



EUROPLAT
An EC Erasmus Academic Network
to promote quality enhancement
in the teaching of the psychological sciences

Quality Assurance Board.

Draft quality plan.

Overview

EUROPLAT is led by the University of York, UK (workpackage 1, management, reports and newsletters) with five core partners each leading a workpackage:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| • University of Aston, UK | workpackage 2 Quality |
| • Middle East Technical University, Turkey | workpackage 3 Conferences |
| • University of Salzburg, Austria | workpackage 4 Website |
| • University of Lisbon, Portugal | workpackage 5 Research |
| • Linnaeus University, Sweden | workpackage 6 Outreach |

EUROPLAT will produce:

- A project website acting as a hub to feed partners' own web pages which will serve as national spokes.
- Three annual conferences; in Scotland (2010), Turkey (2011) and Lithuania (2012).

- Three annual reports focusing on the state of practice and innovation in psychology education.
- Three research and analysis project reports looking at issues pertinent to the development of psychology in Europe and the wider world.
 - First year - innovative teaching methods within psychology education.
 - Second year - the employability of European graduates with a post Bologna Bachelor or Masters Degree in psychology.
 - Third year - quality assurance initiatives to maintain standards and to develop the high quality psychology provision required to meet the Lisbon goals.

Work package 1 – Project Management

Outputs

Electronic newsletters

- Sent to
 - Europlat partners
 - Other interested stakeholders including students, other member universities, national professional associations, national higher education bodies, other interested parties.
- Format as A4 PDF, 9 times over life of project
- Content to be assessed by project evaluator and to include:
 - Project news
 - Developments in psychology learning and teaching
 - Summaries of project research reports and other project outputs
 - Conference details and proceedings
 - Partner staff profiles, institutional profiles, national system profiles

Reports to the Commission (six biennially over the life of the project)

- Project summaries to date
- Copies of the newsletter
- Copies of other project outputs

Reports into the state of practice and innovation in psychology education

- Three over the life of the project
- Developments within the space of twelve months (from previous report)

- Led by York
- Distributed to Executive Agency and a wider audience through website, newsletters and other dissemination
- Versions circulated in professional and academic journals as appropriate

Work package 2 – Quality Assurance

Activities

The six core partners will nominate senior staff or experts in psychology learning and teaching to form a Quality Advisory (QA) Board.

- Generally to:
 - Provide independent scrutiny
 - Support the management team
 - Monitor the project budget
 - Meet every six months

- Specifically to:
 - Employ an independent project evaluator to advise the QA Board in judging that planned outputs are accurate, relevant, valid and complete
 - Approve outputs against the evaluation criteria, through the project evaluators reports and other measures
 - Approve the implementation of the project against its contracted tasks at the end of each year
 - Approve of the project evaluators reports and measures of project implementation as appropriate

Work package 3 – Conferences (valorisation and dissemination)

Conference evaluation:

- Attendance generally and by groups representing
 - the range of EC countries
 - groupings of EC countries
 - different university sectors and types of university
- Quality of papers
 - impact of papers
 - publication of papers
- Participant evaluation
- Peer and critical friend evaluation,
- Impact follow up

- Growth in adoption of innovation
- Production of learning and teaching research at action research and professional levels
- Quality of learning and teaching research

Work package 4 – Website (Regional hub and spoke)

- Contact details and description of the partner
- Partner role in the EUROPLAT network
- Use, delivery and role of psychology in partner countries
- Advice for students and potential students, including course options and career guidance
- Advice for professional psychologists, employers, business and industry
- Advice for the health and education sectors about the use of psychology
- Links to further reference material and national psychological bodies

Evaluation of impact:

- Project website hits to measure usage and impact by
 - Partners
 - Other university staff
 - Students
 - Potential students
 - Professional psychologists, employers, business and industry
 - in differing EC member countries
 - in non EC member countries

Work package 5 – Research and Analysis

Output:

- Innovative teaching methods within psychology education, Aston University
- Employability of European graduates with a post Bologna Bachelor or Masters Degree in psychology, Masaryk University
- Quality assurance initiatives to maintain standards, University of Padova

Evaluation criteria:

- Publication of reports on time
- Publication in alternative formats and media (scholarly output, journalism)
- Distribution to partners, interested stakeholders:
 - Students, other universities, governing bodies, national professional associations, national education sector bodies etc

- Distributed to Executive Agency and a wider audience through website, newsletters and other dissemination

Work package 6 – Outreach and exploitation of outputs

Output:

- Dissemination plan to be distributed and adopted by partners
- Contents
 - A guide for every partner to exploit Europlat, deliver marketing and communication activities and reach appropriate audiences:
 - Students
 - Heads of department
 - Programme directors
 - Associate Deans and Pro Vice Chancellors for learning and teaching (and equivalent international roles)
 - National professional associations and governing bodies in psychology.
- Delivery of the plan to include, but not be limited to:
 - Delivered in advance of first Europlat Conference (June 2010)
 - General information / publicity including flyers, web pages and publications
 - Understanding of issues within psychology through workshops, seminars and the conferences
 - Implementation and direction of external policy makers through sustainability, embedding quality changes, building courses with institutions, departments and ERASMUS
 - Inviting business groups and key individuals from the business communities to attend the conferences to exploit EUROPLAT to professional stakeholders leading to greater understanding of psychology graduate attributes and skills to employers.