
THE POWER OF...



JUNE 17-18, 2010
DE MEERVAART – **AMSTERDAM** – THE NETHERLANDS

NEWSLETTER 1 - February 3, 2010

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1 Background of the seminar

This seminar in Amsterdam will be held as part of an international Atlantis project on Short Cycle Higher Education Programs in the United States and countries involved in the Bologna Process. This process is focused on important aspects of the national higher education areas, crucial for international cooperation between higher education institutions and for the recognition of degree programs. The Short Cycle in the European Higher Education Area can be the first higher degree in a national context, as level 5 in the European Qualifications Framework, and in this way the underlying programs are important for the building of necessary bridges between secondary (vocational) education and tertiary (higher professional and/or academic) education.

One of the biggest challenges in most of the countries is to formulate an effective strategy on Life Long Learning, to get more and better skilled people, also on the Bachelor's and higher levels. The Short Cycle, called Associate degree in The Netherlands, the U.S., Australia et cetera, and the Foundation degree in the U.K., is one of the 'instruments' to get more flexible learning paths, as can be seen in those countries. But there are more instruments, often to be used in combination with Short Cycle Higher Education program, like: Recognition of Prior Learning, cooperation with professional bodies, non-formal education as part of formal programs and so on. In this seminar we will discuss national strategies on LLL, the place of the SCHE in the higher education area and the use of instruments which are also subjects in the Bologna Process.

2 Seminar websites

Information about the seminar, the project itself, the newsletters and background reports can be found on the following websites:

- www.dashe.nl/events/dashe/seminars.html
- <http://atlantis.utoledo.edu>

3 Seminar Venue

Conference center / theatre 'De Meervaart'
Meer en Vaart 300 / 1068 LE Amsterdam
Tel. 0031 20 4107700

Information about this venue can be found on www.meervaart.nl. De Meervaart is a theatre in the western part of Amsterdam. The conference venue can easily be reached by train (from Airport Schiphol and Amsterdam Central Station) and by tram (from the centre of Amsterdam). In the next newsletter we will give detailed information about 'how to reach the Meervaart'.

4 Program

At this moment we have the following program in mind. More details, names of speakers and other contributors will be mentioned in the next newsletters.

Thursday, June 17

09.00 – 10.00 h.

- Registration

10.00 – 10.20 h.

- Welcome ceremony
- Presentation: Atlantis project and the aims of this seminar

10.20 – 11.10 h.

- Plenary presentations about national strategies on LLL
 - The Netherlands
 - U.S.
 - Bulgaria

11.10 – 11.35 h

- Coffee break

11.35 – 12.00 h

- Presentation: Results of a study on 'More flexibility in the Dutch Higher Education Area... and do have other countries better solutions?'

12.00 – 12.30 h

- Panel discussion on national LLL strategies (U.S., The Netherlands, England, France, Bulgaria) – looking at the Bologna Process and 'the modernizing' of the Higher Education Area in the next decade

12.30 – 13.45 h.

- Lunch

13.45 – 14.45 h.

- Plenary presentations
 - Study on LLL in Bulgaria
 - LLL in Canada / Role of the SCHE in the Education System

14.45 – 15.00 h

- Coffee break

15.00 – 16.30 h.

- Workshops (7 sub-themes):
 1. Cooperation between Higher Education Institutions and Businesses
 2. Recognition of Prior Learning
 3. Combination of Formal and Non-Formal Learning

4. Quality Assurance and Accreditation
5. Flexible Learning Paths for Adult Learners
6. Regional Cooperation, focused on Life Long Learning
7. Governmental Involvement in Life Long Learning Policy, and others

16.30 – 17.15 h.

- Plenary presentation: The Role of VET and Community Colleges in LLL

19.30 – 22.00 h.

- Dinner Cruise (on the canals of Amsterdam)

Friday June 18

09.30 – 10.45 h.

- Plenary presentations
 - Plenary presentation: First results of a study on the SCHE (level 5) in the EQF, in the Bologna Process
 - National Frameworks: Combination of the EQF and the EHEA in the Bologna Process – a good practice, thinking about LLL and SCHE programs

10.45 – 11.15 h.

- Coffee break

11.15 – 12.30 h

- Workshops (7 sub-themes):
 1. Cooperation between Higher Education Institutions and Businesses
 2. Recognition of Prior Learning
 3. Combination of Formal and Non-Formal Learning
 4. Quality Assurance and Accreditation
 5. Flexible Learning Paths for Adult Learners
 6. Regional Cooperation, focused on Life Long Learning
 7. Governmental Involvement in Life Long Learning Policy, and others

12.30 – 13.45 h.

- Lunch

13.45 – 14.30 h.

- Plenary session: Conclusions and recommendations, based on the workshops

14.30 – 15.00 h

- Panel discussion: recommendations

15.00 - 15.20 h.

- Coffee break

15.20 – 15.45 h.

- General view of the seminar rapporteur...

15.45 – 16.15 h

- Presentation: Plans for the founding of an international network on SCHE programs 'World Association for Short Higher Education Programs' – Members: national and regional associations and individual experts
- Closing of the seminar

16.15 h....

- Drinks, wrap up, et cetera

5 Pre-seminar

On Wednesday June 16, we will have activities, as part of the 'pre-seminar'. Among the activities there will be visits to a College and University of Applied Sciences in Amsterdam. In the next newsletters we will give more information. Participation fees for these visits are included in the seminar fees.

6 Workshops

As you can see in the program there will be seven sub themes and two workshops on every theme. We would like every participant to choose one theme and follow both workshops. So if you are in Amsterdam with one or more colleagues, each can take different themes (to be mentioned on the registration form we will send you).

The set-up of the two workshops 'as a whole' is as follows:

Workshops on Thursday:

- Two presentations on the sub-theme:
 - about the situation in the Netherlands (as starting point for the discussions as a group)
 - and in the United States, Canada or Bulgaria (reflections: other good practices, ideas...)
- Discussion in the group.

Workshops on Friday:

- Two presentations on the sub-theme:
 - about the situation in one of the other countries in the Bologna Process, also as a basis for the discussions in the group
 - and a second country (also with reflections on the situation in that country)
- Followed by an overall discussion on the sub-theme, and...
- Conclusions and recommendations.

7 Contributors to the workshops

In the workshops there will be contributions by organizations and experts on the themes. At this moment we have contributions from the following countries:

- The Netherlands
- France
- Ireland
- Scotland
- United States
- Canada
- Bulgaria
- Belgium
- England
- Finland
- Denmark.

8 Registration Procedure

If you want to participate in the seminar, please use the booking form on the seminar website:

www.dashe.nl/events/dashe/seminars.html or send an email to: info@leido.nl for the attention of Hans Daale, including the following details – and we will send you the booking form:

- Name
- Organisation
- Email address.

Upon receipt of your e-mail or booking form, you will receive an acknowledgement. If you don't receive the acknowledging e-mail within four days, please inform the Seminar Secretariat: info@leido.nl.

9 Seminar Fees

The participant's fees are, including all documentation, coffee breaks and lunches:

- One day (Thursday or Friday): 200 euro
- Dinner Cruise, Thursday Evening: 50 euro
- Thursday, including dinner cruise: 235 euro
- Both days, without dinner cruise: 350 euro
- Both days, including dinner cruise: 385 euro

Specific situation

We as organizers of this Atlantis seminar know that for some countries, involved in the Bologna Process, these fees are relatively high, in comparison with the average incomes and budgets for international projects and seminars. In case you want to participate in the seminar, being in such a position, we will ask you to send an email to the organization (info@leido.nl) and we will take your situation into consideration. We are hoping to attract in this way many experts from a lot of countries, giving you the opportunity to discuss about LLL with them...

Payment

The registration fees exclude VAT 6%. All payments must be made in euros (€). We will send your personal invoice, including the necessary information about how to pay the fee.

10 Social Program

There will be a social program on Saturday June 19. In one of the following newsletters we will give you an overview of the possibilities (excursions by bus or boat, visits to museums, extra workshops by regional businesses, et cetera.), including a list of costs.

11 Hotels

At this moment we are negotiating with hotels in Amsterdam and near Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, for special prices for a number of rooms. In the next newsletters we will publish a list of suitable hotels.

Besides this our experience is that there are many possibilities to make a reservation for a hotel using internet (www.hotels.com / www.booking.com / www.tripadvisor.com et cetera). These web sites offer most of the time rooms for the lowest prices – often lower as we are able to offer the participants as a result of the negotiations with the hotels...

12 Practical Information

In the next newsletter we will give you some practical information, hoping that it will be of help during the seminar and make your stay in Amsterdam more enjoyable. This information will be about subjects like:

- From Schiphol Airport to Amsterdam, the hotels and the venue
- Trains and trams in The Netherlands: tickets and other important details
- Currency and banking
- Emergency telephone numbers
- Weather in The Netherlands.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published at the beginning of March.

