

**Dear FEDORA members,**

with this newsletter, we would like to inform you about the latest developments in our association which of course were focused around the last steps of the merger with the European Association for International Education (EAIE). The result after two years of getting to know each other, participating in each other's events and negotiations in various groups of the mutual leaderships is positive: The merger will take place! For details, please read the section on EAIE/FEDORA below. Just to show you that this was not a trivial business: Over the last two years, I sent and received 1409 E-Mails in regard to the merger!

The Board and myself as President of FEDORA, at the end of a history of being an independent association which started in 1988, are quite naturally a little nostalgic when looking back. On the other hand, we are convinced that joining forces with a potent partner as the EAIE gives our conceptions about the importance of guidance and counseling a strong additional impact and will help to make our work even more visible and successful. It is not only that FEDORA Psyche will become a Professional Section (PS) on its own in the EAIE. As the EAIE and FEDORA stated in a paper in April 2011, "FEDORA has always been a well-known stakeholder in its field of interest in the international context of government representatives, members of the European Commission and other European organisations, like the ELGPN (European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network). The EAIE will continue this role on behalf of FEDORA as stakeholder in Europe. Furthermore under the umbrella of EAIE, each Professional Section (PS) and Special Interest Group (SIG) will represent the specific specialist interests on all political levels - regional, national and international - as well as with courtesy associations of the EAIE. Therefore the specific FEDORA field of Guidance and Counselling will be covered within the EAIE, either by the EAIE leadership or by one or more of the PS/SIG's.

Furthermore the topic of Guidance & Counselling will be broadened by the international and intercultural profile of the EAIE and from another angle the current fields of interest of all PS and SIG's will be broadened by the topic of Guidance & Counselling, because this topic can be seen as a more horizontal cross sectional section through different PS's and SIG's.

PS and SIGs will be offered the opportunity to organise small scale thematic events. Merged or new sections (from former FEDORA working groups) will then have the opportunity alongside other PS and SIG's to come up with proposals for such events. It is expected that there will be proposals in the field of Guidance and Counselling. The events will be organised under the responsibility of the Professional Development Committee, the EAIE Office and PS/SIG's."

I would like to thank everybody from inside and outside FEDORA who helped us in the Board and accompanied us during these two years with sound criticism, good advice and encouraging support.

Season's greetings and best wishes for all of you for 2012!

Hans-Werner Rückert, President

**EC MEETING**

The Executive Committee, consisting of the elected National Coordinators, met in Ioannina, Greece during the Summer University on June 16, 2011. It confirmed the decision to go on with the merger with the European Association of International Education (EAIE). The EC had already formulated a proposal to that effect during the meeting in Alicante, Spain on November 19, 2010.

**BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board also met in the context of the Summer University in Ioannina on June 16, 2011 and during the EAIE conference in Copenhagen on September 15, 2011 to discuss the ongoing developments.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLIES**

In the context of the Summer University in Ioannina, Greece, the membership of FEDORA met in a General Assembly to vote on the EC proposal to proceed with the merger. The motion of the Fedora EC to the General Assembly was:

- a) The General Assembly decides to proceed with the merger with the European Association for International Education (EAIE) and, after the merger is carried out by decisions in the Fedora GA and the EAIE's General Council, to dissolve Fedora as an organization under Belgian law.
- b) The General Assembly appoints Fedora Treasurer Eric Depreeuw and Fedora President Hans-Werner Rückert as liquidators according to article 21 of the Fedora statutes.
- c) Remaining financial assets of the association shall be put into a special trust and be used to (co)finance conferences on Guidance and Counselling organized by the merged Professional Sections (FECG-Emploi, EdCouns-SAFSA) or SIGs ( I/EO-Access) or by the new PS Psyche.

The vote on the motion of the EC was unanimously positive, but since the quorum according to the Fedora statutes, article 21, of 2/3 of the members to be present or represented by proxy on a vote about the dissolution of the association was not met, another GA took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, on September 14 2011 to vote on the same motion. There, a quorum of 4/5 of the votes of the present members –regardless of their number- needed to be in favour to make the vote legally binding. This final vote again was unanimously positive.

## **FEDORA/EAIE**

After another meeting of the Steering group between the leaderships of the EAIE and FEDORA in Copenhagen on September 15, 2011, a final proposal was formulated and presented to the General Council (GC) of the EAIE. In its meeting in November 25, 2011, the GC accepted this proposal with the core elements:

“The merger between the EAIE and FEDORA will be realized like this:

- EMPLOI and FEDORA Career Guidance & Counseling will merge (PS)
- SAFSA and FEDORA Educational Guidance and Counseling will merge (PS)
- DIW and FEDORA Inclusion/Equal Opportunity will merge (SIG)
- PSYCHE to be established as a PS on its own”.

Details of the merger and its implementation will be discussed in a meeting of the Steering group in Amsterdam on January 18, 2012. In spring 2012, the next elections in the EAIE will take place. This is the perfect occasion for all FEDORA members to actively engage in the structures of our new association and be candidates for boards of the Professional Sections.

## **PAST EVENTS OF FEDORA**

June 16-18, 2011, University of Ioannina, Greece: Summer University under the title: “Modern Times – Counseling Students in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”

It was a wonderful event, perfectly organized thanks to the marvelous work of the local organizing team of the University of Ioannina led by Eleni Kerkentzes. Everybody enjoyed the fantastic hospitality and helpfulness of her and her team. Thanks to the programme committee led by Eric Depreeuw, the quality of the contributions in the summer university programme was impressively high. Those of you who could not participate: You really missed something special!

Copenhagen September 13-16. 2011: The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual EAIE Conference took place with the theme Cooperate-Innovate-Participate.

In two sessions, FEDORA presented topics like “Multiculturalism as Guiding Principle for Counseling and Psychological Services in Higher Education – Support for international students” (Ton Boekhorst, Maple Hupkens, Erwin Uildriks, U Groningen; Frank Haber, Jacobs U Bremen; Chair: Hans-Werner

Rückert, Freie U Berlin) and “Diversity in Student Population: Some Key issues in the universities widening access and participation policy and practice” (Willy Aastrup; Chair: Maria Holler Hune, both from the Danish School of Education, U Aarhus). More FEDORA members actively participated in sessions and workshops flagged by other subsections like EMPLOI.

The next EAIE Conference will take place in Dublin in September 11-14, 2012. The Conference theme is: Rethinking education – reshaping economies. Again, there will be sessions from FEDORA

#### **FEDORA HOMEPAGE**

You will find more information, past newsletters, the President’s report and additional material in regard to the merger process in the members only section of the FEDORA homepage

<http://www.fedora.eu.org/index.php>

#### **FEDORA ON LINKEDIN**

We would like to suggest that you join FEDORA on the professional network Linkedin. To be able to join the virtual FEDORA working groups, please click on

[http://www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=2348233&trk=anet\\_ug\\_grppro](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=2348233&trk=anet_ug_grppro)