

Minutes: IRO meeting at the Euroleague Conference 21 +22 of October 2004

The IROs met three times during the conference: the 21st of October 2004 from 9:00 – 10:00 and 13:00 – 15:00 and on the 22nd of October from 9:00 – 10:00. It was hardly any time for the IROs to work on their plans and it was expressed that more time should be allocated to the team of the IRO during the conference. Beside the IRO-meetings the member of the international Offices have participated at the welcome reception on the 20th of October and on the 21st of October at the presentations of the Subject Areas, discussion on the ELLS enlargement and on the 22nd of October at the on the joint TF and Board meeting. The IRO members presented their topics of activities at the joint meeting of TF, Board, SA coordinators, QA group on the 21st of October 2004 from 17:00-18:00

21st of October 2004, 9:00 – 10:00:

Participants:

Anne-Grethe Routley (KVL)
Monica Bengtsson (SLU)
Christine Donat (Hohenheim)
Jeanine Hermans (Wageningen)
Christina Griessler (BOKU)
Wolfgang Sünder (BOKU)

Anne-Grethe Routley welcomes the attendees at the meeting. She reminded the group that in the afternoon a presentation should be given about the objects and aims of the activities for the year 2005. The IRO groups aim is to develop an administrative support for the subjects areas, e.g. for the Intensive Programmes. As a follow-up of the IRO meeting in Hohenheim in February, a draft questionnaire has been prepared. The objective of the IRO project is to create an in-depth overview concerning academic, legal and administrative issues related to joint MSc programmes, to establish a common understanding and an operational definition for joint master programmes and as a result prepare a manual for planning and implementing joint ELLS MSc programmes.

In the afternoon the IROs have to present to the board, why the IROs are doing it and the time table of activities. The group agreed that a meeting of the IROs should be planned very soon to discuss the performance of the interviews and the outcomes.

The ELLS universities are involved in the accepted ICA ERASMUS MUNDUS Project. Monica Bengtsson agrees to shortly present the project at the Board meeting, but prefers that Simon Heath is doing the presentation of the project.

According to the schedule Christina Griessler is giving a short overview of the Internationalisation Strategy of BOKU:

Summary of presentation:

In 1998, BOKU became one of the first Austrian universities to develop an Internationalisation Strategy. The strategy can be found at the webpage: www.boku.ac.at/zib/strateng.html

The strategy was evaluated in 2001 by external international experts. (Members of IROICA)
Outcome of the evaluation: Some objectives were successfully achieved, some have to be achieved. Quantifiable goals and performance indicators have to be included into the strategy.

Why is it important for BOKU to have a strategy?

The BOKU professes being an international performer in research and teaching, cooperating across national and international borders, and initiating open-mindedness towards new development.

The geo-political situation of BOKU as well as the limitations of its finances requires the definition and focussing of its external interests. BOKU has taken this into account through the formulation of an internationalisation strategy.

Reasons for an internationalisation strategy: increase of student mobility, increase of teacher mobility, Exchanges and multilateral recognition of studies, interest of students and staff in English courses (Master courses), co-operation between institutions & development of networks.

Influences by the Bologna Declaration: Transformation to BSc and MSc, implementation of ECTS to be able to compare and recognition the courses and grades, Promoting mobility of students and staff, Promotion of European Co-operation in quality assurance

Influences by the European Programmes: SOKRATES, TEMPUS, Third country projects (EU-USA, EU-Australia, Erasmus Mundus, etc.)

Aims of the Strategy of Internationalisation:

1) Internationalisation of the studies:

Student Mobility:

- Increase of outgoing students (25%)
- Increase of incoming / international students (15%)
- Development of Joint Study Programmes (in English)
- Successful implementation of ECTS

Internationalisation of Continuing Education:

- Development of international continuing education courses (offered on regular basis, advertised internationally, quality standards – summer schools)

Internationalisation of teaching:

„Internationalisation at Home,, & „International Classroom“

- International guest lecturers (in five subjects)
- Development of foreign language courses (IP)
- international and interdisciplinary courses
- Obligation to attend lectures in a foreign languages

2) Internationalisation of research:

- foster international co-operation and exchange of scientists
- improve mobility of scientists
- Use of sabbaticals
- Easier access to BOKU travel funds
- Improve support of project initiation and application (EU Framework Programmes)
- Increase participation in scientific conferences
- Improve administrative support for internal conferences & workshops
- support the publication activities in international journals
- foster integration of foreign doctoral and post-doc students
- Assessment of dissertation and doctoral theses according to internationals accepted procedures

3) International Co-operation networks

- Use of synergy effects (education & research & continuing education)
- A international Alumni network should be established
- According to the EU and OEAD (Austrian Exchange Service) networks are a preferable form of co-operation

Boku is member in ICA (Interuniversity Consortium for Agr. and Related Sciences), SILVA, IROICA, NATURA (Network of European Agr. - Tropically + Sub-tropically oriented – Univ.+Sc. complexes related with Agr. Dev.), IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations), ASEA-UNINET, EURASIA-PACIFIC NETWORK, ASEFOREP (ASIA-Europe Forestry Exchange Programme), EUROLEAGUE, EUA, DRC

Consequences of the strategy:

- Foundation of an organisational unit
- Foundation of a committee, which advises the university administration (Rector & Vice-Rector)
- University administration, which has the ultimate responsibility for the internationalisation of the university.
- New university organisation should have positive effects on the process of internationalisation at BOKU

What has been done?

- Setting up of the International Committee
- Naming of one international contact person for each department (13).
- Establishing of international Master courses in English (Mountain Forestry, Mountain Risk Engineering)
- Establishing the “MSc in Horticultural Sciences” in cooperation with the University in Bologna and the TU Munich.
- Establishing of Double Degree Courses (University of Cranfield)
- Establishing of Joint Degree with Lincoln University (New Zealand) “Natural Resources Management and Ecological Engineering”

Problems:

- Limited financial Resources to foster and support teacher and student mobility
- Limited financial resources to improve and foster the cooperation between Universities.
- Difficulties within the Joint Degree Programme in awarding one degree to the students & unbalanced exchange
- BOKU will introduce fees for language courses
- Bureaucratic application procedure for EU-projects and low financial support (extra financial resources has to be found)

Positive Developments:

- We offer more lectures in English (approx. 190)
- Cooperation within Euroleague suits the “Strategy of Internationalisation”
- Euroleague summer school (Intensive Programmes) “First step towards student mobility & lectures in English & “International Classroom” & foreign teachers
- Within the International Committee international co-operations and there need or importance will be discussed and revised for an international BOKU profile

Future Projects:

- 2-week Summer University on „Soil-Microbe-Plant Interactions: Fundamentals and Applications“ in Summer 2005
- 2-week Intensive Programme ”Intensive Programme in integrated Mountain Forests Management “planed for 2004/2005
- 2-week Intensive Programme ”Verantwortungsvolle Bodennutzung” is planned for 2004/05.
- EU-USA: Comparing US and EU Biotechnology, Food safety and Regulatory Policies.

After the presentation of the Strategy of Internationalisation of BOKU, Anne-Grethe Routley suggested to go through the description of the framework for the joint MSc degrees/programmes.

Following changes to the version dated the 20th of October, were recommended

In the title: Change from “Euro League” to “Euroleague”
Change “Frame work” to “framework” (small capital letter)
Instead of “MSc degrees”, “MSc programmes” should be used

Second paragraph, first line: In creating joint degrees (...), In creating joint programmes (...)

Third paragraph, fourth line: one “l” is missing in the acronym ELLS

Fourth paragraph, sixth line: plural has to be used; ... participating ELLS countries, instead of participating ELLS country.

Fourth paragraph, eighth line: one “l” is missing in the acronym ELLS

Fourth paragraph, twelfth line: ... instead of “MSc degrees”, “MSc programmes”

Sixth paragraph, third line: one “l” is missing in the acronym ELLS

Seventh paragraph, fourth line: “February 2005 Presentation of the final report at the ELLS meeting” was erasure.

Seventh paragraph: “3rd person for side visits” has to be added to the paragraph

After that the draft of the **questionnaire** was evaluated:

First page, first paragraph:

Change from “Euro League” to “Euroleague”
Instead of “double degrees”, “double programmes” should be used
Instead of “The 5 rectors of the ELLS universities...”, “The task forces of the ELLS universities...” should be used.
one “l” is missing in the acronym ELLS
instead of “joint and double degrees”, “Master programmes” should be used.

First page, second paragraph:

one “l” is missing in the acronym ELLS
instead of “degrees”, “programmes” should be used

Second page: one “l” is missing in the acronym ELLS

“1.3. Has your institution implemented to BSc – MSC system?” has to be changed to “1.3. Has your institution implemented the BSc-MSc system?”

1.4.: BSc to BSc

1.5.: MSC to MSc

Third page: 1.14: “joint degree program” has to be change to “joint MSc program”

1.14, 1.15, 1.16, 1.17, became erasure.

Fourth page: Section 2. “Definition” has to be change to “Guidelines for the ELLS Framework”

Instead of “at least two ELLS universities”, “at least three ELLS universities”

Due time limit the meeting has to be postponed to be able to follow the other meetings which have been scheduled for the IRO members.

21st of October 2004, 13:00 – 15:00

Participants:

Anne-Grethe Routley (KVL)
Monica Bengtsson (SLU)
Christine Donat (Hohenheim)
Jeanine Hermans (Wageningen)
Christina Griessler (BOKU)

The IROs discussed the ICA-ERASMUS-Mundus Project, which was accepted by the European Commission. It's not clear what is meant with "promote diversity". Within the project a database with all existing Master courses should be set up and a quality assurance framework has to be established.

The project consists of 5 work packages. The IROs will be involved in WP # 2 developing a handbook of good practice for the care of international students.

In the framework for the joint MSc programmes, it has to be decided who should be interviewed?

- administrative staff or persons responsible for legal tasks or the registrar

The outcome of the activities can be interesting for the ICA-Erasmus Mundus, which starts in 2006. It was suggested that the results should be put on a webpage, which can contain the information helpful for the ICA-project.

The **national law** is quite inflexible in establishing a joint degree:

Ministry in Sweden is not very interested to support the concept of a joint degree.

In Denmark there are some legal difficulties to set up the joint degree. Double Degree programmes are possible.

In Austria universities are not able to issue a common certificate for a joint degree.

Germany has the same difficulties with legal restrictions.

The IRO group *continues working on the draft* of the questionnaire.

22nd of October 2004, 9:00 – 10:00

Participants:

Anne-Grethe Routley (KVL)
Monica Bengtsson (SLU)
Christine Donat (Hohenheim)
Jeanine Hermans (Wageningen)
Christina Griessler (BOKU)

ELLS scholarship: Each university has to provide 5 ELLS-scholarship for students who would like to attend the ELLS summer schools. The scholarships have to be labelled as Euroleague scholarships to make the ELLS more popular and known to the students at the universities. It's a kind of advertising for ELLS.

WUR, KVL and SLU have already implemented the ELLS scholarships at their universities. At UHOH 8 scholarships from the Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg are reserved for ELLS students (4 for outgoing students, 4 for incoming students from other ELLS universities). The amount of the scholarships is 400 €/month, the scholarship period is 4 – 11 months.

In 2004, UHOH participants of the ELLS summer schools received a scholarship of 150 €. BOKU has not yet established an ELLS-Scholarship system. The money for scholarship will not come out of the university's ELLS-Budget. Students can apply for money, which comes out of other sources.

The minimum amount of the scholarship is EURO 150 (UHOH). KVL scholarship is EURO 300, SLU's EURO 200 and Wageningen as well Euro 200.

The amount of money for the scholarships should be harmonised. It was decided that the amount of the scholarship should be 200 EURO.

a) Scholarships:

- amount of money should be harmonised
- Scholarships for ELLS activities have to be available for the students
- Scholarships have to be labelled as ELLS Scholarships.
- The students will be selected and screened at the home institutions
- The requirements for the scholarship don't have to be harmonised (prerequisite: students has to be enrolled at one of the ELLS university)
- International Students (china, USA etc.) can be accepted at the ELLS summer school and activities and have the possibility to apply for the scholarship. Students like the international atmosphere.

b) Finances for projects:

- a list of funding possibilities is in progress. The information will be put on the webpage. Next to the project a contact person should be mentioned.
- (ERASMUS-Mundus, Leonardo da vinci, Marie Curie, ect..)
- Peter Mayr did a presentation on the third country programmes at the IROICA Conference in Angers in 2003. Christina Griessler will try to get the presentation, so that this information can be made available.
- The information should support the subject areas groups in finding some financial sources for their projects.
- 6th and 7th research framework programme has to be mentioned as well
- Information about tuitions fees in the BSc- and MSc level has to be added to the list.

The list will be *coordinated* by Anne-Grethe Routley