



AFANet – ICA Conference 2004



Capitalising on Innovation in the Curriculum in European Higher Education

practice and promise in the disciplines of

Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Environmental Sciences

The conference is hosted by AFANet and the Inter-university Consortium for Agricultural and Related Sciences in Europe (ICA), at the University of Gent, Belgium

Thursday 8 to Saturday 10 January 2004

Context

The march from Bologna, to Prague and Berlin is setting the agenda for reform of European higher education. However, adoption of the two cycle system of Bachelor and Masters degree programmes has opened a Pandora's box of issues. The issues include definition of core curricula at the Bachelor and Masters levels, quality assurance, recognition of each others courses and degrees, and the re-evaluation of approaches to supporting learning.

Whilst these issues present many challenges, these current reforms provide a golden opportunity for significantly enhancing collaboration between higher education institutions in developing a European dimension to teaching and learning. This opportunity is unique because all institutions are evolving their new degree programmes within the two cycle system at the same time, and the traditional structures are in a state of flux.

AFANet, the Socrates Thematic Network for Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and the Environment, has over the past years developed a number of projects which provide models for the development of inter-institutional co-operation. These models have been developed by staff at the *grass roots* within higher education departments.

During this conference there will be presentations of these AFANet models and of other innovative practices, the opportunity for you to share with delegates the developments that you are undertaking in your own institution, and to brainstorm new approaches and structures for co-operation in developing a European dimension to teaching and learning. The programme allows for extended discussion.

Aim

The **Conference will provide a forum** in which to share examples of **innovative practice** in harmonising European higher education, whilst retaining beneficial diversity, in the disciplines of Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Environmental Sciences, with **the aim** of stimulating institutions in further developing a European dimension to their teaching and learning environments.

Who should attend?

This conference will be of interest to staff in higher education institutions who have responsibility for curriculum development; deans, heads of departments and departmental staff. It will also interest staff who have responsibility for internationalisation.

Programme

The conference will first focus on the institutional benefits - for the institution, the staff and the students - from developing a European dimension to teaching and learning. There will also be a presentation on the range of support that is currently available from the EU Commission.

The Keynotes will be followed by presentations of models for innovation whose approach have wide applicability within the AFANet disciplines, the emphasis being on **how to do it**

Theme 1 Developing a European dimension in the curriculum

Theme 2 Managing the implementation of the European teaching and learning experience

Theme 3 Strengthening the institution's preparedness for international participation

Where appropriate the papers will be supported by short presentations from students on their learning experience.

Following the formal presentations under each Theme there will be a breakout session for extended discussions and brainstorming in small working groups.

Thursday 8 January

19.30 Conference reception and buffet

Friday 9 January (start 9.00)

Introduction: The march from Bologna to Berlin an overview

Simon Heath, AFANet Co-ordinator, Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine (INPL), France

Keynote address: Why develop a European dimension to teaching and learning – a personal perspective from BOKU

Professor Leopold Maerz, President of ICA and Universitaet fuer Bodenkultur (BOKU), Austria

Keynote address: New initiatives from the EU Commission

Speaker from the EU Commission - provisional

Theme 1 How – Developing a European dimension in the curriculum

- Implementing bioethics in the European animal science curriculum, *Michel Marie, Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine (INPL), France*
- Integrating sustainability into agricultural education, *Arjen Wals, Wageningen Universiteit en Researchcentrum The Netherlands*
- Intensive programme; novel and functional foods, *Roland Verhé, Universiteit Gent, Belgium*
- Delivering the European dimension using shared online case study materials, *Philip Cain, The University of Newcastle, United Kingdom*
- Learning with the Global Seminar, speaker to be announced

Conference dinner, University of Gent

Saturday 10 January

Theme 2 How – Managing the implementation of the European teaching and learning experience

- Curriculum development; animal breeding and genetics as an example, *Ab Groen, Wageningen Universiteit en Researchcentrum The Netherlands*
- Agricultural engineering studies in Europe; the need for a core curriculum, *Demetres Briassoulis, Georgiko Panepistimio Athinon, Greece*
- Curriculum development; renewable resources as an example, *Chris Stevens, Universiteit Gent, Belgium*
- Case studies of institutional approaches to developing the curriculum for integrated rural development, *Arjen Wals, Wageningen Universiteit en Researchcentrum The Netherlands*
- European Masters in Forestry; design, development and delivery, *Paavo Pelkonen, Joensuu Yliopisto, Finland*

Theme 3 How – Strengthening the institution's preparedness for international participation

- Shared goals in quality assurance, internal and external processes, *speaker to be announced*
- Removing the language barrier to mobility, *Johann Fischer, Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Germany*
- Strengthening the international strategy and operations of a university through quality assurance. *Short introduction by Monica Bengtsson, president of IROICA and Brian Dennis, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University. (KVL), Denmark*
- Effective networking – developing links with industry and society; aquaculture as an example, *David Murphy, AQUATT, Eire*

Closing Forum

Dinner

Sunday 11 January

Depart

Call for contributions in the Discussion Sessions

You will be able to contribute to the conference by making a short presentation during a discussion session in relation to your development of innovative practice. In order that we can structure the discussion sessions, please can you send Simon Heath a brief abstract, (maximum 250 words) of your innovative practice by 30 November (afanet@ensaia.inpl-nancy.fr). If selected your abstract will be published in the proceedings.

Registration

Please complete the attached registration form for the Conference and for your hotel reservation by 25 November 2003. The Conference registration fee is 150 € and covers the buffet dinner on Thursday 8 January, and lunch and dinner on both Friday 9 and Saturday 10 of January. You will be responsible for paying for your hotel accommodation, rooms have been reserved at the IBIS hotel.

Conference Committee

The AFANet Co-ordinating Committee

- Simon Heath (chair), *Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine, FR*
- Monica Bengtsson, *Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet (SLU), SE*
- Philip Cain, *University of Newcastle, UK*
- Johann Fischer, *Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, DE*
- Ab Groen, *Wageningen Universiteit en Researchcentrum, NL*
- Tadeusz Kuczynski, *Uniwersytet, Zielona Gora PL*
- Michel Marie, *Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine, FR*
- David Murphy, *AQUATT, IE*
- Martin Nielsen, *International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences (IAAS) BE*
- Milan Slavik, *Ceska Zemedelska Univerzita v Praze, CZ*
- Liisa Tahvanainen, *Joensuu Yliopisto, FI*
- Arjen Wals, *Wageningen Universiteit en Researchcentrum NL*

and the local organiser

- Roland Verhé, *Universiteit Gent, BE*



Conference Registration Form

**AFANet - ICA Conference 2004
8-11 January 2004**

Please register before 25 November 2003

You can mail or fax (+32 9264 62 43) this form to Mrs Sandra Willaert (Conference Secretary) at the address below. We will confirm receipt of your registration

Contact address for registration:

Mrs Sandra Willaert (Conference Secretary)
Ghent University
Faculty of Agricultural and Applied Biological Sciences
Department of Organic Chemistry
Coupure Links 653
9000 Gent, Belgium
tel: +32 9264 59 54
email: Sandra.willaert@UGent.be

Family name: -----

First name: -----

Function: -----

Institution: -----

Address: -----

Town: -----

Postal code: ----- Country: -----

Phone: -----

Fax: -----

e-mail:																			
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Please transfer your Registration fee of 150 euro to the following bank account:

KBC bank
Address: Brugsesteenweg 513, B-9030 Mariakerke, Belgium
Name account: ICA-AFANET-Gent 2004
Account number: 737-0102527-41
BIC code: KREDBEBB
IBAN code: BE88737010252741

Please write your name as reference !!

Details for Hotel Reservation: see next page



Hotel Registration Form

AFANet-ICA Conference 2004
8-11 January 2004

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BOOK THE HOTEL ROOM FOR YOU!!

Please return this form with your conference registration from to

Mrs Sandra Willaert
Ghent University
Faculty of Agricultural and Applied Biological Sciences
Department of Organic Chemistry
Coupure Links 653
9000 Gent, Belgium

The hotel bill, however, will have to be paid by yourself on departure, but will be guaranteed by your credit card details supplied below. Cancellation after 15 December 2003 will incur a room charge

You will be staying at the following hotel:

Hotel Ibis Gent Centrum Opera
Nederkouter 24-26
9000 Gent

(please note that there are two Hotel Ibis', in Gent)

price (breakfast included):

single: 78 euro/ night

double: 87 euro/ night

Date of arrival:-----

Date of departure:-----

Single or double room:-----

Special remarks:-----

Name credit card:-----

Credit card number:-----

Validity date:-----

Signature of the card owner:-----

Today's date:-----