

Dear FEDORA members,
with this newsletter, we would like to inform you about the latest developments in our association.

BOARD MEETING

The Board met in Nantes in the context of the EAIE Conference on September 16, 2010 to discuss mainly the state of things regarding the negotiations with the European Association for International Education (EAIE). As you know, the General Assembly in October 2009 in Berlin has decided that FEDORA should become a preliminary Special Interest Group (SIG) within the European Association for International Education (EAIE) and explore possibilities of a merger. This became effective on February 1, 2010.

FEDORA/EAIE

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 four times to monitor the 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. A detailed summary of the Working Group reports can [be found here](#).

The Board meeting in Nantes 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.

Under these conditions, 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, we have found no alternative better than merging with the EAIE. The 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 the 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.

The Board sees the results of the negotiations as a real success and will present this to the Executive Committee at the next meeting in Alicante on November 19, 2010. Should the EC accept, it will be

made the proposal to the General Assembly in 2011 which has to make the final decision about the merger and subsequently the dissolution of Fedora as it is organized now under Belgian law.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF FEDORA

November 17-19, Alicante, Spain: Psyche conference

PAST EVENTS OF FEDORA

June 3-4, Bordeaux, France: Careers Guidance & Employment Group Conference “Unlocking the potential - The role of Higher Education Careers Advisors and Recruiters in equipping students for a European labour market

<http://fedorabordeaux2010.eu/>

September 15-17, Nantes, France

<http://www.eaie.org/nantes/>

FEDORA ON LINKEDIN

We would like to suggest that you join FEDORA on the professional network LinkedIn. Please click on http://www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=2348233&trk=anet_ug_grppro to be able to join the virtual FEDORA working groups.

MEMBER REQUEST

Nannette Ripmeester (a long-time FEDORA member) is undertaking a survey and would like to gather as many responses as possible. The survey is about “Employability skills of graduates”. Nannette’s organisation - Expertise in Labour Mobility ([ELM](#)) - carries out the survey in partnership with the International Graduate Insight Group ([i-graduate](#)), Higher Education Services Unit (HECSU), and the Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE), the aim is to review how international universities help graduates enhance their employability. The study will establish a global picture of how institutions are preparing their undergraduate and postgraduate students for employment after graduation and will compare the practices and processes across different regions. The research will contribute to the global debate on the employability skills of graduates.

The survey should take around 15 minutes to complete and will close on **Friday 30th April**.

[Click here to be taken to the survey](#)

If the link does not work, please copy and paste the detail below into the address line of your web browser:

<http://survey.euro.confirmit.com/wix3/p366728034.aspx?inst=ouiy>

As a token of thanks for completing the survey, Nannette would like to send you a summary report of findings about approaches to employability in your region. So if you would like to receive the summary report, please ensure you enter your name and email address at the end of the survey.

Many thanks for your help! In case of questions do not hesitate to contact Archie Pollock (a.pollock@labourmobility.com) or Nannette (n.ripmeester@labourmobility.com)