

CDESR-BU (2007) 16rev
Orig. Eng.
Strasbourg, 28 November 2007

Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research (CDESR)

Bureau

Strasbourg, 6-7 December 2007
6 December – 9h00-around 18h00
7 December – 8h30-13h00

Room G 04 (new building of the Council of Europe)

PROJECT ON PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

WORKING DOCUMENT

Directorate General IV: Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport
(Directorate of School, Out-of-School and Higher Education/Higher Education and
Research Division)

ITEM 6

Distribution: CDESR Bureau

Introduction

At its plenary session, the CDESR adopted a project proposal on Promoting Intercultural Dialogue in the European Higher Education Area and proposed to launch the project on 4-5 March 2008 with a conference on 'Intercultural Dialogue on University Campus'.

The project consists of a series of seminars, pursuing an objective to draft a document (i.e. a recommendation or a code of good practice) on which to base further CoE action (i.e. the creation of a regular expert forum, the launching of a university network or the realisation of a platform including both - stakeholders and experts). Such a document could be fed back into the Bologna Process and initiate a reflection on issues transcending the structural side of the European reform agenda (for instance by discussing the function of universities in modern and multicultural societies).

The seminar series on *Promoting Intercultural Dialogue in the European Higher Education Area* will raise the public awareness for those aspects that are not spelled out in the policy-documents of the Bologna process although they are inherent to this kind of reform endeavour.

The purpose of the present working document is to give an opportunity to discuss in detail the timeframe and three phases of the project.

1) **First phase: Seminar on ‘Intercultural Dialogue on University Campus’**

Date: 4-5 March 2008 (organised back-to-back with the CDESR plenary session for practical and financial reasons)

Place: Council of Europe Headquarters, Strasbourg

Co-organisers: none

Participants: around 100-150, invitations through CDESR, BFUG, networks of institutions, interested in intercultural dialogue, identified higher education institutions, which are active in the field of intercultural dialogue.

It would be particularly interesting to invite institutions from post-conflict European countries, as well as from countries, where problems still exist. One example of this could be South East Europe (e.g. to invite the University of Mitrovica and University of Pristina – if we get ‘green light’ from the Political Affairs Directorate).

Background study: Edo Poglia, University of Lugano, Director of the Executive Master programme in Intercultural Communication.

Short description:

The first seminar focuses on the individual level, i.e. on student and teacher experiences with multicultural settings. By providing a bottom-up approach to the topic of intercultural dialogue, the organiser hopes to draw the attention on the necessity to enhance the individual’s commitment to democratic values of open dialogue and mutual understanding:

- What are the means of furthering access and integration of international students and scholars into campus life?
- How to deal with cultural diversity in the classroom?
- Is it possible to define a set of intercultural competences students should have acquired by the end of their studies?
- Is there a need to reassert (or even redefine) the core principles and values of Intercultural Dialogue in academia?

Programme: see below

Suggested speakers: see below

Publication of the proceedings: yes, publication dealing with Intercultural Dialogue on university campus, comprising, in particular, examples of good practice.

Project 'Promoting Intercultural Dialogue in the European Higher Education Area'

SEMINAR ON 'INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS'

**4-5 March 2008
Draft programme**

4 March 2008

08 30 - 09 30 Registration

09 00 Opening of the meeting

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe or his representative

Chair of the CDESR

First session

**09 30 – 10 30 Intercultural Dialogue and Democracy: New Values for
European Higher Education?**

Keynote address and discussion

Possible speakers - Bronislaw Geremek---Professor at Collège de l'Europe, Natoli

Professor Bronislaw Geremek is a former foreign minister of Poland and key intellectual adviser to the Solidarity trade union, a survivor of the Warsaw ghetto, and one of the world's most eminent scholars of medieval European history, Prof Geremek is currently a member of the European Parliament and Professor at the Natolin Campus of the College of Europe, where he holds the chair of European Civilisation.

Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, former Foreign Minister of Poland, now a Secretary of State in Prime Minister Office

10 30 – 11 00 coffee break

Second session

**11 00 – 12 30 Defining the Sources of Intercultural Conflict and
Disintegration: Views from Inside and Outside Europe**

Possible speakers: Tariq Modood, professor at University of Bristol
 John Waterbury, President of the American University in Beirut
 Goolam Mohammedbai, IAU

12 30 – 14 00 lunch break

Third session

14 00 – 15 30

Realising Intercultural Dialogue on Campus: What are the means of furthering access and integration of international staff and students to campus life?

- Presentation of the background study by Edo Poglia, University of Lugano

Possible case studies

Russia-	Peoples' Friendship University, Rector Filippov
'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' –	University of Tetovo
the Netherlands	Universities in the Arab region
David Arnold	President of the American University in Cairo

15 30 – 16 00 coffee break

Fourth session

16 00 – 17 30

Dealing with Cultural Diversity in the classroom: A Teachers' and Students' Perspective

- Learning and teaching approaches and attitudes in a multicultural environment
- Internationalised curricula

Teacher Perspective:	Pavel Zgaga fom Ljubljana University or Representative from the University Marc Bloch of Strasbourg
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Student Perspective:	Student Representative from ESU
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The Perspective of a Programme Manager:

2nd day

9 30 – 11 00

Panel discussion ' Generic intercultural competencies for students – myth or reality?'

- Is it possible to define a set of intercultural competences students should have acquired by the end of their studies?
- Is there a need to reassert (or even redefine) the core principles and values of Intercultural Dialogue in academia?

Possible participants:

- Representative from ESU

11 00 – 11 30 coffee break

11 30 – 12 30- **Conclusions and recommendations by the General Rapporteur**

2) Second phase: Seminar on 'Higher Education as an Actor for Intercultural Dialogue and Mutual Respect in Diversity in a Global Context'.

Date: September – October 2008

Place: Council of Europe Headquarters, Strasbourg

Co-organisers: US Steering Committee, the International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy

Participants: around 100-150, invitations through CDESR, BFUG, networks of institutions, interested in intercultural dialogue, identified higher education institutions, which are active in the field of intercultural dialogue. There should be a fair number of US institutions, invited by US partners.

Background study: to be determined

Short description

This Seminar will address questions, linked to possible role that higher education can play in ensuring social cohesion, respect for diversity and tolerance. This Seminar will have to address the global dimension of higher education, when tackling issues of intercultural dialogue.

- What challenges does higher education face when confronted with modern multicultural societies
- How can higher education contribute to combining social cohesion and cultural diversity?
- What is the role of higher education in ensuring mutual respect in diversity?

3) Third phase: Seminar on 'University as international organisation and cultural mediator: promoting Intercultural Dialogue at universities through politics and policies'

Date: March-April 2009

Place: Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Moscow

Co-organisers: Peoples' Friendship University of Russia

Participants: around 100-150, invitations through CDESR, BFUG, networks of institutions, interested in intercultural dialogue, identified higher education institutions, which are active in the field of intercultural dialogue. Due to location, there should be a fair number of Russian institutions, invited by PFUR.

Background study: possible study comparing institutional approaches and national policies for promoting Intercultural Dialogue at European universities

Short description:

This Seminar will focus on the particular role of a university as an international organisation and cultural mediator in its relation to national authorities. It will try to seek national policies, which can contribute to enhancing this role, turning universities into major players in intercultural dialogue at a European level.

- The state of institutional cooperation in promoting Intercultural Dialogue?
- How to promote intercultural dialogue among universities?
- What kind of policies are already existing (what do they bring and how are they financed)?
- What kind of expectations can be raised as to the function of universities in promoting Intercultural Dialogue?