



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2011**

This Annual Report, which, next to giving an overview of the past working year, will provide the reader with the main results of events and studies undertaken by EURASHE. The purpose of this is to give a comprehensive outlook on the workings of the association, for the benefit of members and stakeholders in the field of Professional Higher Education (PHE). This Annual report was approved on 2 March 2012 at the Association's Council meeting and is to be endorsed at the General Assembly held in Riga, Latvia (11/05/2012).

EURASHE

We are the European Association of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that offer professionally oriented programmes and are engaged in applied and profession-related research within the Bologna cycles. Currently, more than 1200 higher education institutions in 47 countries within and outside the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) are affiliated to EURASHE. The Association is present mostly through National Associations of Higher Education Institutions and individual institutions, such as Universities, (University) Colleges and Universities of Applied Sciences, as well as through other professional associations and stakeholder organisations active in the field of higher education.

EURASHE members operate within and across different national systems, whether these are unitary or binary, professional and/or academic

MISSION

EURASHE's mission is to represent the views of professionally oriented institutions and programmes in the Higher Education systems in countries of the EHEA, either in binary HE systems (professional or vocational higher education) or in unitary 'university' systems.

Its aim is to promote the interests of professional higher education in the EHEA and to contribute to the progressive development of the Area of Higher Education and Research (EHERA). In addition to offering professionally oriented programmes, EURASHE members are specifically engaged in applied and profession-related research, and its technological applications.

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Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF EURASHE

In my capacity of President of EURASHE, it is my pleasure to share with you the diverse activities and initiatives of the European Association of Institutions of Higher Education which took place in 2011. For those who are familiar with EURASHE, they know how we are evolving from a stakeholders organisation for professional higher education mainly active in the implementation of the Bologna Process into a truly members' association. As such we are expanding continually our field with more direct services to members, which are individual higher education institutions with profiles that are growing more and more diverse. The areas in which we have offered such support were so far limited to the hands-on seminars on development in lifelong learning and projects on the same theme, in which we also took due care to involve some national associations which are members of EURASHE.

The other area in which we have been actively contributing is quality assurance, both in conference themes, as well as in projects, of which one together with other stakeholders in higher education, EUA, ESU and ENQA, and which looked at the state of implementation of the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance. This was accompanied by a wide consultation, and we are grateful to our colleagues in the various member institutions of EURASHE, for their massive response. The extensive report that resulted from this by the members of our own Working Group on Quality Assurance will in future be the basis for hands-on workshops the Secretariat will organise for our members.

Under the leadership of my predecessor, Lars Lyng Nielsen, we engaged in cooperation with the Universities of Applied Sciences' network (USANet), which already grouped an important segment of our membership, and which for this reason is now our voice on the theme of innovation and regional development. Together we elaborated the key areas and activities for which we agreed to collaborate in a Memorandum of Cooperation. The 21st annual conference in Nice was the culmination point of this focus, with 'Professional programmes in different country contexts, with a special focus on Innovation', as one of the two conference tracks, preceded by the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation by the Presidents of EURASHE and USANet.

2011 was the year in which we set up our 5 thematic working groups, on Lifelong Learning and Employability, Quality Assurance and Transparency tools, Innovation and Regional Development, but also on National Qualifications Frameworks and Student-centred learning, and finally on Mobility and International Openness. They are based on our priorities in the Bologna Process, as laid down in "EURASHE's Ten Commitments for 2020", and in 2011 we made first steps in outlining our policy as a member organisation on the above issues. It has been a lengthy process, which we are hoping to bring to an end in 2012, when we present our overarching policy paper to the Ministerial conference in Bucharest, and will also have developed our position papers on all above identified issues.

The handover of the Presidency by Lars Lyng Nielsen at the Brussels General Assembly in September 2011, a first ever members' gathering separated from our Annual Conference, precisely helped us secure a smooth transition into a new term of the Presidency, with a focus on implementation of our policy papers in the member institutions.



Prof. Andreas G. Orphanides
President



FOREWORD

The underlying document presents an overview of the activities and events that made the life of the European Association of Institutions (EURASHE) in Higher Education in 2011.

An association like ours, which has its *raison d' être* in its grassroots membership, cannot be summarised in the frame of a document of thirty pages. Any attempt to do so, would fail to do justice to our vast membership, which in 2011 comprised 16 national associations, and through them some 1300 institutions of higher education.

And here we are not mentioning the growing number of institutional members in their own right, the sectoral associations, the affiliated stakeholders organisations, etc. which guarantee our representation in 47 countries, most of which are situated in what is now commonly called the European Higher Education Area.

The present publication is therefore sketchy, and focuses mainly on the organisation as such, and does not make an attempt at describing the involvement of our broad membership.

In order to keep this publication readable we have structured it in such a way, that it gives in separate chapters a brief insight in our policy development, our role in the 'Bologna Process', our involvement in projects, a summing up of major events organised by EURASHE in 2011, a list of publications, a short picture of the governing bodies of EURASHE, and finally a presentation of our Secretariat, and a selective list of our partners and of the preferential stakeholder organisations we cooperate with.



Stefan Delplace
Secretary General



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EURASHE MEMBERS¹

The European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE) has an affiliation with **more than 1200 higher education institutions**.

Today EURASHE is represented in **47 countries** in and outside of the European Higher Education Area (also known as ‘Bologna countries’; EHEA), mostly by **National Associations** of (University) Colleges and Universities of Applied Sciences, but also through **individual higher education institutions** or other professional associations and stakeholder organisations active in the field of Higher Education (HE).

Although we are traditionally and will remain an association of ‘national associations’ (rectors’ conferences, councils of directors general, etc.) there is a **growing interest in direct representation** on an institutional level.

EURASHE has three categories of membership:

- Full member as an **Individual Institution** (autonomous HE institutions or faculties, institutes and departments, etc. within or affiliated to autonomous HE institutions)
- Full member as a **National Association**, representing individual HE institutions in a European country or nation, and recognised as such by its authorities
- **Associate member**, which can be either associations or organisations active in HE

In **2011** based on the Council decision of 10 September, **EURASHE had the pleasure to welcome 9 new full members:**

- Technological Educational Institute of Patras (Greece)
- Technological Educational Institute of Serres (Greece)
- Kazakh University of Economics, Finance and International Trade (Kazakhstan)
- Conference of Rectors of State Schools of Higher Vocational Education in Poland - National Rector Conference (Poland)
- The Angelus Silesius State School of Higher Vocational Education in Walbrzych (Poland)
- Regional Open Social Institute (Russia)
- Tula State Lev Tolstoy Pedagogical University (Russia)
- Banking College (of the Federal Bank of Russia) (Russia)
- Arcada University of Applied Science (Finland)

The following are **EURASHE full member associations:**

National Association member	Number of members	Country	Logo
<p>VLHORA (Flemish University Colleges Council)</p> <p>The Flemish University Colleges Council is the formal consultative and advisory body of colleges. It advises the Flemish government on policy issues concerning college education, project-related scientific research, social services and the practice of the arts.</p>	21	Belgium	

¹ More information available on our website at: <http://www.eurashe.eu/about-eurashe/membership/>

<p>CGHE – Conseil Général des Hautes Écoles</p> <p>The Francophone University Colleges Council is the formal consultative and advisory body of colleges. It advises the Authorities on policy issues related to college education.</p>	20	Belgium	
<p>CUUCAS – The Croatian Council of Universities and University Colleges of Applied Sciences</p> <p>Composed of 42 members. Among its purposes there are the promotion of the common interests of colleges and the enhancement of the quality in the in Croatian professional education.</p>	42	Croatia	
<p>CASPHE – Czech Association of Schools of Professional Higher Education</p> <p>Is an independent organisation of 21 higher professional schools/colleges and extra-university higher education institutions in Czech Republic.</p>	21	Czech republic	
<p>UC-DK – Danish Rectors' Conference – University Colleges Denmark</p> <p>Is a policy-making and coordinating body of professionally oriented higher education at university college level in Denmark.</p>	9	Denmark	
<p>The Rectors Council</p> <p>Represents the Estonian Professional Higher Education institutions, exchanges information and discusses normative documents with the Ministry.</p>	13	Estonia	
<p>ADIUT – Assemblée des Directeurs d'IUT</p> <p>Is a national association of the 114 University Institutes of Technology which are autonomous structures inside the university. The IUT network is a tight-knit fabric throughout the country.</p>	114	France	

<p>IOTI – Institutes of Technology Ireland</p> <p>Is a flexible and dynamic university-level Institutes focused on teaching/learning, purpose-driven research, and public service.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>Ireland</p>	
<p>LKDK – Lithuanian Association of Colleges Directors Conference</p> <p>Is the association of the directors of 13 Lithuanian state colleges and 10 independent colleges.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Lithuania</p>	
<p>KRZaSP - The Conference of Rectors of Non-University Higher Education Institution</p> <p>Aims at developing Higher Education in Poland, at adapting programmes to European guidelines and at fostering coordination and cooperation between institutions.</p>	<p>208</p>	<p>Poland</p>	
<p>KRePSZ – Conference of Rectors of State Schools of Higher Vocational Education</p> <p>Is an association of individuals, rectors representing Polish public colleges (PWSZ), designed to work within those schools, taking care of their interests and representation.</p>	<p>36</p>	<p>Poland</p>	
<p>CCISP – Conselho Coordenador dos Institutos Superiores Politécnicos</p> <p>Is the body of joint representation of public polytechnic higher education establishments.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Portugal</p>	
<p>ANVUZ</p> <p>Is the Association of Association of Non-State Universities in the Russian Federation.</p>	<p>270</p>	<p>Russia</p>	
<p>SKUPNOST VSŠ – Association of Slovene Higher Vocational Colleges</p> <p>Represents intermediate higher professional institutions, co-ordinates their development, programmes accreditations, enrolment processes, quality assessment and external evaluations.</p>	<p>48</p>	<p>Slovenia</p>	

<p>GuildHE – Distinction and Diversity in Higher Education</p> <p>Is one of the two formal representative bodies for Higher Education in the UK: it is an inclusive body and a key advocate for institutional diversity across higher education.</p>	<p>34</p>	<p>UK</p>	
<p>WoSCoP – The West of Scotland Colleges’ Partnership</p> <p>Gathers providers of Vocational Education and Training supported by EU Structural Funds and other additional funding streams.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>UK (Scotland)</p>	

The following are EURASHE Individual Institutions members:

Individual Institution member	Country	Logo
University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali”	Albania	
European University Cyprus	Cyprus	
Open University of Cyprus	Cyprus	
Estonian American Business Academy	Estonia	
JAMK University of Applied Sciences	Finland	
Arcada University of Applied Science	Finland	
University Interpharm+	Georgia	
Technological Educational Institute of Patras	Greece	

Technological Educational Institute of Serres	Greece	
Budapest Business School	Hungary	
Szolnok University College	Hungary	 Szolnoki Főiskola
KBTU – Kazakh-British Technical University	Kazakhstan	
Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda State University	Kazakhstan	
Aktau State University after Sh. Esenov	Kazakhstan	
Kazakh University of Economics, Finance and International Trade	Kazakhstan	
BA School of Business & Finance, Banku augstskola	Latvia	
School of Business Administration Turība	Latvia	
Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology	Malta	
University of Malta	Malta	
Malta Qualifications Council	Malta	
DASHE (Dutch Association for Shorter Higher Education)	Netherlands	
State Higher Vocational School in Tarnow (PWSZTAR)	Poland	

The Angelus Silesius State School of Higher Vocational Education in Walbrzych	Poland	
University 'Petre Andrei' Din Iasi	Romania	
Ovidius University	Romania	
Regional Open Social Institute	Russia	
Tula State Lev Tolstoy Pedagogical University	Russia	
Banking College (of the Federal Bank of Russia)	Russia	
British Institute of Technology and E-commerce	UK	

The following are EURASHE **Associate Members**:

Associate members	Number of members	Country	Logo
<p>SPACE – Network for Business Studies and Languages</p> <p>Is a network for lecturers and professors interested in mobility and professional development, and for international office staff and management staff seeking inspiration and enthusiasm.</p>	79	Belgium	
<p>BUSINET</p> <p>Is an association which provides educational establishments, staff, industry and students a vehicle for networking, as well as providing the structure for effective co-operation.</p>	98	Denmark	

EURASHE believes that **partnerships and cooperation with other regions in the world are important**. It has thus established relationships with countries outside the EHEA through **associate membership and partnership** agreements with other regions, such as **Canada, the United States of America, Central Asia** and **Asia**.

Associate Members and Partners	Number of Members	Country	Logo
Ednet/Regional Education Network Association	41	Kyrgyzstan	
Universidade de Sao Jose	n/a	Macau	
Cégep International	48	Canada (Québec)	
Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC)	129	USA/Canada	
CCID Community Colleges for International Development Inc.	169	USA	

WHAT WE DO

For two decades already, we have concentrated our activities on the **optimisation of the educational, socioeconomic, political and cultural transformation of European Higher Education**, now the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Our focus has been particularly on 'Europe', but it has also come to include a world comparative perspective. We **encourage public discourse** and **critical debate** by providing our own platforms for leading experts to share new ideas on contemporary issues, next to **actively contributing to 'official events'** (such as Ministerial meetings) and to those **organised by other stakeholders** in Higher Education (such as 'Bologna seminars').

Furthermore EURASHE aims at promoting transnational cooperation amongst its members, providing a **platform for its members to exchange information, projects and views on future developments in HE**.

In this respect EURASHE is involved in different kind of activities including **Policy development**, Representation of **PHE in EHEA**, **Projects** related to HE, **Events** representation as well as **Publications** on HE. This section will provide you with an overview of all these tasks undertaken by EURASHE throughout 2011.

1. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Themes of Interest

EURASHE is engaged in the development of policies on key issues for professional higher education. During 2011 EURASHE focused on 5 main themes which were set out in EURASHE's 10 commitments².

1) Professional Higher Education and Profession-oriented Research

EURASHE's objective is that Professional HEIs deliver graduates specifically tailored to the requirements of the labour market. Our continued advocacy on behalf of the sector strengthens their contribution to the **new skills for new jobs strategy** by ensuring relevant curricula adapted to labour market needs and thus preparing the graduates for new careers in the **private and public sectors of tomorrow**.

2) Development & Innovation

EURASHE promotes and supports quality and innovative programmes linking teaching, applied research and cooperation with stakeholders. In this way, we **strengthen the links between education, research and business** and help our members to become innovation-friendly institutions.

3) National Qualification Frameworks and Student-centred learning

EURASHE believes that National Qualifications Frameworks lie at the heart of efforts to transform higher education in Europe. They offer a means to **increase significantly the opportunities for access, transfer and progression** within and between different European educational jurisdictions while **promoting employability and lifelong learning** by offering multiple entry and access points.

Within frameworks, the establishment of learning outcomes as a central component places **learners**, rather than systems or institutions, **at the heart of higher education**. Learning outcomes, when fully implemented ensure appropriate attention to design, delivery and assessment and are at the heart of approaches to **student-centred learning (SCL)**.

4) Mobility and International Openness

We stimulate **cross-border cooperation** amongst our members to adapt the content of their programmes through internship practice-oriented exchanges, to meet the needs of exchange students looking to update their skills through study or training abroad. We continue to **promote the EHEA outside of Europe**, both for outgoing and incoming mobility purposes and for the enhanced international academic cooperation.

² More information available on our website at:
<http://www.eurashe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/EURASHE-10-Commitments-for-EHEA-in-2020.pdf>

5) Transparency Tools and Quality Assurance

Improving the **quality, efficiency and relevance of education and training** is a key priority for EURASHE. Thus, we are participating in a number of initiatives including WGs under the Bologna Process, the creation of a **European multidimensional ranking tool** for institutions, as well as the **planned revision of the ESG**, EQAR. EURASHE also increases members' capacity as to the Institutional implementation of QA practices.

6) Employability and Lifelong Learning

EURASHE focuses its efforts on the **harmonisation of the status of short-cycle higher education (SCHE) qualifications** within National Frameworks, and supports institutions in adapting their courses further to accommodate **lifelong and adult learning**. Professional HEIs in general contribute to increasing the number of graduates, attracting a broader cross-section of society into HE, especially via SCHE provisions. Thus, we contribute to the priorities of **making lifelong learning a reality**, whilst the short-cycle qualifications, often developed at the request of and in collaboration with the labour market, increase partnerships between E&T providers and businesses.

WG's Activities

EURASHE has five working groups engaged in the development of policies on key issues for Professional Higher Education. The purpose of the working groups is to systematically lead research on our priority topics, analyse the current situation of Higher Education, actively develop and formulate policy positions on their area of expertise and to represent and further promote policy on behalf of PHE.

2. EURASHE IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION AREA (EHEA)

EURASHE has been a partner in the Bologna process since 2001, a consultative member of the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG), of the BFUG Board and member of the "E4 Group" (composed also of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education – ENQA, the European Students' Union – ESU and the European University Association – EUA). Because of our strong emphasis on Quality Assurance in HE, EURASHE is a founding member of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR).

Bologna Follow-up Group: Representation of PHE in the Bologna Process

The Bologna Process, launched with the Bologna Declaration of 1999, is one of the main voluntary processes at European level, nowadays implemented in 47 states, which together make the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). The main follow-up structure is the Bologna Follow-up Group which is composed of the representatives of all member countries of the Bologna Process, the European Commission, and eight Consultative Members, a.o. EURASHE, EUA, ESU, the Council of Europe, UNESCO. The BFUG oversees the implementation of the Bologna Process between the ministerial meetings, and all its members actively participate in the current Working Agenda of the BFUG 2009-2012. In 2011 the following EURASHE delegates were part of the Executive Board and of several official working groups, namely International Openness, Social Dimension, Reporting on the implementation of the Bologna Process, Network for Information and Promotion of the EHEA, Quality assurance and Transparency Tools, National Qualifications Frameworks: Andreas G. Orphanides (CY), Bryan Maguire (IE), Guy Aelterman (BE), Lars Lyng Nielsen (DK), Marek Frankowicz (PL), Michal Karpíšek (CZ), Ronald Guillen (FR), Stefan Delplace (BE), Sylvie Bonichon (FR) and Žarko Nožica (HR).

Because of this EURASHE is able to have a constant overview on the implementation of the 'action lines' of the Process.

European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education: Representation of PHE in QA organisations

The EQAR Association, an international non-profit association under Belgian law (aisbl/ivzw), was founded by the E4 organisations to independently operate the Register of quality assurance agencies. Members of the association are the four founders, ENQA, ESU, EUA and EURASHE, as well as the social partner organisations represented in the Bologna Follow-up Group and European governments that have decided to support the operation of EQAR and get involved in its overall governance. EQAR publishes and manages a register of quality assurance agencies that substantially comply with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) to provide the public with clear and reliable information on quality assurance agencies operating in Europe. The register is web-based and freely accessible. In 2011 Andreas G. Orphanides, EURASHE President since September of this year was a Vice-President of the EQAR Executive Board.

3. PROJECTS³

EURASHE develops innovative and hands-on projects in response to the challenges facing European Higher Education. The Association has a long history of working towards quality education available to all, and of developing professional higher programmes that prepare people for the labour market. Our approach is multi-disciplinary, politically independent and combines cutting edge (applied) research and policy development with concrete initiatives. In 2011 EURASHE has been engaged in several projects dealing with a great number of interesting and challenging topics.

EURASHE as Coordinator

Level 5 Missing Link – *Short cycle Higher Education in Europe* – November 2009; January 2011 – www.eqlevel5.eu



The objective of this project is to make a detailed analysis of existing Short Cycle Higher Education (SCHE) in 32 of the Bologna signatory countries. It updates a study carried out in 2003, which led to the incorporation of SCHE in the EQF and the EHEA framework. This project was of great importance to EURASHE as it was the coordinator of the project but also due to the previous EURASHE study on SCHE. The outcome of the project has been very well received in the in the European HE landscape and is considered as an important study for bringing about a comprehensive overview of the Level 5 of the European Qualifications Frameworks.

EURASHE's Bologna Seminar in January 2011 in Budapest (HU) on "Embedding Professional Short-Cycle Higher Education in the (Higher) Education System" was the perfect occasion to present the project. This event gathered more than 100 leaders from 18 countries proving the important impact this project has had. This also enabled the project members to add a corrigendum to their study and to further their work.

EURASHE as Initiator or Main Partner

MAP-ESG – *Mapping the implementation and application of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area* – October 2010; March 2012 – www.mapesg.wordpress.com

The purpose of the project is to gather information on how the European Standard Guidelines (ESG) have been implemented and applied in the 47 Bologna signatory countries, on national level, in higher education institutions and in QA agencies. By analysing gathered data, the project will evaluate whether the ESG are appropriate and up-to-date to contribute to the development of the EHEA. The project has been completed in 2011 with the draft of the report on the application and implementation of the ESG. Based on this, in the next Ministerial Conference (28 April 2012, Bucharest) Ministers of Education will decide whether they wish to charge the E4 with the revision of the ESG.



EURASHE's long term priority on Quality Assurance, one of its main core strategies for PHE in Europe, is the driving factor behind the Association enthusiastic support of this project. EURASHE shall participate in the wider discussion on the ESG by producing its publication on the ESG implementation during the first semester of 2012.

FLLLEX – *Impact of lifelong learning strategies on professional higher education* – January 2010; August 2012 – www.flllex.eu

The FLLLEX project deals with the implementation of Lifelong Learning strategies in Higher Education Institutions and aims at identifying challenges and Lifelong Learning into European project was initiated and is supported by EURASHE and has 24 partners from ten different EU countries. The FLLLEX project has entered its second phase where implications of the incorporation of Lifelong Learning into Higher Education institutions. The FLLLEX project has been developed and tested. The LLL tool and its results will be presented at the 22nd EURASHE Annual conference, which will be held in Riga on 10-11 May 2012.



This project is of great importance to EURASHE as Lifelong Learning is one of the core strategic priorities of the Association. EURASHE has in the past demonstrated its will to promote and advance the cause of LLL through its seminars and is currently working on a new project (PRO-FLLLEX) in the field of LLL which is foreseen to take over after the completion of the FLLLEX project.

3 More information available on our website at: <http://www.eurashe.eu/projects/>

EURASHE as Dissemination Partner

LLA – *Lean Learning Academies* – November 2009; October 2011 – www.leanlearningacademy.eu



This project, which was completed in 2011, creates strong links between the local and regional academic partners and the industrial partners in each of the participating countries. The goal of the project is to develop the didactical concepts in the field of engineering, in order to improve the education curriculum in the countries involved. In 2011 the project has launched a set of useful tools.

EURASHE took part in the project to better specify the role of PHE institutions in regional development, as well as their mission, role and position in society and within HE.

EURASHE as Networking Partner

CaribErasmus – *Caribbean opening to the Erasmus Mundus* – October 2010; September 2012 – www.cariberasmus.eu

CaribErasmus aims at fostering the cooperation amongst European and Caribbean HEIs in a structured and sustainable perspective and to facilitate and support mutual knowledge and information sharing between Caribbean and European universities. In 2011 the project entered its second phase in which the integration seminars have been organised in Jamaica, in the Dominican Republic and in Trinidad and Tobago with EURASHE being represented each time.

As one of EURASHE's core priorities is Mobility and International Openness and as EURASHE is represented in the BFUG Working Group on International Openness this project encompasses the aims and goals supported by the Association.



CELAN – *Language Strategy for Competitiveness and Employability* – January 2011; December 2012 – www.celan-project.blogspot.com



The project is the direct result of the discussions within the Business Platform for Multilingualism (BPFML), set up in September 2009 as part of the European Commission's continuing commitment to raising awareness of the importance of language competence. The project's principal objective is to facilitate a dialogue in the language field between the business community and language practitioners. The year 2011 witnessed a focus on 'Research on linguistic needs of European companies/SMEs' in different sectors which only fostered the will of the project members to

continue their work, also proving that languages are a key factor in the employability of graduates (one of EURASHE's core strategy). In early 2012 the outcomes of the project will be made public through a CELAN report.

EquNet – *Enhancing Equitable Access to Higher Education* – October 2009; September 2012 – www.equnet.info

EquNet is a 3-year project aiming at increasing access to Higher Education for all marginalised and non-traditional groups based on a principle of equity. In particular the project highlights the best and worst practices, together with the focus on understanding the barriers to entry to HE, and the incorporation of stakeholders to help propose solutions. Based on this research, the project has also the purpose to give implementable recommendations as to how to improve accessibility to Higher Education. In 2011 the EquNet campaign was launched with the aim to provide a platform for people to express their views and their activities regarding the equity issues and to raise attention of the society with ensuring high visibility for the best works. The second EquNet conference focused on social dimension was organised jointly with the students' convention in Sofia.



In participating in the project EURASHE aims at promoting the third pillar of PHE's mission which is Social Dimension and Access to HE.

4. EVENTS

One of EURASHE's aims is to represent the views of professional HEIs towards policy makers in education; to that end EURASHE organises and participates in events on PHE in Europe throughout the year.

In 2011 EURASHE has had the pleasure to organise its 21st Annual Conference, 2 thematic Seminars and to also coordinate the 6th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF).

In this section you will discover all of the events at which EURASHE represented PHE in Europe and discover the themes and outcomes of its own events throughout 2011.

EURASHE Events

Through EURASHE Annual Conference and seminars the association monitors the new trends in higher education, shares good practice in the European policies and addresses proposals to improve the EHEA. In 2011 EURASHE organised an Annual Conference, two Thematic Seminars and a Cross-cutting session of its Working groups which gathered around 300 participants representing around 200 institutions. EURASHE events are usually organised in collaboration with its members and serve as a networking forum for them.

EURASHE 21st Annual Conference - *“Examine Expanding Field of Professionally Oriented Programmes in Higher Education”*⁴

EURASHE 21st Annual Conference was held on 31 March & 1 April 2011 in Nice, France. The event was conducted in co-operation with the Association of Institutes of Technology (ADIUT) and hosted by the 'IUT de Nice-Cote d'Azur (Institut Universitaire de Technologie)'. The Conference was titled “Examine Expanding Field of Professionally Oriented Programmes in Higher Education”, had three tracks and gathered more than 120 participants.

First of all the conference gave special attention to the position of ‘professional trainings’ in universities, through the example of the University Institutes of Technology (IUTs), members of EURASHE in France, and compared this with the situation of Professional HE in other countries with a binary system, thus presenting the for and against cases of these two ‘role models’.

Secondly the conference covered the topic of European Mobility in the global context, and the special role of professional Higher Education, when it comes to integrating in the exchanges innovative practices, like work placements, technological applications of research, alternating work with learning, etc. It was also an opportunity for EURASHE to present its own involvement in a recently approved Erasmus Mundus project in the Caribbean Islands, CaribErasmus, where there is a broad spectrum of professionally-oriented institutions and programmes.



From left to right, Henri ALEXIS, Directeur IUT-Nice, Mme LOVISI, Recteur de l'Académie de Nice (French Gvt rep.), LL NIELSEN, President of EURASHE, Jean-François MAZOIN President of ADIUT –France

In the third track EURASHE offered to participating heads of institutions and of faculties, quality assurance coordinators and stakeholders in QA, the possibility to give their feedback on the “Implementation of the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance on an institutional level”, an EU-funded project which aims at gathering objective arguments for a possible revision of the ESG.

Indeed, over the next decade, European Professional Higher Education is expected to undergo a profound change because of the “Europe 2020 Strategy”. The two first tracks of the conference provided the input for some of the topics in EURASHE's planned Bologna 2020 publication, based on “EURASHE's Ten Commitments for the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) in 2020 – Visions & Strategies”.

⁴ More information available on our website at:
<http://www.eurashe.eu/conferences-and-events/eurashe-annual-conferences/2011-eurashe-annual-conference/>

EURASHE Lifelong Learning Seminar - “Embedding Professional Short-Cycle Higher Education in the (Higher) Education System”⁵



The Seminar “Embedding Professional Short-Cycle Higher Education in the (Higher) Education System” took place on 20 - 21 January 2011 in Budapest, Hungary. It was organised by EURASHE, the Ministry of National Resources of Hungary (MNR) and the Budapest Business School (BBS) and it has been attended by more than 100 participants from the Bologna Follow-up Group members, representatives of HEIs and colleges, employers’ organisations, quality assurance agencies, etc. The purpose of this Bologna seminar on SCHE was to allow to participants to learn about a complex situation of SCHE throughout Europe.

EURASHE’s Vice President, Michal Karpíšek, speaking at EURASHE’s Lifelong Learning Seminar in Budapest

EURASHE Bologna Seminar - “New phases of the Bologna process: methods and tools for practical application”⁶

The official Bologna Seminar titled “New phases of the Bologna process: methods and tools for practical application” took place on 2 - 3 June 2011 in Moscow, Russia. It was organised by EURASHE in collaboration with the Russian New University and it gathered more than 60 participants. The Seminar aimed at illustrating the impact of the Bologna Reform on Russian Higher Education Institutions & Universities. The focus was on the ‘real implementation’ in the institutions, public and private universities.



Participants in EURASHE’s Bologna Seminar in Moscow

EURASHE Working groups’ crosscutting session on Policy

Prior to its General Assembly on 24 September 2011 EURASHE organised a crosscutting session on Policy welcoming of all its working groups members. Members of each working group had the opportunity to provide information on state of EURASHE’s Working groups’ achievements. It reflected their past activities as well as suggestion for future activities, the Workshop also addressed proposals for EURASHE policy development.



EURASHE’s Working groups’ Workshop held prior to EURASHE’s General Assembly on 24 September 2011

5 More information available on our website at: <http://www.eurashe.eu/conferences-and-events/eurashe-seminars/2011bologna-seminar-budapest/>
6 More information available on our website at: <http://www.eurashe.eu/conferences-and-events/eurashe-seminars/seminarmoscow2011/>

Representation of PHE towards Stakeholders as a Social Partner

The European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) 2011⁷

EQAF is an annual European conference on quality assurance in HE that brings together all of the key stakeholders in the field, which is co-organised by EUA, ENQA, EURASHE and ESU. This event is a major contribution to QA in Higher Education and a flagship activity in this field as it provides a unique platform for the HE and QA communities to follow, shape and anticipate developments in the area. Since 2011 EQAF has continued to create a common European understanding of QA through a dialogue among different stakeholder groups without financial support from the EC. The sixth European Quality Assurance Forum, entitled “Quality and Trust: at the heart of what we do”, was jointly hosted by the University of Antwerp and Artesis University College (a member of EURASHE) on 17-19 November 2011, and took place in Antwerp, Belgium. Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, EQAF 2011 aimed at exploring the impact and essence of both internal and external QA, and how QA could be further developed to serve these better. It brought together all key stakeholders in this field, such as higher education institutions, quality assurance agencies and students.



The 6th European Quality Assurance Forum held on 17-19 November 2011 in Antwerp, Belgium © Vincent Jauniaux and Ian Segal

Representation of PHE towards the other Stakeholders in Seminars and Conferences

Increasingly members of EURASHE’s Presidium and individual experts of the Association are requested to represent and promote EURASHE at conferences, seminars, meetings organised by E&T stakeholders.

They all share common goals:

- **representing** the position of professional Higher Education at each event
- **keeping informed** of latest policy developments in these areas to pass on to EURASHE members
- **networking** with Higher Education stakeholders with the aim of building coalitions around topics of common interest
- **sharing and learning** from best practice, and in turn sharing that with members

To have a more comprehensive overview of events in which EURASHE participated and/or contributed to, you will find a ‘Log of events’ in the annexes. There a detailed list of all events in which EURASHE took part in 2011 is available as well as the name of the participants representing PHE.

5. PUBLICATIONS

EURASHE contributes to the development of the EHEA with in-house publications and in cooperation with others. They can be focused on a number of areas, where the association has either an expertise (e.g. short-cycle HE, entrepreneurship in education, involvement of stakeholders from the world of employment in governance of HEIs, etc.) or a specific mandate (e.g. quality assurance as a member of the E4 Group).

Short Cycle Higher Education in Europe – SCHE⁸

The European Commission asked EURASHE to survey Short cycle higher education (generally two-year associate degree types of studies in higher education) in Europe. The association turned to Magda Kirsch and Yves Beernaert to write the report. The general objective of this comparative study was to make a detailed analysis of existing Short Cycle Higher Education as an intermediate level of the first level of higher education (or at level 5 of the EQF) in 32 of the Bologna signatory countries: the 27 member states of the European Union, the EFTA countries and Turkey. One of the specific objectives was to find out what changes had taken place in the short cycle higher education landscape since 2003 when the previous EURASHE study on SCHE was made.



Another objective was to see to what extent the development and implementation of SCHE is contributing to the implementation of the strategic framework for Education and Training 2020 (ET 2020) of the European Union and the objectives outlined in the Leuven Communiqué of 2010 after the meeting of the ministers of Higher Education. Overall, the comparative study attempts to highlight the major developments in SCHE over the past 7 years, focusing on similarities and differences across Europe.

This study was published in 2011 and presented during EURASHE's Thematic Seminar in Budapest.

Policy Paper

EURASHE's effort on this activity has been concentrated in the production of a broad-spectrum and innovative association's policy paper. EURASHE working groups, after an accurate work of analysis and a constant debate within them, expressed a common and shared position on the themes of their interest. The result of this research work represents the vision of EURASHE on the Higher Education world. The EURASHE policy paper will be published in 2012.

Mapping the implementation and application of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area – MAP ESG

Moreover EURASHE working group on Quality Assurance and Transparency Tools carried out an important work of research on the MAP ESG. In the framework of the E4's project EURASHE working group 5 developed a survey and conducted several face to face interviews. Then elaborated the results obtained and created an enriching document which will be released in 2012.

8 More information available on our website at: <http://www.eurashe.eu/projects/15/>

WHO WE ARE⁹

EURASHE was founded in Patras, Greece, in 1990. It has the status of a non-profit international association according to Belgian law and its Secretariat is located in Brussels. From a gathering of 5 national associations of Directors of Colleges we have evolved into the acknowledged representative of Professional Higher Education on the European higher education forum, not the least through our active involvement in the major reform of European higher education, the 'Bologna Process'.

In March 2010 we published, as an input to the Ministerial Conference celebrating 10 Years of 'Bologna', "EURASHE's 10 Commitments for the European Higher Education Area in 2020", in which we tried to clarify our views on some important aspects of the Bologna process and our own responsibilities towards the continued creation of the EHEA.

Political Coordination

EURASHE has 3 governing bodies (Learn more on when these bodies met in 2011 in the Annex1):

- The Presidium consists of the President and the two Vice-Presidents and is assisted by the Secretary General.

EURASHE's Presidium is currently composed of:



*Andreas G. Orphanides (CY)
President*



*Michal Karpíšek (CZ)
Vice-president*



*Patrick Blondé (BE)
Vice-president*

- The Board consists of the above four, the Treasurer, and three external members, chosen from the country representation in the Council.
- The Council consists of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the Secretary General, one member per national association and one member per professional association (associate members).

Regular meetings of the presidium are necessary for a smooth functioning of the European Association, while the Board meets two times per year, usually before the Council meeting. The Council usually meets two times per year, in order to discuss the policy (issues) of the association and to define the strategy for the working year.

- The General Assembly consists of up to 3 delegates per national association, 1 delegate per professional association and 1 delegate per individual institution. The Plenary Council meets annually, in conjunction with the Annual Conference.

EURASHE's latest General Assembly was held in Brussels on 24th September 2011. On that occasion Professor Andreas G. Orphanides (CY), Rector of European University Cyprus and Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences, has been elected as the new EURASHE President. He succeeded Lars Lyng Nielsen (DK), from the University College Lillebælt in Denmark, who served EURASHE for more than 6 years. On the same occasion, Michal Karpíšek (CZ) (SPTV/CASPHE) was re-elected Vice-President of EURASHE for a two-year mandate and Patrick Blondé (BE) (Director General of the Maritime Academy of Antwerp, a member of the Council of the Flemish University Colleges-VLHORA) was elected Vice-President in replacement of Andreas G. Orphanides.



EURASHE's former President Lars Lyng Nielsen (left) and EURASHE's new President Andreas Orphanides (right) during the latest General Assembly on 24 September 2011.

⁹ More information available on our website at: <http://www.eurashe.eu/about-eurashe/organisation/>

EURASHE Secretariat

EURASHE has a Secretariat (head office) in Brussels, from which the Association is run on a daily basis. This is the responsibility of the Secretary General, Stefan Delplace (BE), who liaises with the members of the Presidium and Council. Iva Voldánová (CZ) is a Project Manager responsible for the EC project funding. 2011 was a dynamic year for staffing the Secretariat because of changes in the middle of 2011, Anja Mathys (BE) the Office Manager left the organisation and EURASHE got a new project officer, Renata Radvanska (SK).



*Stefan Delplace (BE)
Secretary General*



*Iva Voldánová (CZ)
Project Manager*



*Renata Radvanska (SK)
Project Officer*

In 2011 EURASHE also benefited from the work of excellent stagiaires and volunteers: Marina Kazakova (RU); Ana Fonseca (PT); Francesca Operti (IT) who dealt with the Communication tasks of the association; and Alexandre Wipf (FR) who dealt with the administration tasks of the association.

The role of the EURASHE management is to be the initiator of this work programme and to have the responsibility of its carrying out and its implementation at all stages. The Secretariat is in charge of the overall coordination and the organisational and financial management of the work plan.

- **Operating grant**

In November 2010 EURASHE applied for and was successfully granted a Framework Partnership Agreement for a three-year period (2011 – 2013) under the scheme of Jean Monet - Key Activity 3 of the European Commission. This will enable EURASHE to benefit from a three year funding, and thus to implement the objectives and execute the priorities declared in EURASHE's "10 Commitments for the European Higher Education in 2020". EURASHE has been using 2011 to focus on policy development particularly through the work of the working groups. EURASHE has also started during this year to concentrate on the growth of the organisation which shall be more strongly focused in the next years mainly through revamping communications, increasing the scope of membership services, increasing the overall membership of the organisation, and streamlining the internal administration of the organisation.

- **Communication strategy**

In 2011 EURASHE's Secretariat has started to study and implement a new communication strategy. This included a new corporate design of the association, an improvement of the communication with EURASHE members and a more effective dissemination of the EURASHE activities towards the general public. In this framework, a new and more interactive website was launched in November and achieved already a great number of visits (more than 2500).

EURASHE Interlocutors, Partners & Stakeholders¹⁰

- **INTERLOCUTORS AND PARTNERS**

EURASHE is establishing close links with other stakeholders in the Higher Education Area stimulating cooperation between the institutions within and outside the EU and fostering cooperation in higher education in general.

- **ASSOCIATION PARTNERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

EURASHE collaborates with other stakeholder organisations in Higher Education representing staff, students, employers or institutions.

E4 Group - EUA (European University Association), ESU (European Students' Union) and ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) are our long-time partner in 'E4', co-organiser of the annual QA Forum (EQAF) and also a partner in the project on 'examination of the implementation of the European Standards and Guidelines for QA' in the institutions and QA agencies (MAP-ESG).

ACA (Academic Cooperation Association) co-organised the Forum for the Central European countries, in Budapest 2010, and the EURASHE pre-Ministerial conference Bologna 2010 Convention.

EURASHE is a founding organisation of **EMUNI** and member of its General Assembly.

EUCIS-LLL - The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning gathers 25 European networks working in education and training.

After a long year of fruitful cooperation as a partner, in September 2011 EURASHE has become a EUCIS-LLL full member. The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning serves EURASHE as a forum for cooperation between education and training actors to build innovative project, as a tool to push forward strong messages to EU institution and as a space in which discuss transversal topics on lifelong learning.

EURASHE cooperated in a great number of projects with the following partners:

- **ESMU** (European centre for Strategic Management of Universities)
- **EUCEN** (European Association for University Lifelong Learning)
- **CHEPS** (Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies)
- **ECA Consortium** (European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education)



UASNet - The Universities of Applied Sciences network (UASNet) aims to strengthen the contribution of the Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) sector to the research and innovation strategy of Europe. A preliminary agreement for cooperation between UASNet and EURASHE was established in March 2011. EURASHE and UASNet agreed to have contacts on policy making in areas they have in common and to attune their profile as an association to each other's, looking for synergies.

EURASHE cooperates with **EI** (Education International) and **BUSINESSEUROPE** in the framework of the Bologna Follow-up Group.

- **EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS AND INTERLOCUTORS**

Furthermore, EURASHE as a main stakeholder in the Higher Education policy on the European level is invited to participate in different experts', advisory and stakeholder groups, hearings or events organised by the European Institutions, agencies or foundations (such as EC, EP, COE, UNESCO, OECD etc.).

¹⁰ More information available on our website at: <http://www.eurashe.eu/about-eurashe/stakeholders-and-partnerships/>

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Log of events

January 2011

1-	
6	
7	EURASHE's first activity of 2011: the meeting of EURASHE's Working Group (WG) 5 focused on 'Quality Assurance and Transparency Tool' took place in Brussels, with 7 participants including our Secretary General Stefan Delplace and Barbara Michalk. A second part of this meeting took place on 13 January gathering 6 participants
8-	
9	
10	Stefan Delplace participated in the meeting of HBO-Raad, the Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences, held in The Hague (NL), focusing on innovation and on the cooperation between EURASHE and UASnet including a joint policy development on innovation topics
11-	
16	
17	Stefan Delplace and Guy Aelterman participated in the first E4 meeting of 2011, held in Brussels (BE), discussing the external review of European Quality Assurance Register as well as the European Quality Assurance Forum 2011 and the update of the European Standards and Guidelines
18	Stefan Delplace attended the first meeting of 2011 of the Bologna Follow up Group (BFUG) WG on International Openness held in Vienna (AT)
19	The Final Meeting of the project "Level 5: The Missing Link" took place in Budapest (HU) with several EURASHE representatives including Iva Voldánová and Michal Karpíšek
20	Lars Lynge Nielsen attended the meeting of the "Educating the new European Professional in the Knowledge Society" (EDUPROF) project held on 20 January in Copenhagen (DK), making further steps in consolidating the cooperation with UASnet
	EURASHE organised its Annual LLL Seminar titled "Embedding Professional Short-Cycle Higher Education in the (Higher) Education System" in Budapest (HU) with more than 100 participants on 20 & 21 January 2011
21-	
24	
25	A Brainstorming session with key European stakeholders on key themes of the Modernisation Agenda took place in Brussels with Stefan Delplace giving EURASHE's input
26	
27	Stefan Delplace took part in the panel discussion of the MOLAN Closing Conference of the 'Network for the exchange of information about good practices that serve to motivate language learners', speaking about the "Cooperation with other partners and stakeholders" on 27 & 28 January in Brussels (BE)
28	
29-	
31	

Highlight of January:

EURASHE organised its dedicated LLL seminar in Budapest (HU) on "Embedding Professional Short-Cycle Higher Education in the (Higher) Education System" attracting around 100 participants

February 2011

1-	
2	
3	Stefan Delplace, Marc Vandewalle and Michal Karpíšek met for a Financial Task Force meeting in Brussels
	Hans Daale represented EURASHE at the first meeting of the WG 2 of the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) focusing on the 'EU Tools and Competences' as well as the meeting of the WG 3 dedicated to 'Feasibility of setting up a European Institute on Lifelong Learning' in Brussels
4	Andreas G. Orphanides took part in the EQAR Board Meeting in Brussels (BE) focusing on the preparation of the General Assembly
	Six EURASHE members' representatives and external experts including Magda Kirsch and Prof. Jumber Silagadze took part in the first meeting of 2011 of the WG 6 'LLL&Employability' in Brussels (BE)
	EURASHE's first Communication Task Force gathered in Brussels (BE) with 7 participants including Alicia Leonor Sauli-Miklavčič and Marina Kazakova
5	EURASHE's first Council meeting of 2011 took place in Brussels (BE) with 19 participants representing EURASHE member organisations
	The Board of EURASHE met for the first time in 2011 in Brussels (BE), all members of the Board attended
6-	
9	
10	Hans Daale attended the meeting of the project 'European providers of vocational education and training' (EUproVET) held on 10 & 11 February in Alkmaar (NL)
11	Stefan Delplace took part in the Board meeting of the BFUG, held in Andorra (AD), dedicated to the Transition from the Bologna Process (BP) to the consolidation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and to the Ministerial Conference and Bologna Policy Forum in Bucharest
	Iva Voldánová, EURASHE's Project Manager, took part in the kick-off meeting of the 'Network for the promotion of language strategic competitiveness and employability' – CELAN project in Brussels (BE)

12-		18	Andreas G. Oprhanides represented EURASHE at the General Assembly and Board meetings of EQAR, held in Gödöllő (HU), as Chair of the Executive Board
13		19-	
14	Iva Voldánová represented EURASHE in a meeting of the EQAF Working Group of the E4 Group (ENQA, EUA, EURASHE and ESU) dedicated to the 6th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) in Brussels (BE)	21	
	Stefan Delplace took part in the 'Joint programmes: Quality Assurance and Recognition of degrees awarded' (JOQAR) Stakeholders Group Meeting organised by the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA) in Brussels (BE) and focused on presenting the JOQAR project, the Knowledge base in this area and Single accreditation procedures	22	Hans Daale a.o. participated in the European University / Business Forum, held in Brussels (BE), dealing with the topics of Strategic partnership in the knowledge economy and in a regional development context, as well as lifelong learning thematic
15	Richard Thorn represented EURASHE in the 'Stakeholder group for Designing a global university ranking – the U-Multirank project' meeting held in Brussels (BE) discussing the update on the mapping process as well as the issue of Rating vs. Ranking	23	
16-		24	
20		25	Bryan Maguire spoke at the 4th Meeting of National correspondents (QF-EHEA), organised in the framework of the Bologna Process and the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (FR), presenting EURASHE on the topic of "Verification of compatibility of NQF and QF-EHEA - Road map to self-certification"
21-	Bryan Maguire was a member of the international expert panel that prepared the report for this self-certification exercise held during the 'Self-certification of the Portuguese Qualifications Framework for Higher Education' meeting, organised by the 'Portuguese directorate general for Higher Education' held in Lisbon (PT)	26-	
24		28	
2 5 -		29	Marek Frankowicz took part in the Tempus anniversary Conference representing EURASHE in this Retrospective of the Tempus Programme over the past twenty years 1990-2010, organised by the European Commission (EC) in Belgrade (RS) on 29 & 30 March
28		30	EURASHE's WG6 focusing on 'Lifelong Learning & Employability' met for the second time in 2011 in Nice (FR)
		31	EURASHE's WG 5 focusing on 'Quality Assurance and Transparency Tools' met for the second time in 2011 in Nice with 9 participants including Stefan Delplace

EURASHE's Annual Conference convened in Nice (FR) for the 21st time in its history attracting 120 participants on 31 March and 1 April

Highlight of March:

EURASHE organised its 21st Annual Conference in Nice on the theme: "Examine Expanding Field of Professionally Oriented Programmes in Higher Education: Professional programmes in different country contexts and the related; Mobility with partners outside the EHEA; and Redefining Quality Assurance at institutional level"

March 2011

1-	
3	
4	Stefan Delplace was EURASHE's representative at ENQA's GA, held in The Hague (NL) dedicated to the preparation for ENQA's establishment in Belgium, to a position paper on Quality assurance and actively took part in the stakeholders' panel
5-	
13	
14	Stefan Delplace represented the association at the Bologna seminar On Quality Assurance "The Europe Dimension on Quality Assurance", held in Berlin (DE) and organised by the German government, and spoke on Quality Assurance during the panel/plenary discussion with his E4 Group colleagues
	Hans Daale represented EURASHE in the events of the LLL-Week, including the meeting with Mr Mairesse (EC) where the "New Skills for New Jobs" strategy was discussed, from 14 to 17 March organised by EUCIS-LLL in Brussels (BE)
15-	
16	
17	Lars Lynge Nielsen, Andreas G. Orphanides and Stefan Delplace acted as EURASHE's representatives at the BFUG meeting held in Gödöllő (HU) on 17 & 18 March

April 2011

1	EURASHE's Board met for a second time in 2011 in Nice (FR) with 7 participants including Ronald Guillen and Zdenka Steblovník Župan
2-	
3	
4	Hans Daale attended the seminar of the 'European providers of vocational education and training' (EUproVET) project held in Helsinki (FI)
	Lars Lynge Nielsen, EURASHE's President, represented the Association at the Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research- (CDESER)-10th plenary session of the Council of Europe on 4 & 5 April in Strasbourg (FR)

June 2011

- 1
- 2 EURASHE and its Russian member ANVUZ and ROSI organised a Seminar on “New phases of the Bologna process: methods and tools for practical application” in Moscow (RU) with 60 participants, and speakers
- 3
- 4-
- 5
- 6 Iva Voldánová, EURASHE’s Project Manager, represented the Association in the Project Meeting of ‘Network for the promotion of language strategic competitiveness and employability’ (CELAN) and the Business Platform for Multilingualism (BPFML) meeting held on 6 & 7 June in Brussels (BE)
- 7 Stefan Delplace attended the event on ‘Promoting the International Attractiveness of European Higher Education - German Perspectives and Strategies’ organised by the German Rectors’ Conference in Brussels (BE)
- 8
- 9 Stefan Delplace represented EURASHE at a meeting of the BFUG Working group on Transparency Tools held in Brussels (BE)
- 10-
- 14
- 15 Hans Daale took part in the Annual Seminar of ‘European providers of vocational education and training’ (EUproVET), held in Brussels (BE) concentrating on Cooperation on a EU-level concerning the topics for VET policy, the Bruges Communiqué and possible actions in the next two years
- 16-
- 17
- 18 A Seminar entitled ‘Children as Change Agents: Think Big’ organised by ‘Science in Society Catalyst’ took place in Amsterdam (NL) with Hans Daale representing EURASHE
- 19 EURASHE’s President, Lars Lynge Nielsen, attended the 18th Annual Meeting of the European Network of Information Centres (ENIC) and National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARIC) Networks, held from 19 to 21 June in Warsaw (PL)
- 20 The 20th Annual Conference of European Access Network (EAN), titled ‘Student Diversity in Higher Education: Conflicting Realities; Tensions affecting policy and action to widen access and participation’ took place in Amsterdam (NL) from 20 to 22 June with Hans Daale as EURASHE representative
- 21 Guy Aelterman and Stefan Delplace attended the meeting of the E4 Group (ENQA, EUA, EURASHE and ESU) held in Brussels (BE) discussing the update on the European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF), on the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) and the future of Quality Assurance as well as the BFUG thematic session on Quality Assurance and the Bologna Policy Forum
- 22

- 23 Stefan Delplace represented EURASHE at the Celebration 20th anniversary of The Informal Group of RTD Liaison Offices in Brussels organised by Informal Group of RTD Liaison Offices (IGLO) in Brussels (BE), focused on research centres and their activities on Innovation

Sylvie Bonichon took part in the meeting of the Recognition of Prior Learning Network of the BFUG, held on 23 June in Glasgow (UK) during which the question “How can we collect and share useful practice?” was debated, the report of the Network was discussed and Sylvie Bonichon presented the topic “RPL, what about the French Case?”

Sylvie Bonichon also took part in the Symposium: “Learning through experience: developing international and regional research agendas for RPL” organised by the Glasgow Caledonian University on 23 & 24 June in Glasgow (UK), and presented the topic “RPL, what about the French Case?” at this symposium dedicated to the research conducted on RPL and the possible future engagements in research activities

- 24
- 25 EURASHE’s first Presidium meeting of 2011 took place in Amsterdam (NL) with 4 members attending
- 26
- 27 Lars Lynge Nielsen represented EURASHE in the event ‘Reimagining Democratic societies: A new area of personal and social responsibility?’ organised by the Council of Europe in Oslo (NO) from 27 to 29 June, which mentioned the topics of Democratic universities, Higher education in the context of a globally responsible democratic citizenship
- 28 Stefan Delplace took part in “‘What’s new in HE and research in Brussels’ [EP Panel Discussion]” organised with Universities UK in Brussels (BE) on 28 & 29 June; as speaker and presented the current status and future challenges and opportunities of Higher Education in Europe to the panel
- 29
- 30

Highlight of June:

EURASHE co-organised with its members ANVUZ and ROSI a seminar in Moscow (RU) on “New phases of the Bologna process: methods and tools for practical application”.

July 2011

- 1 Stefan Delplace took part in the BFUG Working group ‘Reporting on the Implementation of the Bologna Process’ meeting held in Riga (LV)
- 2-
- 4
- 5 Bryan Maguire represented EURASHE at the ASEM Expert Seminar on Regional Quality Assurance and spoke on the “European Qualifications Frameworks: Current State and Challenges Ahead” organised by Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Bonn (DE) on 5 & 6 July

Marek Frankowicz represented EURASHE in an event organised by the Polish Presidency of the European Council entitled ‘International Conference on Science: STHESCA - Science, Technology, HE and Society in the conceptual age’ from 5 to 7 July in Crakow (PL)

- 6

- 7 Stefan Delplace took part in the Meeting of European Associations of Vocational Educational Training (VET) Provider that provided an opportunity to discuss the follow-up to be given to the implementation of the Bruges Communiqué focusing in particular on the implementation of EQAVET and ECVET, organised by the European Commission (EC)
- 8 EURASHE's WG 5 on 'Quality Assurance & Transparency Tools' the 5th time in 2011 in Brussels (BE) with 8 participants including Lucien Bollaert, Renata Radvanska and Ana Fonseca
- 9-
- 12
- 13 Iva Voldánová represented EURASHE and presented the latest "Preliminary Report from EURASHE MAP ESG Quantitative Consultation" to the participants of the 2nd Steering Group meeting of the Mapping the implementation and application of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (MAP ESG) project
- 14-
- 25
- 26 Stefan Delplace was contacted by Organisations commissioned by the Directorate General MARKT of the European Commission to analyse the practical implementation of the Services Directive, and focused on the issue of cross-border education, in line with UNESCO and Council of Europe guidelines on the topic
- 27-
- 31

August 2011

- 1 -
- 25
- 26 Michal Karpišek took part in the Final conference of the IMPLETUM project "Challenges and Objectives of Higher Education", organised in Sora (SI), on behalf of EURASHE, dedicated to the role of Higher vocational colleges, Curriculum developments and Short cycle Higher Education in Slovenia
- 27-
- 30
- 31 Hans Daale and Nicolae Dură represented EURASHE at 'The Engaged University: Shaping Inclusive and Responsive University Strategies', organised on 31 august and 1 September in Southampton (UK) by Shaping Inclusive and Responsive University Strategies (SIRIUS), where Mr Dură spoke on "Ovidius University of Constantza (Romania), an Engaged University"

September 2011

- 1
- 2 EURASHE's WG 5 on 'Quality Assurance & Transparency Tools' met for the 6th time in 2011 with Stefan Delplace and Iva Voldánová and 5 other participants in Brussels (BE)
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- 5 Stefan Delplace and Guy Aelterman took part in the meeting of the E4 Group (ENQA, EUA, EURASHE and ESU), held in Brussels (BE), focusing on news from the Mapping the implementation and application of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (MAP ESG) project, on the BFUG thematic session on Quality Assurance and discussed the future of Quality Assurance
- 6 Stefan Delplace discussed cooperation opportunities with and affiliation possibilities to EURASHE during a Visit Yerevan State University - Bilateral meeting with representatives of State Yerevan University in Yerevan (AM)
- 7 Stefan Delplace attended the second BFUG Board meeting of 2011 in Yerevan (Armenia)

Iva Voldánová represented EURASHE and updated the partners on EURASHE consultation process on the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) in the 3rd Steering Group meeting of the MAP ESG project held from 7 to 9 September in Brussels (BE)

- 8 Stefan Delplace spoke on "Linking Funding with Quality and Relevance of Higher Education" during the International Conference on Funding of Higher Education organised by the Armenian Government in Yerevan (AM) on 8 & 9 September
- 9 EURASHE's WG 6 on 'Lifelong Learning & Employability' met for the fourth time in 2011 gathering 10 participants in Brussels (BE)

EURASHE's WG 7 on 'Strategy & Implementation' met for the second time of 2011 attracting 6 participants including Richard Thorn, Marc Vandewalle and Stefan Delplace in Brussels (BE)

- 10 EURASHE's Council met for the second time in 2011 in Brussels (BE) attracting 19 participants
- 11 EURASHE's WG 4 on 'Mobility and International Openness' convened, gathering Iva Voldánová, Marek Frankowicz, Sandra Kraze and Alicia-Leonor Sauli-Miklavčič in Brussels (BE)
- 12 European Association for University Lifelong Learning (EUCEN) organised an event in Barcelona (ES) on 12 & 13 September, entitled 'Pathways for LLL Universities? Preliminary results of the ALLUME project' attended by Klaas Vansteenhuyse

14 Stefan Delplace and Hans Daale represented EURASHE at the Meeting of Education, Training & Youth Stakeholders on the future programmes, organised in Brussels (BE) by the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) where information on the future programmes were exchanged and Ms. Albertone, Head of sector, Directorate General Education and Culture (EAC) B1 - Coordination of the Lifelong Learning Programme was invited

Magda Kirsch took part in the Regional Network on Qualifications Frameworks for South East Europe meeting, held on 14 & 15 September in Istanbul (TR) representing EURASHE, and presenting the study on Level 5: the Missing Link

Tim Creedon spoke on "Growth of Research Capacity in Ireland's Institutes of Technology" at the 'Educating the new European Professional in the Knowledge Society (EDUPROF) Closing Conference: Making the innovation Union work', organised in Helsinki (FI) from 14 to 16 September by the Universities of Applied Sciences Network (UASnet)

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16 Stefan Delplace represented EURASHE at the Modern Universities Research Group (MURG) event 'EC ERA (European Research Area) and Horizon 2020; The Future of Modern Universities in Europe' in Brussels (BE)

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20 Iva Voldánová attended on 21 & 22 September the EquNet Project Meeting, and followed on 22 & 23 September with the EDEN event organised with EquNet; both events took place in Budapest (HU)

21 Michal Karpíšek was EURASHE representative at the Polish Conference of Rectors of Non-University Higher Education Institution (KRZASP) event celebrating the '20 years of Private HE' on 21 & 22 September in Warsaw (PL)

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24 EURASHE's Board met in Brussels (BE) with Andreas Orphanides, Michal Karpíšek, Marc Vandewalle, Stefan Delplace, Zdenka Steblovník Župan and Ronald Guillen

EURASHE organised a Crosscutting Session on Policy in Brussels (BE) gathering 30 members' representatives

EURASHE's General Assembly attracted more than 30 participants in Brussels (BE)

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26 Hans Daale took part in the meeting of European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) WG 3 'Sustainability of Lifelong Learning', in Brussels (BE), where a round table discussion concentrated on the issue of the Institute for Lifelong Learning and recommendations were also issued

Hans Daale took part in the meeting of European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) WG 2 'EU Tools and Competences', in Brussels (BE), concentrating on the Implementation of Lifelong Learning Strategies as well as the Stakeholders Forum

Hans Daale took part in the 'Fourth Stakeholders' Forum on EU cooperation in Education and Training "Priority areas for the 2012-14 work cycle of the Strategic Framework ET 2020", held on 26 & 27 September in Brussels (BE) by the European Commission (EC), dedicated to Education & Training 2020

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Highlight of September:

EURASHE elected its new President, Andreas G. Orphanides, Rector of European University Cyprus and Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences

October 2011

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3 Stefan Delplace represented EURASHE in Info-session: Delivering the Modernisation Agenda for Universities - Response to the E.C. Communication, VLEVA colloquium in Brussels (BE) delivering EURASHE's contribution to the Modernisation Agenda for Universities

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5 A EURASHE Communications Task Force was organised in Prague (CZ) with Iva Voldánová, Renata Radvanska, Francesca Operti, Michal Karpíšek, Alicia Leonor Sauli-Miklavčič and Anthony F. Camilleri

Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) organised an event entitled 'EMUNI University 3 years down the road: Progress, challenges and ways forward, The Bologna process' in Brussels (BE), where Stefan Delplace represented EURASHE

6 EURASHE's WG 4 on 'Mobility & International Openness' met in Prague (CZ) with Marek Frankowicz, Alicia Leonor Sauli-Miklavčič, and Iva Voldánová

Iva Voldánová, Marek Frankowicz and Alicia-Leonor Sauli-Miklavčič took part in the Conference 'Learning mobility in Higher Education: Trends, approaches and challenges' organised by Czech National Agency for European Educational Programmes (NAEP) on 6 & 7 October in Prague (CZ)

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11	EURASHE's WG 5 on 'Quality Assurance & Transparency Tools' met for the 7th time in 2011 in Brussels (BE) with 7 participants including Caty Duykaerts, Lucien Bollaert and Francesca Operti
12	Stefan Delplace attended the Mini-seminar organised by the Transparency Tools Working Group for the BFUG Meeting in Cracow (PL)
13	Stefan Delplace, Guy Aelterman and Marek Frankowicz took part in the BFUG Plenary Meeting held on 13 & 14 October in Cracow (PL)
14	Stefan Delplace took part in the BFUG Thematic Session on Quality Assurance, held in Cracow (PL) giving an update on the MAP ESG project and the external evaluation of the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR)
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17	Nicolae Dură represented EURASHE at the 'Future of Higher Education – Researchers' Conference – FOHE-BPRC 2011' organised in the framework of the Bologna Process from 17 to 19 October in Bucharest (RO)
	Marek Frankowicz made a contribution on the topic of mobility with a presentation on "Quality of Mobility in Higher Education" during the Conference 'Mobility as a tool to acquire and develop competences from childhood to seniority' organised by the Polish Presidency of the EU in Sopot (PL) from 17 to 19 October
	Iva Voldánová spoke during the second Integration Seminar of the CaribErasmus Project from 17 to 21 October in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) gathering 50 other participants
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25	EURASHE's WG 7 on 'Strategy & Implementation' met for the 3 rd time in 2011 in Brussels (BE) with 6 participants
	EURASHE's Communications Task Force met for the 3 rd time in 2011 in Brussels (BE)
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28	EURASHE's WG 5 on 'Quality Assurance & Transparency Tools' met for the 8 th time in Brussels (BE)
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November 2011

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2	Bryan Maguire took part in the meeting of the BFUG Working group on Qualifications Frameworks, held in Strasbourg (FR), dealing with an update from the WG on Recognition, the development of EQF and LLL, as well as the mini-seminar on QF in 2012 in Copenhagen
3	Stefan Delplace attended the meeting of the BFUG Working group on Reporting on the implementation of the Bologna Process, held in Brussels (BE)
4	The BFUG Working group on Social Dimension met in Brussels (BE) with Žarko Nožica as EURASHE representative, concentrating on the report of the group, on the feedback from the data collection exercise and on examples of good practice on the collection of good practices in Social Dimension
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8	Nicolae Dură took part in the Debates of the Final Validation Conference of the Erasmus Mobility Quality Tools (EMQT) project, held in Brussels (BE)
	Stefan Delplace, and Iva Voldánová represented EURASHE at the EquNet meeting & EquNet Conference on the Social Dimension, held on 8 & 9 November in Sofia (BG)
9	EURASHE's Secretary General took part in the meeting of the BFUG Working group International Openness, held in Bucharest (RO)
10	Magda Kirsch attended for EURASHE the 2nd Joint Seminar of EQF National Coordination Points and QF-EHEA National Correspondents, held in Warsaw (PL) where she gave a presentation on the "Findings from the EURASHE survey 'L5 – Missing Link' in the Bologna countries"
11	Hans Daale represented EURASHE in the meeting of European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) WG 3 on 'Sustainability of Lifelong Learning', held in Brussels (BE) where the European Institute for lifelong learning was presented and preparations were made for the public release of the proposal
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15	The European innovation and research network (MENON) and Enhancing Access through a focus on Equity (EquNet) International Seminar on Innovation in Public Policy took place in Brussels (BE) with Francesca Operti as EURASHE representative
16	The BFUG Board met with Researchers in Brussels (BE), Stefan Delplace representing EURASHE
17	EURASHE was represented at the 6th European Quality Assurance Forum - 2011 Antwerp: "Quality and Trust: at the heart of what we do", held from 17 to 19 November in Antwerp (BE), by its President Andreas Orphanides, Stefan Delplace, Guy Aelterman, Lucien Bollaert and Patrick Blondé
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19	EURASHE's Presidium met for the 2nd time in 2011 in Antwerp (BE)
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- 21 Iva Voldánová and Klaas Vansteenhuyse took part in this meeting with European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU) partners to discuss a possible cooperation as a follow up to the FLLEX project, in Brussels (BE)

Andreas G. Orphanides and Stefan Delplace were present and involved in the Members' Dialogue meeting of the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR), held in Vienna (AT) on 21 & 22 November, specifically to discuss the ESG and Lucien Bollaert was a speaker on the "External Evaluation and Self-Evaluation Process"

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- 28 Iva Voldánová represented EURASHE on 28 & 29 November in Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago) for the 3rd Integration Seminar of the CaribErasmus Project gathering 50 participants

Zdenka Steblovnik Župan represented EURASHE as a panellist in a round table discussion on students' needs and Student centred learning during the ŠOS Annual Conference 2011, organised by Student organisation of Slovenia (ŠOS) on 28 & 29 November in Olimie (SI)

- 30 Stefan Delplace attended the 3rd BFUG Board meeting of 2011 held in Copenhagen (DK)

Highlight of November:

EURASHE launched its brand new website dedicating more space to its Members, to EURASHE's involvement in projects such as FLLEX or CaribErasmus as well as to its Seminars and Conferences

- 12 Hans Daale attended the meeting of European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) WG 2 on 'EU Tools and Competences' held in Brussels (BE)

Stefan Delplace and Guy Aelterman represented EURASHE at the E4 Group (ENQA, EUA, EURASHE and ESU) meeting in Brussels (BE)

Stefan Delplace took part in the Second Seminar among EQAVET projects: "The role and involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the EQAVET framework", organised by European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET) and European innovation and research network (MENON) on 12 & 13 December in Brussels (BE)

- 13 EURASHE organised its last Communications Task Force of 2011 with Iva Voldánová, Francesca Operti, Anthony F. Camilleri and 4 other participants

European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) organised a Meeting of Education, Training & Youth Stakeholders on the future "Erasmus for All" in Brussels (BE) with Hans Daale attending

- 14 Stefan Delplace, Marek Frankowicz, and Bryan Maguire took part in the Conference on Quality Assurance organised by the European Commission (EC) on 14 & 15 December in Brussels (BE)

- 15 EURASHE's last activity of 2011: an Infoday and Seminar on the Lifelong Learning Programme (LP) Erasmus Centralised Actions and Jean Monnet activities organised by the Slovenian National Agency for LLP: Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes CMEPIUS in Maribor (SI) attended by EURASHE's Alicia Leonor Sauli-Miklavčič who presented the "Level 5, the missing link" project to the participants of the event

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December 2011

- 1 Stefan Delplace spoke on "Employable graduates for the EHEA: a stakeholders point of view" during the International Conference organised by the Council of Europe on 'Implementation of EHEA in Moldova' held on 1 & 2 December in Chisinau (MD)

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- 9 Zdenka Steblovnik Župan, Board Member of EURASHE, represented the association in capacity of Keynote Speaker on the topic of "NFQs and Occupational Standards as a Response to Labour Market needs" at the Round Table: "Qualifications Framework, National Qualifications Framework and occupational Standards as a prerequisite for Labour mobility" organised by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Federal Ministry of Education and Science in Tuzla (BA)

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Ravensteingalerij 27 / 3
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: 0032 (0)2 211 41 97
Fax: 0032 (0)2 211 41 99

eurashe@eurashe.eu
www.eurashe.eu