



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Introduction

The 7<sup>th</sup> FEDORA presidency started in January 2010 and will finish at the end of December 2012. It is characterized by the process of negotiating the options of a merger with the European Association for International education (EAIE), initiated by the last board and decided upon at the FEDORA congress in Berlin, October 6, 2009. Thus, the association has been in a thorough transition during the last 18 month, involving a lot of internal discussions and reflections. Nonetheless, the highly appreciated internal life of FEDORA went on and was most perceivable in two conferences, the Career Guidance and Employment Working Group Conference "Unlocking the potential" in Bordeaux in June 2010 and the Psyche Working Group Conference "Transitions" in Alicante in November 2010. The Summer University in Ioannina, which provides the frame for this extraordinary General Assembly, is another sign of the active life of FEDORA.

### Internal organization

The Board consists of:

Hans-Werner Rückert (Germany), President  
Francien Bouhuijs (The Netherlands), Vice-President  
Eva Egger-Zeidner (Austria), General Secretary  
Eric Depreeuw (Belgium), Treasurer  
Willy Aastrup (Denmark), Board member

The Board met in Brussels (1/2010 with the participation of former President Christian Cormier, former Vice-President Ann Conlon) and former Treasurer Per Andersen), Nantes (9/2010), Alicante (11/2010), Copenhagen (3/2011) and Ioannina (6/2011). Members of the former board (Christian Cormier,

In addition to the Board members who are the National Coordinators of Austria (Eva Egger-Zeidner), Belgium (Eric Depreeuw), Denmark (Willy Aastrup), Germany (Hans-Werner Rückert) and The Netherlands (Francien Bouhuijs), the Executive Committee consists of the elected National Coordinators of 14 other countries. These are:

Elena Gregoriou (Cyprus),	Eleni Kerkentzes (Greece),
Ildiko Takacs (Hungary),	Inta Jaunzeme (Latvia),
Jolanta Vaicunaite (Lithuania),	Karin Svanfeldt (Sweden),
Mary Ann Borg Cunen (Malta),	Matteo Sgarzi (Italy),
Monika Rebisz (Poland),	Patricia Martin (France),
Sakari Jussie-Pekka (Finland),	Sue Steging (UK),
Tomasz Ordenez (Spain),	Zuzana Freibergová (Czech Republic).

The Executive Committee met in Leiden (02/10), in Alicante (01/2010) and Ioannina (06/2011). My thanks go to those EC-members, who actively participated in the development of the association. I

am also grateful that the working group coordinators Ton Boekhorst (WG Psyche), Per Andersen (WG Educational Guidance) as well as Paul Hacking and Nike Campagne (WG Career guidance and employment), picked up on the board's invitation to participate in Board and EC meetings. Working Group coordinator Willy Aastrup was involved in everything due to his function as a board member.

As president, I would like to thank my predecessor Christian Cormier for the smooth and friendly transition of the presidency. The association is also indebted to Honorary President Gerhart Rott, who looked through written material about the association and sent it to the EAIE office in Amsterdam to be put in the archives.

### **Major activities 01/2010 – 06/2011**

As of February 2010, FEDORA has become a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the European Association for International Education (EAIE), according to the decision of the General Assembly (GA) at the Berlin Congress October 2009. The consequences of this decision were on the one hand administrative, bringing together the membership database of FEDORA and getting the members also into the EAIE database. The association is indebted to Vice-President Francien Bouhuijs and General Secretary Eva Egger-Zeidner, who put a lot of work into that.

On the other hand, following the Berlin GA-decision, the Board tried to investigate the options of a merger with the EAIE. Francien and I represented FEDORA in a Steering Group that met several times with EAIE-board members, as did the Working Group Leaders of FEDORA with their counterparts of the Professional Sections (PS) and SIG of the EAIE. My special thanks go to the Working Group Leaders for their part in writing up two SWOT-analyses, detailing the pros and cons of merging the respective subunits of both associations. These reports were discussed in detail with the EAIE leadership in the steering group.

We represented FEDORA in two Joint Leadership Meetings (JLM) of the EAIE, where we also met with the boards of the PS and the representatives of the SIGs. We informed our members about the process and the results of these negotiations in four newsletters (12/09; 03/10; 10/10; 04/11) and send out additional information via the mail system in our database.

I took part in the following activities:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
09.01.2010	Board meeting (old/new), Bruxelles
21.01.2010	FEDORA/EAIE Steering Group meeting, Amsterdam
04.-05.02.2010	EAIE Joint Leadership Meeting, Amsterdam
06.02.2010	EC-meeting, Leiden
24.03.2010	FEDORA/EAIE Steering Group meeting, Amsterdam
03.-04.06.2010	FECG Conference, Bordeaux
08.07.2010	FEDORA/EAIE Steering Group meeting, Amsterdam
14.-17.09.2010	EAIE Conference, Nantes
16.09.2010	Board meeting, Nantes
17.-19.11.2010	FEDORA Psyche Conference, Alicante
19.11.2010	EC-meeting, Alicante
09.-11.02.2011	EAIE Joint Leadership meeting, Copenhagen
10.02.2011	FEDORA/EAIE Steering Group meeting, Copenhagen
11.02.2011	Board meeting, Copenhagen
16.06.2011	Board meeting, Ioannina
16.06.2011	EC-meeting, Ioannina

In addition to that, I represented FEDORA in several national conferences in Germany. Internationally, I have been in touch with Roger Ludemann, President of the newly founded International Association of Student Affairs and Services (IASAS) and with Michael F. Haberecht, a member of the Executive Committee of the American College Health Association and Head of the Counselling Center of Stanford University.

### **FEDORA-EAIE merger**

The Fedora Working Group coordinators met twice with their counterparts on the side of the EAIE subgroups and a Steering group with Board members of both associations met several times to monitor the negotiations process. In these meetings, the pros and cons of merging were discussed and laid out in SWOT analyses as well as the idea to keep FEDORA as a whole entity under the EAIE roof. This last option was rejected by the participants in the joint working groups as not desirable and unrealistic. Detailed summaries of the Working Group reports are available online in the members only section of the FEDORA homepage ([www.fedora-eu.org](http://www.fedora-eu.org)) and here:

<http://studienberatung.fu-berlin.de/fedora2009/newsletter/EAIEFEDORACooperationReport.pdf>  
[http://studienberatung.fu-berlin.de/fedora/summary\\_working\\_group\\_reports\\_aug\\_2010.pdf](http://studienberatung.fu-berlin.de/fedora/summary_working_group_reports_aug_2010.pdf)

The FEDORA Board meeting in Nantes on September 16, 2010 resulted in the unanimous decision of the Board, that a merger is feasible under the following conditions:

- Fedora Working Group Psyche shall join the EAIE as a separate Professional Section (PS).
- Fedora Working Group Educational Guidance and Counselling and EAIE Professional Section Safsa shall merge, as well as Fedora Working Group Career Guidance and Employment and EAIE Professional Section Emploi. Both newly formed PS will be renamed to make it visible that this is a merger, not a takeover.
- Fedora Working Group Inclusion/Equal Opportunities and EAIE Special Interest Group DIW will have another meeting in November 2010 to further explore how a merger can be arranged.
- Until the newly formed PS will elect a new Board according to the EAIE time frame, a Fedora representative from our respective Working Groups will be attached to the existing Boards as a resource person.
- Following the wishes of the Fedora Working Group Career Guidance and Employment and the EAIE PS Emploi, both will make further steps into a merger and thus serve as a pilot project for the actual process of joining.
- All PS or SIGs will be able to have small events and conferences with the support of the EAIE office in Amsterdam, if they wish so.

The above mentioned further meeting between Fedora Working Group Inclusion/Equal Opportunities and EAIE Special Interest Group DIW led to an agreement to merge.

The Board presented the results of the negotiations to the Executive Committee (EC) at the meeting in Alicante on November 19, 2010. The EC accepted the results and voted for the merger, expressing the desire to strengthen the importance of Guidance and Counselling as topics inside the EAIE, e.g. by having a biannual special Conference on Guidance and Counselling in the form of an EAIE Forum or the like.

The last meeting of the Steering Group in Copenhagen on February 10, 2011 led to an agreement on these terms and laid out the next steps. A final report about the implications of the merger for both organizations is available online in the members only section on the FEDORA homepage ([www.fedora-eu.org](http://www.fedora-eu.org)) and here:

[http://studienberatung.fu-berlin.de/fedora/EAIE\\_FEDORA\\_Cooperation\\_April\\_2011.pdf](http://studienberatung.fu-berlin.de/fedora/EAIE_FEDORA_Cooperation_April_2011.pdf)

With the results of these negotiations, we see the assurance of a good future for and strengthening of the actual work in the areas that Fedora covers, even though the association in its present

structures will not persist. After having looked into various other possibilities to solve the problems which have led to the GA decision in Berlin in 2009, we have found no alternative better than merging with the EAIE. The possible establishment of a new PS Psyche, two newly founded PS (FCGE+Emploi and Educational Counselling+SAFSA) and a new SIG or PS (I/EO + DIW) makes it very visible to the membership of both associations that this is a merger on an equal level. Also, with support for having small events and conferences which ensure continuation of the vivid exchange among and between members of the working groups that Fedora members valued over the years, it ensures the kind of professional development that we are accustomed to. Within the wider scope of the EAIE, new possibilities of exchange and professional development arise through participation in the annual EAIE conference, but also in the newly planned EAIE Academy. Members can engage actively in the leadership and governance structure of the EAIE. The importance of Guidance and Counselling will be strengthened by the weight and importance of the EAIE as a European stakeholder. Within the EAIE, the specific FEDORA field of Guidance and Counselling will be covered either by the EAIE leadership or by one or more of the PS/SIG's.

Thus, the Executive Committee's proposal to the General Assembly on June 17, 2011, which has to make the final decision about the merger and subsequently eventually the dissolution of FEDORA as it is organized now under Belgian law, will be to merge.

### **FEDORA Administration and Finances**

As of February 2010, FEDORA became a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the European Association for International Education (EAIE), according to the decision of the General Assembly at the Berlin Congress October 2009. Membership fees for 2010 were reduced to 85.- Euro, compared to the regular EAIE fees and were paid to the EAIE. Thus, since 2010 the association had no new income out of membership fees (see the treasurer's report).

### **Work of the National coordinators**

The National coordinators are responsible for communication with the FEDORA members in their countries. They do this mainly via e-mail correspondence with individual members and by circulating FEDORA information and sending regular mailings to all members about various matters including FEDORA events and conferences. They can use the membership database or the forum via the website. In the past, the National Coordinators were asked to report their activities to the EC meetings. This has been abandoned since there had been relatively few reports which could as well be given orally by those National Coordinators who participated in the EC meetings.

### **FEDORA membership**

As of June 2010, 100 members paid the reduced fee. As of June 2011, FEDORA comprises 87 "old members". 350 EAIE members have registered their affiliation to the SIG FEDORA list in the EAIE (see the General Secretary's report). More and more former key members have retired during the last years.

### **FEDORA working groups**

The four working groups and their coordinating members are:

- **Career guidance and employment:** Chairperson: Paul Hacking, Secretary/internal communications: Caroline Scheepmaker, EAIE relations: Nieke Campagne, Margaret Dane  
Employer relations: Paul Blackmore, Funding Opportunities: Matteo Sgarzi  
Members: Valerie Metcalfe, Nannette Ripmeester, Jolanta Vaiciunaite
- **Inclusion / Equal opportunities:** Willy Aastrup, Maria Holler Hune
- **Psyche:** Ton Boekhorst, Sue Steging, Diana Harila, Wilfried Schumann, Lieve Carette
- **Educational guidance and counselling:** Per Andersen, Karin Svanfeldt.

Each Working group is managed by small coordinating committee made up of named individuals chosen by all the active members of the working group. The coordinating Committees serve generally for the same term of office as members of the FEDORA Executive Committee. The level of activities visible to the membership seems to be rather different. Each FEDORA member is invited to join a working group that is close to their field of expertise or interest.

### **FEDORA events**

In 2010, two important FEDORA conferences took place:

- The first one organised by the Career guidance and employment group, at the University of Bordeaux June 3-4, 2010, dealt with the following topic: “Unlocking the potential: The role of Higher Education Careers Advisors and Recruiters in equipping students for a European labour market”. This conference organised by Patricia Martin and her team was a great success with about 75 participants.
- The second one organized by the Psyche working group in Alicante, Spain, November 17-19, 2010 dealt with: “Transitions”. Organized by Tomas Ordonez and his team, it was an equally successful conference with 90 participants.

In addition to these, we took part in the EAIE Conference in Nantes in September 2010 with two sessions “1.05 - The European Charter for Guidance and Counselling” (Per Andersen) and “6.07 - Counselling procrastinating students in academic settings” (Hans-Werner Rueckert). Members who log on through their myEAIE-account, can retrieve these two presentations.

We are grateful to Eleni Kerkentzes and her team who organized the Summer University in Ioannina, June 16-18, 2011 and to the University of Ioannina to host this event. For this conference, more than 90 participants registered. We are also very grateful to the programme committee consisting of Ann Conlon, Zsuzsann Vajda-Puskás, Willy Aastrup and chaired by Eric Depreeuw. As former president Christian Cormier wrote in his report 2009: “Summer universities, organised every three years, are very important events in the life of our Association. They provide an opportunity for fruitful work and meetings for all FEDORA members; but they are first and foremost the opportunity to address a larger audience of professionals and to make our Association known all over Europe.”

### **Meeting / liaison with external organization**

#### **- University Foundation**

Fedora has an address there (FEDORA, Fondation Universitaire 11, rue d’Egmont, B 1000 Brussels), and the European Foundation manages the postal mail and agrees to send it to the relevant individuals for a fee of €500 per year.

The European Foundation also provided hotel facilities at a reduced rate in Brussels of €90 per night. Meeting facilities are also available. Their website address: [www.universityfoundation.be](http://www.universityfoundation.be).

- **UNESCO-NGO:** FEDORA is in "Operational Relations" to UNESCO-NGO, paying an annual membership subscription.

- **ELGPN:** Gerhart Rott, former President of FEDORA is the official representative of FEDORA in this Organization.

- **EUA:** FEDORA has established close ties with EUA. Hanne Smidt contributed to the Berlin Congress in 2009 as keynote speaker.

### **FEDORA publications**

Most of the FEDORA publications have been scanned and put online by the Library of the University of Wuppertal (<http://elpub.bib.uni-wuppertal.de/rootcollection/zsb/fedora> ). As such they are included in the German National Library and the European Library.

A lot of FEDORA documentation are available on the FEDORA website: [www.fedora-eu.org](http://www.fedora-eu.org)