



# Inform



## 25 years of history - a brief summary



eucen was born at a meeting of universities held in Bristol (UK) on 04-05 May 1991. More than 20 participants decided to explore prospects for international collaboration in university continuing education. During the meeting 10 different countries presented a description of the national picture of continuing education and the group set the objectives they felt Europe needed to achieve.

After some years of initial work under the directions of eucen's first president, Peter von Mitschke-Collande, who set the main ways of working (such as establishing the organisation of two conferences per year), the Association started its journey, nowadays fully consolidated, with the coordination of EU

-funded projects such as TheNUCE during the mandate of president Victor de Kosinsky. TheNUCE allowed over 25 members of eucen to work together, exchange ideas and develop the basis for better continuing education in their own universities.

Consolidation of eucen as a relevant and influential Association in Europe started without doubt when the Steering Committee group led by eucen's third president, Manuel Assunção, decided to transform the voluntary-based Association into a professional one, employing a full time director, Pat Davies, and permanent full time support staff based in Barcelona that started developing projects such as

EQUIPE Plus<sup>1</sup>. The team brought eucen to another level, engaging in big contracts that allowed the office to grow as never before and engage in a wider range of activities.

This period was followed in 2006 with president Michel Feutrie's deep involvement with key policy makers in Brussels and visionary production of materials such as the outputs of BeFlex+<sup>2</sup>, ALLUME<sup>3</sup> or OBSERVAL<sup>4</sup>.

More recently in 2011, Andrea Waxenegger became the first female president of eucen with a clear internationalisation focus.

Since 2015, Françoise de Viron, our current president, has taken the lead.

## General Assembly in Dublin June 2016

The formal announcement of the next General Assembly was sent to members on 29 February.

The first call of the meeting has been set for 17:00 on Wed 01 June at **Dublin City University (IE)**. If the

meeting is not attended by two thirds of the current members, it will close and will be convened at **09:00 on Friday 03 June**.

*Register now to the conference and join us in Dublin!*

<http://dublin2016.eucen.eu>

### Deadlines:

Full members can stand for election in Dublin for one of the 3 positions available. Send docs by: **29 April at 15:00CET**

Full members not attending the GA can send their proxy form by **20 May at 15:00CET**

Issue 01/2016

23 March 2016

### Do not miss:

- | eucen is celebrating its 25th anniversary during 2016 with international top keynote speakers in Dublin during eucen's 48th conference, 01-03 June 2016
- | How to commit to the social dimension in your university?
- | Let us help you improve the integration of cultural diversity in your HEI!
- | eucen contribution to the EC Policy Agenda
- | New publication on LLL with discount
- | eucen presents the Association to USA audience
- | eucen has a new motto

### What else is in this issue?

Top keynote speakers in Dublin	<b>2</b>
Dealing with the Social Dimension in HEIs	<b>2</b>
Cultural Diversity: our next challenge	<b>2</b>
Modernisation HE Agenda	<b>3</b>
New Publication!	<b>3</b>
eucen beyond EU	<b>3</b>
References	<b>4</b>
eucen's new Motto	<b>4</b>



Join us in the next General Assembly in Dublin (IE), 01-03 June 2016



**Adam Tyson**  
**Director of the**  
**DG Education,**  
**unit B,**  
**Professor**  
**John Field**  
**and Professor**  
**Alan Knox**  
 will be some of  
 the presenters  
 in **eucen's**  
 conference in  
 Dublin

## Top keynote speakers for eucen's anniversary

Every conference is somehow special. The local organisers always make an effort to present interesting content and to bring the best experts as keynote speakers to offer good discussions and an excellent learning experience for the participants. Get ready for the event in Dublin, on Wed 01-Fri 03 June because **eucen** and Dublin City University have prepared a programme<sup>4</sup> that will delight participants!

These are the confirmed presenters for **eucen's 48th Annual Conference**:

| **Adam TYSON**, Director of DG Education and Culture, Unit B, European Commission

| **Alan B. KNOX**, Professor Emeritus of education leadership, University of Wisconsin-Madison (US)

| **Anne RYAN**, Chair Adult and Community Education, National University of Ireland Maynooth (IE)

| **John FIELD**, Professor Emeritus, University of Stirling (UK)

| **Tom BOLAND**, Chief Executive of Higher Education Authority (HEA)

*What about eucen's 25th anniversary celebrations?*

Professor **Manuel AS-SUNÇAO** (Rector of the University of Aveiro and former President of **eucen** between 2000-2006) and Dr **Pat DAVIES** (former Executive Secretary of **eucen** 2000-2008 and Project Director of **eucen** 2000-2011) will be delivering a short speech in Dublin as well.

Dr **Andrea WAXENEGGER** (President of **eucen** between 2010-2015) has also confirmed her participation in the celebration. **We look forward to seeing you all there!**



## Dealing with the Social Dimension in HEIs

COMMIT is presenting its final products to policy makers, representatives of the National Networks for ULLL and stakeholders in a Final Learning Event in Brussels on Monday 04 April 2016, hosted by the Committee of the Regions

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

The consortium will present the project and later on give participants the opportunity to test the tools and understand the uses and utility of them.

With participants like Arne Carlsen (Director of the UNESCO Institute for LLL) or Mette Andersen (representing DG Education and Culture), the pro-

ject final Policy Reminders will be presented and discussed within the context of the 2016 **eucen** Policy Talks.

The event will finish with a networking cocktail where participants can meet each other informally in a relaxed way.

<http://commit.eucen.eu>



## Cultural Diversity: our next challenge

**eucen** has just started its new project **HE4u2 - Integrating Cultural Diversity in Higher Education** (KA3, support for policy reforms - forward looking cooperation project).

HE4u2 intends to reform teaching and learning in HE and make it more diverse, responsive and competitive by integrating inclusive pedagogy into existing curricula to

mediate obstacles for learners from migrant and culturally diverse backgrounds and to value their contribution to the intercultural dimension for all learners.

The approach will be used in up to 21 different disciplines at different HE levels. A guide for HE teachers and supporting staff will be developed and a Continuing Profes-

sional Development (CPD) course for HE staff will be designed.

Are you interested in being actively involved? *Would you like to be an Associate partner of this project?* Contact the us at [he4u2@eucen.eu](mailto:he4u2@eucen.eu)



## Contribution to the Modernisation Agenda for Higher Education in the European Union

eucen submitted a contribution to the consultation on the modernisation agenda for HE that the EC launched on 27 November 2015.

The EC's objective with this consultation was to collect the views of

stakeholders about the current situation in Europe's HE systems, as well as the priorities for change that should be implemented.

eucen's answer on behalf of its members was prepared after consulting

the National Network representatives and after discussing the questions with the Steering Committee of eucen at their last meeting on 01 February.

Download our answer from "Publications" in our website [www.eucen.eu](http://www.eucen.eu)

## New Publication "Universities and Engagement"

The book "*Universities and Engagement. International perspectives on higher education and lifelong learning*" examines what HEI can contribute to society through LLL. Timely and insightful, this book, edited by John Field, Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha and Andrea Waxenegger, provides an answer to the question 'What can be understood by University Lifelong Learning today'. Taken as a whole, *Universities and Engagement* provides a theoretical background, drawing on recent research and practice examples, and demonstrates a variety of conceptual approaches, confirming the diverse range of possible solutions. The 17 papers collate the work of specialists from research and practice from across Europe and beyond who have first-hand experience in the field. The majority of the

contributing authors have been working closely with eucen for many years.

The idea for the book came up when preparing the eucen conference "Universities' Engagement in and with Society. The ULLL contribution". During this conference, eucen, in collaboration with the University of Graz, examined the diversity of ULLL (the "lifewide" dimension) and its potential for providing learning opportunities throughout one's life (the "lifelong" dimension). Consequently, the book covers the following areas of ULLL: Policy, practice and research; engaging with business and industry; engaging with communities and engaging with an ageing society. With this book, the editors and authors also take up the challenge that practitioners in ULLL are absorbed in their day-to-day 'business' and very sel-

dom find the time to reflect upon their knowledge and experience in form of publications, apart from quick presentations and short conference papers. This results in their valuable knowledge and experience not being visible and appreciated within their own institutions and not shared widely in the professional community. Specifically, the upcoming generations of professionals do not have sufficient access to this stock of knowledge. There are recent publications available which are devoted to particular aspects of ULLL, but *Universities and Engagement* offers an overall and integrated perspective on ULLL.

To order *Universities and Engagement* visit <https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138824447> A 20% discount is available – enter the code **IRK69** at checkout.

## eucen beyond Europe

eucen presented the association to **UPCEA** (University Professional and Continuing Education Association) in early February. Carme Royo (Executive Director of eucen) presented our history and general activities. Ahidoba de Franchi (eucen

Secretary General) presented LLL in Europe and eucen's role fostering it and Alfredo Soeiro (former member of the Steering Committee of eucen) presented TALOE (Time to assess learning outcomes), in which eucen

was full partner. The audience was very satisfied and found the content really useful.

The Latin-American association for Continuing Education, **RECLA**, requested a similar webinar in Spanish scheduled in April this year.



**"Practitioners in ULLL are absorbed in their day-to-day 'business' and very seldom find the time to reflect upon their knowledge and experience in the form of full publications"**





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**Search. Learn. Share.**

Find us on-line!

[www.eucen.eu](http://www.eucen.eu)

[https://www.facebook.com/  
EUCENnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/EUCENnetwork)

[http://www.linkedin.com/  
company/649137](http://www.linkedin.com/company/649137)

[https://twitter.com/  
eucen\\_eu](https://twitter.com/eucen_eu)



Graphic representation of eucen's motto: **Search. Learn. Share.**

## References

- <sup>1</sup> EQUIPE Plus website - <http://www.cfp.upv.es/webs/equipeplus/index/index.jsp>
- <sup>2</sup> BeFlex Plus website - <http://www.eucen.eu/BeFlexPlus/index.html>
- <sup>3</sup> ALLUME website - <http://allume.eucen.eu>
- <sup>4</sup> OBSERVAL and OBSERVAL-Net website - <http://www.observal-net.eu>
- <sup>5</sup> Link to the website of eucen's conference in Dublin, 01-03 June 2016 - <http://dublin2016.eucen.eu>



## eucen. Search. Learn. Share.

At the end of 2015 eucen ran a survey to know what its members thought about some ideas for a new motto. The most voted one was “**Search. Learn. Share**”. The Steering Committee of eucen felt that the motto shows a lot about our association. Now, eucen's new motto has an image. Each icon represents one of these ideas.

**Search.** In our motto, searching means trying to find good solutions to current problems and future possibilities of universities and lifelong learning. This takes place especially in strategic development projects but also through

research and data collection. There are plenty of examples and this is a concrete and important aspect of eucen for many members.

**Learn.** Learning in all phases and situations of life is at the core of eucen's values and activities. eucen has a wide selection of case studies and tools that you can learn from on the website. Conferences and seminars as well as webinars offer great possibilities for learning and so do the projects. Learn from the previous experience of all members and become an even better ULLL expert.

**Share.** In our network we value interaction and cooperation of all members. We want to share what we find and learn with each other and eucen offers plenty of opportunities for this in projects, conferences and seminars. We want all eucen members to use their special knowledge, skills and expertise. eucen is a world of possibilities for active members who want to benefit from the wide expertise of the membership.

And remember that you can share your news and knowledge with us via [eucen's website](http://www.eucen.eu), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EUCENnetwork), [LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com/company/649137) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/eucen_eu)! **Share!**

