

EAIE- FEDORA cooperation

April 2011

1. Introduction

Following up on the last report from autumn 2010, this report will point out the implications of the merger for the EAIE and FEDORA in order to prepare the last steps in the process. That is the decision to be taken at the General Assembly of FEDORA during the Summer University and the final decisions in the EAIE General Council.

The steering group and the working groups have met several times last year. The most recent meetings took place just before and during the Joint Leadership Meeting in February in Copenhagen.

The EAIE/FEDORA working groups have looked more closely at the content and the topics of their group's interest field on which they can work together and formulated action plans.

The overall conclusion is that the related groups see a lot of potential in the merger and seem willing to start as soon as possible:

- *EMPLOI / Fedora Career Guidance & Counselling (EMPLOI)*
- *DIW / Fedora Inclusion-Equal Opportunities (ACCESS)*
- *SAFSA / Fedora Educational Guidance and Counselling (SAFSA)*
- *PSYCHE (Fedora – Psychological Guidance and Counselling in HE), as separate group (PSYCHE)*

For the status, progress and next steps of these joint groups we refer to the actions plans of the specific PS and SIG.

The steering group which is monitoring the merger process has explored ways of how to fit in important FEDORA topics in the EAIE and how to implement these in the current structure, taking into account as much as possible the wishes and needs of those involved.

2. Implications of the merger for the EAIE and FEDORA

What will the merger mean for the EAIE?

- Introducing a broader and specialised perspective on the topic of Guidance & Counselling
- Take over the role of stakeholder in the field of Guidance & Counselling in the European arena
- Introducing a PS or SIG on psychological guidance and counselling with the possible name Psyche
- Merging three existing EAIE PS/SIG's with 3 FEDORA working groups, which means an additional focus on guidance and counselling within the groups:
 - EMPLOI / Career Guidance and Counselling (PS)
 - SAFSA / Educational Guidance and Counselling (PS)
 - DIW / Inclusion-Equal Opportunities (SIG)
- Find a format for small scale thematic events
- New members who will contribute to EAIE's mission and goals

What will the merger mean for FEDORA?

- Introducing a more international and intercultural profile to the FEDORA content
- Becoming part of a larger European organisation and network
- Merging three FEDORA working groups with three existing related EAIE groups
- One current FEDORA working group (Psyche) will become a SIG or PS on its own. The procedure will be started as soon as possible
- More ways of being active and contributing to fields of interest, commitment to actively participate in these range of events:
 - EAIE Annual conference
 - Sessions
 - Workshops
 - Dialogues (former seminars)
 - Poster sessions
 - EAIE Academy
 - Small scale thematic events
 - Communication and Publication opportunities
 - Articles in Forum magazine
 - EAIE Occasional Papers
 - Raabe Handbook of Internationalisation in European Higher Education
 - EAIE Tool kits
- Networking opportunities
- Strong support structure offered by the EAIE Office in Amsterdam
- Dissolution of FEDORA as organization under Belgian law
- Disappearance of the name FEDORA
- Disappearance of the FEDORA Board, Executive committee & National coordinators structure

3. Opportunities for FEDORA and EAIE

1. Stakeholder representation

FEDORA has always been a well-known stakeholder in its field of interest in the international context of government representatives, members of the European Commission and other European organisations, like the ELGPN (European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network).

EAIE will continue this role on behalf of FEDORA as stakeholder in Europe and furthermore under the umbrella of EAIE, each PS and SIG will represent the specific specialist interests on all political levels - regional, national and international - as well as with courtesy associations of the EAIE. Therefore the specific FEDORA field of Guidance and Counselling will be covered within the EAIE, either by the EAIE leadership or by one or more of the PS/SIG's.

Furthermore the topic of Guidance & Counselling will be broadened by the international and intercultural profile of the EAIE and from another angle the current fields of interest of all PS and SIG's will be broadened by the topic of Guidance & Counselling, because this topic can be seen as a more horizontal cross sectional section through different PS's and SIG's.

2. *Small scale events*

PS and SIGs will be offered the opportunity to organise small scale thematic events. Merged or new sections (from former FEDORA working groups) will then have the opportunity alongside other PS and SIG's to come up with proposals for such events. It is expected that there will be proposals in the field of Guidance and Counselling. The events will be organised under the responsibility of the Professional Development Committee, the EAIE Office and PS/SIG's.

3. *Psyche to become a PS as soon as possible*

Given the policies of setting up a PS that were applicable at the time FEDORA became a SIG (February 2010), it is up to the current working group PSYCHE of FEDORA to put forward an application to the Board of the EAIE which will give a recommendation to the General Council of the EAIE. Depending upon a positive decision of the General Council, it can be established as a new PS within the EAIE.