This symposium will take place from 9 - 10 February 2006. Our colleagues at Cracow University of Technology have kindly agreed to host the event. One of the aims of this symposium is to update the country reports which were produced within the FEDORA Leonardo project in 1998, as well as to produce an overview of the main features of guidance and counselling facilities in the new member states. These reports, along with the already existing material on guidance and counselling in Europe, as well as that produced on an international scale (reports by the commission, OECD and World Bank) and by the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) will help us to build up a body of knowledge about the guidance and counselling sector in Higher Education in Europe.

Another task of this symposium is to prepare the content of the second major event in 2006, the IX FEDORA Congress. The Congress, with the title **"Professional Challenges: Guidance and Counselling within the European Higher Education Area"/"Défis professionnels: L'orientation et le Conseil dans l'Espace Européen de l'Enseignement Supérieur"** will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 22 - 25 October 2006. The overall aim of this Congress is to produce a charter on guidance and counselling

which will provide basic standards for professionals and strong recommendations and objectives for policy makers who are engaged in the European qualifications framework and in the fulfilment of the EHEA. Further information about the structure, programme and invited guests will be put on the internet as soon as possible.

To master the challenge of the objectives of this congress we did quite some preparation this year. The high professional standard of the PSYCHE conference on internationalisation within higher education, and the excellent learning environment in our Cyprus summer University on knowledge and transitions, expressed the competence of professional exchange. Together with the results of our Conference organized by the Working group in Stoke Poges last year, and drawing on our well founded traditions of intensive communication, we enhanced the common ground of a truly European professionalism in the field of counselling and guidance in HE.

The intensification of external relations with important stakeholders plays an important role in backing this professional communication. We are very satisfied that after five years of relations with UNESCO, we have now reached the stage of operational relations with this world wide organisation for Culture and Education. Dr. Ernst Frank, the new Psyche coordinator, will represent FEDORA at the UNESCO NGO Assembly this month, to which we have been invited for the first time. We have also strengthened our relation to the European University Association this year and succeeded in having close working relations with some national Rectors'/Vice-Chancellors' conferences.

Our contacts with administrators within the DG Culture and Education of the European Commission were always very productive in further developing our European perspectives, and we are very grateful for those encounters. The readiness of Ján Figel' to make it possible to come to our Congress in Vilnius is indeed very encouraging.

This year we undertook further steps to strengthen the basis of our voluntary organisation, the four working groups. Three coordinating committees are fully active now and have agreed upon coordinators. The Educational Guidance and Counselling Group still needs some attention. The working groups are essential to guarantee the sustainability of FEDORA. We want to take further steps to strengthen the future of FEDORA, especially by encouraging universities, as well as national professional organisations working in our respective fields, to become associated members.

Our elections next year will also contribute to our sustainability. Further information about procedure will be sent out in due time. But in this context I would like to emphasise the opportunities for

professionals to engage in the challenging task of cross-cultural exchange and management. Within our own individual local contexts we have to help our universities to understand the added value we bring if they provide us with the necessary support. On a European scale we have to back those efforts by emphasizing our contribution and the important role it plays to achieving the objectives of the EHEA.

On this note I would like to take the opportunity now to thank you all for the work you did in FEDORA during this year and in the past.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gerhart Rott

FEDORA Symposium in Krakow/Poland 9th to 10th of February 2006

The FEDORA symposium will take place in Krakow, Poland, from 9th to 10th of February 2006.

One of the aims of this symposium is to update the country reports which were produced within the FEDORA Leonardo project on guidance and counselling services in the EU in 1998, before the EU expansion. Supported by a questionnaire, colleagues in the new member states will be asked to produce an overview about the main features of the guidance and counselling facilities of their country.

These reports and the already existing material on guidance and counselling as well as that already produced on the European Higher Education Area, will help us build up a body of knowledge about what has already been established within the guidance and counselling sector in Higher Education in Europe. Invited guests will include experts of the European Commission, CEDEFOP and the EUA who will enrich the symposium with their expertise. The specific perspectives of FEDORA's four working groups will also feed into the discussion of the symposium.

One of the tasks of the symposium is to prepare the content of the Congress in Vilnius. The reports prepared for the symposium will help us produce a first draft of a charter on guidance and counselling which will be finalized at the Congress in Vilnius. This charter will provide basic standards for professionals and strong recommendations and objectives for policy makers who are engaged in the European qualifications framework.

Participants in the symposium will include members of the FEDORA Executive Committee, additional authors of the country reports, representatives of the new member states, FEDORA Working Group coordinators and experts to be invited.

It will only be possible to accept a limited number of participants (50 participants maximum). If you would like to support the outcome of this symposium, please get into contact with your working group coordinator and/or national coordinator.

SURE - Summer Undergraduate Research Experience:

Undergraduate students gain real experience of research to prepare for their future careers

BACKGROUND

The SURE programme is a new summer programme, running in both Trinity College Dublin & the Institute of Technology Tallaght, offering undergraduate students (typically approaching their final year) in Science & Engineering the opportunity to work in research for an 11 week period on exciting projects in laboratory environments. Funded primarily by Science Foundation Ireland as part of the UREKA Site programme, with additional funding under the HEA Strategic Initiatives Scheme, the programme aims to afford students with an exceptional chance for intense interaction with world-class scientists in a dynamic and innovative environment, not available in this quality elsewhere in Ireland.

WHY SHOULD STUDENTS GET INVOLVED?

SURE is a golden opportunity for undergraduates from Ireland and abroad to find out what it is they really want from a career in Science, whether it is in academic research or in industry. Students participating in SURE, and specifically undergraduate research, should discover new competencies and clarify their academic and professional goals by preparing themselves for the workplace.

Visiting students who travel to Ireland for the SURE programme will experience different approaches to higher education, teaching styles, research and support functions. Conducting research in a different environment presents new and rewarding challenges and interacting with new partners offers a new perspective to both students and researchers in an international context.

HOW DOES SURE PREPARE NEW GRADUATES FOR THE WORKPLACE OR FOR A CAREER IN RESEARCH?

As SURE students have had the opportunity to concentrate on their goals at an earlier stage in their academic career they will have a much clearer idea of what they hope to achieve in their professional or academic careers, and also what type of career they are best suited to.

SURE students have also focused on developing a set of skills that are essential to their future success in the workplace.

Our goal for the programme would be that SURE students will graduate with all the information that they require to make an informed choice about their career direction, and that if they choose to go directly into industry that they have acquired the key skills that employers value highly in their graduate employees.

HOW IS THE PROGRAMME PROGRESSING SO FAR?

The 2005 programme drew to a close in September with approximately 40 students from Physics, Chemistry and Electronic & Electrical Engineering participating in the first year. Students attended careers and skills sessions on topics such as intellectual property, postgraduate funding, careers in industry, ethics, presentation skills & entrepreneurship.

Feedback from the students has been extremely positive and has shown that they have gained an awareness of the career options in the field of academic research & Industry, but have also developed valuable transferable skills such as project management, problem solving and oral and written communication skills.

HOW CAN STUDENTS APPLY OR FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SURE 2006?

A new programme website will launch in late January 2006. This website will contain details of all the projects available, on how to apply online and practical programme information. In the interim please check the following website for updates: <http://www.tcd.ie/Careers/sure.php>

OTHER USEFUL LINKS:

Trinity College Dublin: <http://www.tcd.ie>

Institute of Technology Tallaght: <http://www.it-tallaght.ie/>

Science Foundation Ireland - UREKA Site Programme:

http://www.sfi.ie/content/content.asp?section_id=526&language_id=1

For any further information on the SURE Programme please contact Ms Sarah King, Project Officer a: sure@tcd.ie

Some news about FEDORA Employment and Careers Guidance Group

After its meeting of Poitiers in April where a new coordinator was appointed and its reorganization achieved, the FECEG group met in Paris on the 18 of November.

During that meeting, we discussed our projects, considered our contribution to the FEDORA congress in Vilnius and the organisation of a FECEG group conference in 2007.

We decided to work on a common project, the title of which could be:

"A European employment market for young graduates, myth or reality?"

This project will be the main topic of our conference in 2007 and the first results we got as well as the content of the project itself will be the basis of our contribution for Vilnius.

In this project many topics could be developed and in particularly :

A new context of European Higher Education: the Bologna process

Popularise Bologna process towards companies

The degrees recognition in Europe

Internships in European companies

Prepare students for their integration into national or international job markets

Role and skills of Career services in Universities

The European employment market or European employment markets?



FEDORA SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2005

**UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS, NICOSIA,
CYPRUS**

Copies of presentations and workshop/seminar reports are 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)**

FEDORA Newsletter

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FEDORA Address Database

We are still in the process of developing our address database, but it is not yet fully functional.

For all those colleagues who have not yet paid their subscription for 2005 or have not received an invoice, please get into contact with your national coordinator (contact details see <http://www.fedora.eu.org>, colleagues from the new member states please get into contact with Michael Katzensteiner).

The FEDORA account details are:

FEDORA Crédit Lyonnais

n°IBAN FR29 3000 2018 4600 0007 9257U 32

Bic/Swift: CRLYFRPP

account 007 9257U

Agence 1846, 45 route de Toulouse

33000 Bordeaux

FORTIS BANK Bruxelles 001-211 66 96-38/EUR

Bic GEBA BE BB

IBAN BE 24 00 1211 66 9638

FEDORA CCP Bruxelles : n°IBAN BE 93-0001-2894-8867

Bic/Swift: BPOT BE-B1

Account 0001-2894-8867

11000 Bruxelles

Full membership:	70 Euros
New EU member state until 2006:	50 Euros
Institutional membership:	200 Euros
Company membership:	500 Euros

If you prefer to pay by credit card, please send your details to :

Martine Pagès

Richefort

76 Avenue du Général De Gaulle

33550 Langoiran

Once you have paid, please inform your national coordinator, Martine Pagès (m.pages@eioe.u-bordeaux1.fr), Per Andersen (pca@adm.sdu.dk) and Gerry Tynan (gerry@docshop.ie).