

Report for the Meeting

Purpose of the Meeting: Training Seminar for Bologna Experts

Participant/s: Ray Farrugia, Academic Registrar, MCAST

Report drawn up by: Ray Farrugia, Academic Registrar, MCAST

Time: 30 June from 8:45am – 18:30pm

01 July from 9:00am – 14:00pm

Abbreviations used: A – Austria; B – Belgium; CZ – Czech Republic; CY – Cyprus; DK – Denmark; EE – Estonia; FIN – Finland; F – France; D – Germany; EL – Greece; IRL – Ireland; HU – Hungary; I – Italy; LV – Latvia; LT – Lithuania; L – Luxembourg; M – Malta; NL – Netherlands; PL – Poland; P – Portugal; E – Spain; SI – Slovenia; SK – Slovakia; S – Sweden; UK – United Kingdom; CION – Commission.



Introduction

The Seminar was held at the Pharmacy Faculty of the Complutense University of Madrid. This was very well attended by representative experts from various European HE and University institutions as well as representatives of the European Programmes agencies in Europe. The conference was very well organised and the level of the speakers was very good. After a welcoming address by the Pro-rector of the University at the AULA COFARES of the host University the following agenda was followed.

1 Agenda Item number and Agenda item title (Heading 3 Times New Roman 12pt Bold)

- (a) Keynote speech by Jens Bjornvold, Cedefop. Mr Bjornvold delivered a very informative and illuminating speech which showed deep knowledge of the area of Vocational and Higher Education across Europe.
- (b) Stakeholders' contributions included a delivery speech by Juan Menendez Valdez from the Spanish Confederation of trade unions. The speech was more focused on the Spanish reality and was of small significance to the Malta scene. This was perhaps the weakest contribution in the seminar.
- (c) Virtual Community – Mr Christof Devriendt launched and explained the new website intended for Bologna experts as an information and exchange platform. Details were provided as to how the system would operate and how one could register.
- (d) Parallel workshops (day 1) – two parallel workshops were held with lunchbreak in between. I took part in workshop "B" Rm 23c. This was attended by 12 people on day 1 and 9 people on day 2. Because of the small number it was decided to limit the scope of the workshop to analysing the example given to identify possible improvements. The brief was originally to write a set of outcomes for a given unit. The workshop was chaired by Luc Francoise with the help of a student from Iceland. The diminished participation in the second workshop in the next day was attributed to some participants having to leave Madrid.
- (e) Virtual community (registration) – the morning was spent registering for the Virtual Community, including photo sessions re the new web facility explained the previous day.

(f) Parallel workshops (day 2) – This was a continuation of the workshops held in day 1. Luc Francoise took occasion to read and confirm the notes he had taken the previous day and to draw up the report for the closing session in the afternoon. Previous to this a discussion was held which tackled issues of learning outcome, employability etc. Mention was made of the lack of discussion on assessment methodology regarding learning outcomes and the hazy thinking behind the accreditation of the non-formal and the informal.

(g) A further presentation was made on the position reached after the registration process to the Virtual Community. The number of registrations was encouraging and the features and facilities that were explained were also encouraging for users.

(h) The two-day event was closed in the afternoon by a small report by various speakers, including the chairs of the workshop sessions. Due to time constraints there was little room for detail. The discussion was opened to the floor.

Issues to be followed up by Malta

No particular issues are expected to be followed by (MCAST)Malta at this stage.

Date of Next Meeting (if applicable)

No date was identified for the next meeting.

Angio 06/07/08

