

EMA Policy Team

EMA Policy Report

This report is to measure the performance of the Policy Team against the objectives and priorities that were set by the team after June 2006. It also defines the work plan for the team for the period till February 2007.

The meeting in October 2006 showed a number of issues which should be addressed to ensure the efficiency of the team: election of a permanent coordinator, communication and cooperation between teams, finalization of all the documents that were discussed by the team.

New **objectives** were also set before the team, namely a) finalization of the structure of the Alumni Association, b) articulation of the mission and objectives, c) creation of the Constitution, d) formation of the policy documents for Committees' work (current working teams) as well as documents regulating Association activities with the EU commission and Service providers.

In response to the challenges, the following steps were taken:

- a) permanent coordinator was selected
- b) weekly work plan module was elaborated which insures contribution from every member and personal responsibility
- c) the following issues are currently being addressed by different members of the team:
 - Finalization of organizational charter with responsibilities of every constituent
 - Articulation of the mission and objectives
 - Elaboration of Constitution

Below are current ideas on the structure and budget of the alumni association, to be finalized before November 15th .

EMA structure

Though most of the teams agreed to the structure we proposed i.e. GA, GB, and Service Groups, there was a rigorous discussion as to whether President and/or other office holders should be elected. The problem is that of financing and management, because there is a fear that it will create two centres of power (heads of Service Groups vs. Elected Office holders). As far as we understood, the final suggestion was to have only a President elected.

Therefore the current idea of the structure is the following:

General Assembly
Service Groups
Governing Body
President

We agreed that General Assembly will represent both students and alumni of the programs. Due to the financial and administrative reasons (as pointed out by EU), the

GA will consist of no more than 100 members.

To equally represent universities and alumni, and also ensure continuity (i.e. at every GA there should be half new people, and half experienced members), the following structure was suggested:

100% of the universities are split into two groups 50% (A group) + 50% (B group)
For Year 1 Group A sends one student per course and Group B sends one alumni per course.

The next time - Year 2 - , these two group reverse, i. e. Group A sends alumni (this should be the students who attended Year 1 GA, but now in a new status of alumni)*, Group B sends students accordingly.

* It is important to take into consideration that some programs' duration is more than a year and therefore the proposed structure will not always work properly. One of the ways to minimize it is to ensure that such programs are equally distributed between the two groups.

It was also stressed that there is a need to elaborate a procedure for the selection of students and alumni into the GA which will ensure transparency and effectiveness and therefore legitimacy of the representatives. Conference team suggested not limiting mundus courses in the election procedure to select participants but the issue should be carefully addressed.

Service groups will be free to join by all members of the GA, and for now correspond to working groups we have. Service groups will elect their head, who will automatically become a member of the Governing Body.
Therefore the governing body should consist of the heads of service groups.

Budget

The main financing source will remain EU commission, but no definite sum was discussed.

There is a need to define a structure for the budget in percentages with will have to be followed by the GA this June.

It was then decided that Service Groups propose activities and budget (within allocated by EU and which does not exceed structure limits far too much) to the GA. GA is to approve the budget or can introduce their own suggestions.

Finance will rest with a service provider to avoid unnecessary financial and managerial complications.

Elections

We agreed that GA representatives will be elected by the courses and course alumni associations. There is a need to develop a guiding paper how to do it. A separate consideration is given on the elections of the president and service group heads.

Policy Team