

10th Global RCE Conference
Yogyakarta, Indonesia



Europe Continental Meeting

15:00-17:00, 23 November 2016

Moderator: Detlev Lindau-Bank (RCE Oldenburg-Muensterland)

Facilitator: Jos Hermans (Advisor for Region Europe)

The objective of the session was to assess the status quo of the European network state as well as activities within the region and take a future outlook. This region has the highest density of RCEs, hence it was difficult to meet or listen to each other. To facilitate a better communication communicators Detlev Lindau-Bank and Ros Wade had been appointed. There were still a few European countries not covered by RCEs and it was discussed how one could stimulate them to join the network. There was a brief discussion on the state of activities whereby it appeared that most RCEs were involved in curriculum development including societal organisations.

Key Discussion Points

Research State of Affairs in the European RCE Community

Detlev had conducted extensive research on the state of the RCE community: two RCEs no longer existed. At least five RCEs seem to need help in reorganizing or revitalising. There was an under-representation of RCEs in the South and East of Europe. It was decided to start an active recruitment- campaign in these countries. European members were invited to make suggestions.

RCE Meetings and Regional Meeting 2017

There were suggestions to have future meetings around themes such as TVET and Migration which were pressing issues in the region. Participants felt that meeting once a year was not enough. A delegate from Belarus suggested meeting online or in another format with smaller groups. RCE North Sweden suggested to map the region's needs in order to identify the reasons to meet. This could then crystallize in smaller thematic meetings which were easier to organise. Funds would be easier to come by if synergies were identifiable. This however required some type of coordination in the region. It was also relevant to have meetings back to back with other relevant ESD events. There could be thematic webinars for RCE participants or spatial meetings with 10-15 participants with good experience in a certain field. Detlev pointed out that this was already happening in parts where RCEs were working together and meeting at different events to discuss things more in detail. For example, in 2009 the region met to align their activities for funding.

RCE Ruhr invited to meet in the Westfalenhalle in Dortmund for the 2017 European RCE-conference. During the meeting it was decided to kindly receive this invitation, and ask all European RCEs to react on this. Formally within UNU-IAS, an Open Call was necessary to get official funds and support. RCE Oldenburg-Muensterland and RCE Ruhr were hoping to host the 2017 European RCE meeting around the ESD event Fair friends (7-9 October, 2017) and would

submit an application through the open call set forth by UNU-IAS. Most European RCEs had previously agreed to host the meeting in Germany at the latest meeting in London for 2016.

In Reading, UK, on January 21 there was a workshop on ESD planned which could be of interest to other RCEs. RCE Denmark emphasized the need for meetings which were more outcome oriented. RCE North Sweden was currently being activated and was hoping to meet European members and hear more how meetings were organised and agendas set of these meeting.

Overview of projects and activities.

Two thirds of RCEs had reported over the last two years and had introduced more than 50 projects. Currently many projects were being developed. Most of the projects involved the formal and informal educational sector, meeting the different issues set forth in the GAP and SDGs and were executed in curriculum development. In those projects, multiple RCE-cooperation had been established.

New Topic on Migration

Some RCEs were developing a position paper on migration and would like to receive comments and contributions. As a thematic approach for smaller events, migration was mentioned. It was still necessary to link the paper to the important issue of education. There were some RCEs not in line with the paper, which needed to be addressed. Under development was a Europe-wide Migrants policy. See minutes on the Migration session during the conference.

Action Points

1. Organizing an active RCE-recruitment for 2017 in order to assist existing RCEs that are in need of help, and to invite new partners in South and North to mobilize efforts for proposing new RCEs.
2. Continuing the support and funding of meaningful curriculum-development projects.
3. Providing a conference calendar, which shows which RCE will attend a conference. This should strengthen the collaboration and communication among the European RCEs. Margaret (RCE EM) and Maari (RCE Espoo) will develop a layout for the conference calendar. Although there was a conference calendar on the RCE Portal, there was the additional need to show which RCEs are engaged in which activities.
4. Organize a public awareness campaign on Migrants issues.
5. Organize an Open Call for the next continental meeting. Detlev, as communicator of the European RCEs will submit the open call to UNU-IAS.

Attendees:

Mari Nuutinen (RCE Espoo), Lars Myrthu (RCE Denmark), Andrej Dakhin (RCE Nizhny Novgorod), Igor Arzhenowski (RCE Nizhny Novgorod), Jos Hermans (Regional Advisor Europe), Margaret Fleming (RCE East Midlands), Detlev Lindau Bank (RCE Oldenburg-Muensterland), Rasmus Bahnsen (RCE Denmark), David Rangan (RCE Denmark), Ingvar Rönnbäck (RCE North Sweden), Michel Ricard (RCE Bordeaux)