

**FEBS AMBASSADORS' MEETING PARIS, 7-8 APRIL 2017**  
**REPORT OF WORKING GROUP 3**

**Group 3: "PROMOTION OF EDUCATION: AMBASSADORS' EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNICATION WITH ALL STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS"**

<i>Coordinators:</i>	Laszlo Dux- Gül Güner Akdogan
<i>Ambassadors:</i>	Vida Mildaziene Catalin Marian Daisy van der Schaft Hannes Stockinger Jiri Hudecek Xavier Coumoul

**1st Meeting: Friday, April 7th 2017**

Following introduction of the Chairs and participants of the Working group, firstly, brainstorming was done on the following issues:

- The of Ambassadors of Education represents a significant international body, to be exploited for the advancement of education in molecular life sciences. To get our messages through:
- Who are our targets?
  - Shall we target the EU bodies, national parliaments and representatives?
  - National Societies?
  - Madame Curie programme?
  - International projects?
  - Erasmus +?
  - ERC grants?

**Laszlo Dux (Hungary Szeged University) (Member of FEBS Education Committee):** The EU does not have a common education policy. (Moreover the FEBS includes many non EU member countries as well) The Bologna treaty represents a willingness to harmonize higher education systems in Europe making degrees and diplomas comparable. The role of policy makers, governments in higher education are at the financing and at the quality control, accreditation level. Priorities should be given to recruitment of more teachers into the life and natural sciences education.

**Hannes Stockinger** from the Medical University of Vienna mentioned that each year 7 000 new students are incoming for the MD degree, 660 are being selected. The selection is done on the results of a one-day examination as well as on the origin of the students to guarantee sufficient MDs staying in Austria: thus 5% internationals; 20% EU members; 75% Austrians are selected from the best candidates. Hannes has worked long time on students' issues:

- **Laszlo Dux:**
- The Ambassadors should identify the problems: What can be done? Persuade the decision makers at local and EU level-Get in contact with the Decision Making Bodies and- give the necessary information. Try to work in the peer-reviewing programmes, etc. The messages should be simple and short. Contradictory messages coming from the scientific/higher education communities are usually blocking any further activities. No uniform way can be recommended for all countries and professional organizations involved.
- Laszlo Dux mentioned that by the year 2020, 1, 000 , 000 health professionals will be missing from Europe. . The worse is in new member and candidate states like Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia, etc. Germany is in the best condition now. Return of young education and research professional after a couple of years abroad, to their original home country should be promoted and supported by governmental and EU programmes..

#### **Daisy van der Schaft (The Netherlands):**

- **Question:** How are the practicals incorporated? Is there a formal training for Bachelor's thesis?
- Hungary: Practical work in MSc practical training but also some additional practical training in bachelor's degree necessary, depending on the final goal of the individual education programme..
- **Some issues:** Bologna process was implemented to enhance mobility. However, on the third year, which could be the most productive year, students wish less to move, due to special extra commitments at finishing BSc and starting MSc programmes.
- In one tier system the dynamics of most students as follows:
- 1st year.(Shocked by new environment)....
- 2nd year...(Getting in balance)...
- 3rd year.....(Most productive in research, culture, sport, social, international other activities at the University)
- 4th year: (same as 3<sup>rd</sup> year)
- 5th year...(Looking for a job)
- Actually, the mobility has decreased under the Bologna system.
- Bachelor's thesis  
Depends on the socioeconomic situation in different countries and we can not make a generalization.

#### **Xavier Coumoul (Paris Descartes University):**

- The decision makers about science are not connected with science.

Example: Ministry of Agriculture The Deputy of the Senate (Chamber) has no biological background. How to connect with these persons?

EPHIS: High rank official from European Commission—Ministry of Science- We invited one.

One way would be to invite one person to FEBS, as a liaison from EU Commission- We have to try..

- Also, decision makers from the Academy of Science.

## **2nd Meeting: Saturday, April 8th 2017**

### **Hannes Stockinger:**

We should write "Conclusions" to send to EU, and to National Constituent Societies . We could also go via "Association of European Universities "(EUA).

We need also to contact Ministries.

**Ranking of universities:** We should discuss how the ranking is done. Education is pretty much neglected.

**Merging of Societies:** This is an effective way to be more effective as united. We should also NOT send contradictory messages between related Societies - this is confusing.

Some targets:

- Presidents of Academy of Sciences (One should note that some of these institutions work in conflict with the universities, while some are productive).
- **Vice Ministers working with Science and/or Education**

### **Gül Güner (Izmir University of Economics) (Chair, FEBS Education Committee):**

In the next period before the next FEBS Education Ambassadors' meeting, we could realize a pilot Project dealing with all these issues and writing and sending a Document to the stakeholders.

### **Vida Mildaziene (Kaunas, Lithuania) (Member of FEBS WGI):**

Lithuanian universities have strong collaboration with the industry. So, industry could also be a stakeholder.

Document should also be sent to the Ministries.

FEBS can help through WGI (Working Group on Integration).

### **Laszlo Dux:**

No more EU funding will be available for the new countries from 2020 on.

### **Daisy van der Schaft**

At the EU level:

EAMBES (Engineering Society) to team-up with the EU Lobbying.

Joining forces with EMBO.

BIOMEDALLIANCE:

### **Gül Güner:**

FEBS is a member of BIOMEDALLIANCE.

### **Laszlo Dux:**

More Societies are represented in FEBS than the EU countries. Their needs and ideas should be incorporated and represented by the education Committee as well as by the Ambassadors.

### **Mission:**

Strengthening research and Education capacities in developing countries-balance the capacities.

### **Daisy van der Schaft**

Could there be proposals for student fellowships for pursuing MSc in a different country and then coming back?

"Multiplicative Effects of EU funds can be improved with sort of a""Return to Home Country" fellowship

**Gul Guner.** Why MSc and not PhD?

### **Daisy van der Schaft:**

(Chinese fellows have these fellowships)

### **Tentative WorkFlow of the Working Group (Pilot Project)**

1. Firstly, discuss with each other to form an outline
2. Set-up a "Communication Document"
3. Prepare a list at the national levels (each member) (Ministries, university rectors, Academy of Sciences, Science Bodies (EMBO; etc ), Deans of Life Sciences Schools and at the EU level (if possible)
4. Contact FEBS bodies (Science and Society, WGI, etc) and also find some positive people from FEBS (Tomas Zima, Frederic Dardel, Vaclav Paces, Israel Pecht, etc).
5. **From September 2017 to February 2018:**  
Send or communicate personally the "Communication Document" and receive feedback
6. **March 2018:**  
Compile the feedback result and form a Report of the Pilot Project

### **Saturday April 8th, Discussion with the Big Group**

#### **Laszlo Dux gave a short report to the big group.**

In order to have a stronger voice for the governments and other bodies, it was noted that some countries have "united" societies. Some examples:

#### **Keith Elliott:**

UK example:

Structure of Life Sciences: Royal Academy of Biology :

(One body was formed) They talk as one voice to the politicians and strategists. It took 20-30 years of work.

**Erkki:** Alliance between Education and research communities..

#### **Ferhan Sagin:**

Science politicians and science educators-Nature has a commentary on that issue.

#### **Angel Herraes:**

Spain example:

Confederation of Scientific Societies: They meet regularly.

#### **Jerka Domic:**

Each society has a committee for information and different activities FES WGI is communicating with the Ministries and strategists of the related FEBS countries, Academy of Sciences, etc.

Alberto Spasni

Italy:

Federation of Italian Life Sciences Societies.