A report of brainstorming workshop on policy (Riga, 11.5.2012) – WG3 (NQFs & SCL) – plan of activities in next period:

Attendees were given (in printed version) and explained (by the WG leader) four chosen priorities of EURASHE regarding this topic, two of which related more to NQFs and two related to SCL.

Subject areas that we were looking for contributions were:

1. **What concrete measures and activities regarding the topic of this WG can be done within short period (within this calendar year or next 12 months)?**
2. **What strategy and activities should be planned for next strategic period – till 2015?**
3. **Who (what experts) should be engaged in these activities (suggestions from attendees)?**

The brainstorm session was repeated three times with 2, 3 and 3 attendees (altogether 8) from different EURASHE members HEIs.

Generally some attendees found problems in discussing mainly the first two questions they felt that the subject area of the WG3 needs more transparency.

It is not questionable whether these two subject areas are connected but the fact that the relations are not directly visible causes some problems, mainly in recruiting the group members and experts.

Well prepared NQFs depend on the system as whole, while SCL is more the matter of institutional aspect. Link between the two are properly understood and adopted LOs base, but in the case of NQFs on systematic level, while in case of SCL adopted through the institutional culture and mindset.

Still, we thought that there are possibilities to justify this connection in the subject of the WG while even increasing its transparency at the same time:

Regarding the question No 1: In the near future (planning short-time activities) we should concentrate more on SCL part of the WG3 mission - it is important since fostering SCL approach has been put by EC within the set of priorities no.1 regarding bologna development for the next period. The concrete activities suggested by the contributors and the reasons were:

activities	rationale
Short questionnaire – EURASHE members (investigative)	To see the state of the art of SCL understanding and inclusion on institutional level (assumption: there are currently significant differences between countries, educational systems and institutions) To define key influential cultural or institutional characteristics that facilitate or impede introduction of SCL approach.
A short brochure of informative nature (printed and distributed) on key elements and definitions of SCL	There are significant misunderstandings on what SCL is and is not.
One event (seminar or conference track) at EU level (by EURASHE) on this topic	Related to presenting the questionnaire results and brochure – aimed to start creating a platform/network and database of with

	experience, expertise and interest, plus examples of good practise (this goes for the **question No 3** as well)

Regarding the question No 2: Strategy of WG3 until 2015 should be in:

activities	rationale
Developing further supporting community and platforms for dissemination	Sectoral networks – many problems institutions face (and possible solutions) when implementing SCL approach are specific for different sector (technical education, engineering studies, business studies,…)
Creating and organizing more thematic seminars for leaders and teachers in HE (on different levels – EU, national, sectoral)	Specific target groups on specific problematic of SCL – assessment in SCL, methodology of teaching, role of the teacher,…
Applying strategic activities to emphasise and demonstrate the links between presence of SCL culture in HEIs and whole systems, and the development of NQFs based on the LOs	Assumption that a system with HE institutions that foster and develop SCL and LO approach as able to create and develop more useful, transparent and quality NQF.

As to the question No 3:

Activities planned for next short period (questionnaire, events) should contribute to attracting more experts to the WG.

Suggestion is also to get connected to HE systems that have significant experience and results in SCL approach (some USA/Canadian/Australian universities and colleges) and invite as key speakers recognized researchers on this field.

Conclusions:

WG3 evaluates these suggestions as highly contribute, especially because they confirmed and detailed previously set ideas by the WG(at the WG3 meeting that same day in Riga) while added and justified some more. Such short and concrete sessions seem to be highly effective and should be done more often.

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