

PERIODIC PROGRESS REPORT (6 MONTHS)

CONFIDENTIAL

Project Contract n°: HPSE-CT-2001-50011

Title: Higher Education Reform Network (HERN)

Project coordinator:

Dr M A J Guzkowska, University of Surrey Roehampton (ROEI.DSC)

Partners:

Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE), United Kingdom

Centre for Higher Education Studies (CHESCZ), Prague, Czech Republic

Vytautas Magnus University (UMAGN.FSS.CVER), Kaunas, Lithuania

Bureau for Educational Services (BESBG), Sofia, Bulgaria

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (UAT.PSY), Athens, Greece

Kungliga Tekniska Hoegskolan (RIT.LL), Stockholm, Sweden

Johannes Kepler Universitaet Linz (ULINZ.ISUSS), Linz, Austria

Universiteit Leiden (RUL.SW.LO.ESREA), Leiden, Netherlands

Continuing Education Development Foundation (CEDEF), Riga, Latvia

Jagellonian University (UJAG.FC), Krakow, Poland

Reference period: from 1 November 2001 to 30 April 2002

Starting date: 1 November 2001

Duration: 36 months

Date of issue of this report: 25 May 2002

Project funded by the European Community under TSER

SCIENTIFIC REPORT

2. Scientific overview

The overall purpose of the network is to explore the differential values underlying strategies for HE reform by addressing the question: “What is the relationship between HE and society in a world of change?”, with particular reference to:

- structural changes taking place in European society and ways of managing change
- relationships between technology, employment and society
- mechanisms for collective action in terms of governance and citizenship
- learning development strategies fostering growth, employment and economic and social cohesion

European Ministers of Education (Bologna, 1999) identified a need to facilitate information flow across and between research and development projects. The present EU context of enlargement brings with it social imbalance, particularly in relation to wealth creation and employment and a need to improve cross-cultural understanding between the states of Central, Eastern and Western Europe. HERN actively links experiences from a range of current EU programmes relating to HE (TEMPUS, SOCRATES, LEONARDO, PHARE, for example) and will provide a direct contribution to EU policy development. HERN members are connected to an extensive range of professional organisations, networks and end users and this ‘networking networks’ approach is a fundamental principle of HERN, supported by face-to-face seminars, internet-based, interactive forums, publications and dissemination through national, professional and academic channels in order to inform the widest possible range of interested stakeholders.

The network will explore how different higher education institutions (HEIs) have responded to their histories and see their future. It will explore how different contexts influence changing patterns of governance, decision making, quality assurance and accountability and will include considerations of how women are allowed to play an equal part in these aspects of HE behaviour. The network will identify and analyse the different ways in which various forms of HE see their regional role and how they respond to societal trends and needs. Models for fostering growth, social balance and employment will be explored and analysed for their implications for the quality of education and training in Europe in order to improve European integration strategies for the future.

In order to gain new perspectives for teaching and learning the network will identify innovative strategies for implementing change in teaching and learning. This will include the role of technology, flexible study modes, open and distance learning, modular and lifelong learning models and new systems which need to be developed. It will explore higher education models and approaches to guidance, skills and curriculum that address the interrelationship between learning, employment and

citizenship. It will identify research that explores the tensions and possible solutions to a selection of student support issues which can influence future access policies in HE.

HE's current role in providing continuing vocational education and continuing professional development will be explored with particular emphasis on the implications for lifelong learning and strategies for addressing social integration, particularly amongst older adults and women who may have been excluded from higher education in the past.

2.1 Summary of the specific objectives for the relevant period.

2.1.1 Project Management Objectives

Two workpackages (WP1 and WP13) are concerned with the establishing and managing the project. The following objectives have been achieved within this period for each of the work-packages:

WP1

- Establishment of a draft constitution and communications framework for the network

- Establishment of publicity, website and database frameworks

WP13

- Obtain consensus on the constitutional and organisational structure of the network

- Agree protocols for communications, data and information exchange

- Establish the network's Steering Group, its terms of reference, membership and schedule of meetings

- Organise financial and managerial systems that ensure full transparency and accountability

- Ensure that partners are involved in planning for and developing network activities beyond the limits of the present project - both to widen the present network and to develop it into the future

- Obtain consensus for a common design scheme for all HERN paper and web materials and products

Two further objectives under WP1 were started during this period and are continuing:

- Audit of networks in each country relevant to HE reform

- Audit of case studies in each country relevant to HERN domains and research questions

Four objectives under WP13 were initiated in the first period and will continue throughout the life of the project:

- Organise (in partnership with the hosting institution) and Chair Steering Group meetings ensuring that all necessary information is circulated, that minutes are kept and that progress is monitored

Maintain an accurate database of all partners and contacts and manage the distribution of Steering group papers, seminar papers and other products of the network

Require progress reports from each of the partners to be given at each Steering Group and provide such progress reports to the Funding Body as may be required by them

Represent the Network and partners in dealings with the Funding Body

2.1.2 Scientific Objectives

Workpackages 2, 3, 4 and 5 are in progress. No work packages were concluded this period. Two seminars were held as planned, the first hosted by the Latvian partner in Riga in January 2002 and the second by the Greek partner in Athens in April 2002. The Riga seminar was followed by the planned internet based discussion (the eForum) and the key partners are presently reviewing the material with the view to produce a paper. The Athens seminar eForum is in progress. The Disability Research Group, led by the Austrian partner, will be meeting during and as part of a much larger conference on disability (July 2002) of which the Austrian partner is one of the organisers. The specific objectives that have been addressed during the period were:

WP2

To analyse the historical and forward looking contextual influences on and implications for HE reform in selected national case studies

To exchange and analyse outcomes of existing CE training projects, with a focus on Latvia

To obtain an analytical overview of national responses to EU policy

WP3

To make theoretical comparisons of different underlying economical, political and social contexts for the employment prospects of female graduates

To compare and analyse case studies of strategies for preparing female students for transitions from education to work across different subject areas (for e.g. women & science, women & technology)

To contribute innovative ideas to enhance the study and employment prospects for female students

WP4

To identify and design, within the project's overall theoretical perspectives, successful interventions to integrate disabled graduates into the European labour market

WP5

To analyse, within the network's overall theoretical perspective how disabled students are given equitable access to lifelong learning in HE

2.2 Overview of the technical progress

HERN has been established within the time-scales set out in the contract and has just completed its first six months. The core partnership has been established, the framework of seminars has been agreed and general operating procedures are in place. The first two seminars have been held, the first in Riga, Latvia, on 25th and 26th January, 2002 and the second in Athens, Greece on 20th and 21st April 2002. The project's website (URL: www.HEReform.Net) has been created by SRHE and is hosted by the University of Surrey Roehampton.

Month 1 – November 2001

Communications between network partners was established, an outline programme was proposed and a framework of operations established, especially arrangements for the first seminar due in Month 3.

Project financial framework established at university of Surrey Roehampton. Framework for information gathering established. UK partners attended a seminar in London to publicise the project in the UK.

Interim project web-site established (while main site under development by SRHE).

Month 2 – December 2001

The project's presentation, communication, control and co-ordination systems and protocols were devised and disseminated.

The calendar of dates for seminars and eForums was agreed between the partners.

Article on HERN published in SRHE News,

Latvian partner organises first seminar. SRHE investigate methodology for follow-up eForum. Seminar information published on the web-site.

Month 3 – January 2002

SRHE decide to establish the project's web-server at University of Surrey Roehampton and establish the protocols for the eForum to follow seminar 1.

Seminar 1 run in Riga, Latvia. Attended by representatives of higher education, the education ministry and the continuing education community in Latvia together with partners from Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Netherlands, Austria, Czech Republic and the UK.

Inaugural HERN steering group meeting held in Riga, Latvia. Technical matters agreed included the operating procedures for the eForum, design of the web-site and standard operating procedures.

Month 4 – February 2002

First eForum conducted to develop the issues arising from Seminar 1. Technical facilitation undertaken by SRHE and academic leadership provided by the Latvian partners.

Initial plans for Seminar 2 in Athens discussed

Web-site development and information gathering continues.

Month 5 – March 2002

First eForum concluded. Latvian partner undertakes task of collating and analysing the resulting documents and discussions as the basis for development into a conference paper on HE reform relating to the development of CE and training in Central and Eastern European countries.

Web-site development completed and project site activated. Interim site closed down. Web-server hosting arrangements agreed with USR.

Month 6 – April 2002

Seminar 2 hosted by the Greek partner in Athens and attended by their colleagues together with representatives from the Netherlands, Sweden, Latvia, Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania and the UK.

Second steering group meeting held in Athens following the seminar. Technical issues concerning the eForum (to run in Month 7) and the information audit were the principal items on the agenda.

Disability research group established to progress the research agenda and prepare for the conference in Month 9.

2.3 Comparison of planned activities and actual work accomplished.

The project is broadly on target and there are no major discrepancies. There are two, relatively minor, observations on progress:

The information and knowledge audit is progressing more slowly than the plan envisaged. The systems and protocols to gather and organise data are in place and progress is being made. It was envisaged that this process would be a continuing objective and the only significant change is that data will be accumulated over a longer proportion of the project's timeline. This does not produce a substantive change since regular quarterly updating had always been planned.

While the software that supports the eForum is theoretically ideal for the task it can cause problems for some older computer systems, especially where memory and space allocations are restricted – as may happen on some institutional systems. The current software has been used for the second eForum following the Athens Seminar and will be replaced by an updated version subsequently. However, it will be necessary to conduct a trial to make sure the problems have been solved before deciding whether to adopt it for future eForums. A contingency plan is in place to use a Roehampton-based server for interactive web-based teaching should the current software problems be insoluble.

2.4 Planned activities for the next period.

2.4.1 Overview

The HERN Disability Research Group will be contributing to the 8th International Conference on "Computers Helping People with Special Needs" (ICCHP) to be held at the Johannes Kepler University Linz from 15th to 20th July 2002, in particular through the conference workshop "Studying and Academic Mobility - IT Support for Students with Disabilities". The third seminar in the HERN series will be held at the University of Leiden, Netherlands on 13th and 14th September 2002 on the theme of "*European enlargement and citizenship: the role of HE*". Partners have agreed the subsequent seminars as follows:

"Governance challenges for different nation institutions in managing change", 24/25 January 2003, Bulgaria

"Addressing inequalities of gender participation in institutional decision making systems", 14/15 March 2003, Sweden

"Legitimacy, quality and accountability for lifelong learning and higher education", 4/5 July 2003, Poland

"Key features of teaching and learning in the university of tomorrow", 23/24 January 2004, UK

"Distance education and the use of technology for tomorrow's knowledge society", 23/24 April 2004, Lithuania

"Guidance for employment and inclusion: the development of new competencies", 25/26 June 2004, Czech Republic

2.4.2 Scientific Objectives for next period.

WP3

Month 7: Partners will conduct the eForum following the 2 seminar lead by the Greek partner and supported by SRHE.

Month 8-9: Partners will collate and analyse the data arising from Seminar 2 and its associated eForum in order to plan and prepare a conference paper.

WP4

Month 7-8: literature review and establish communications for the exchange of information on disability, HE and employment outcomes.

Month 9: electronic conference (with WP5) to establish common research methods parameters.

WP5

Month 7-8: conduct literature review and desk research in each collaborator's country on government and HE policies for disabled students.

Month 9: agree research design according to methods outlined in the proposal - using questionnaire, focus groups and interview strategies - via electronic conference.

Month 10: implement questionnaires, focus groups and interviews in selected HEIs.

WP6

Month 9: NL will liaise with relevant partners over publicity, dates and plans for steering group meeting, seminar, analytical strategies and follow up website discussions.

Month 10: NL hosts steering group meeting and one day seminar. Partners produce presentations and papers for analytical discussion.

Month 11: UK-SRHE produces time limited website discussion to explore further the underlying values influencing HE's role in promoting citizenship and economic development.

Month 12: partners will prepare a conference paper on the outcomes of the seminar and eForum.

2.4.3 Project management Objectives

WP13

Months 6 - 12 – progress the information gathering and ensure that all databases and records are updated and kept current

Months 6 - 9 – work with SRHE to resolve residual problems with software for eForums

Months 8 – 9 . Ensure timely warning and requests for progress reports and other project documentation

Months 10. Organise and run Steering Group meetings to be hosted by the Netherlands partner after seminar 3.

Month 12 - provide such reports to the Funding Body as may be required.

3. List of Project Deliverables

<i>Deliverable</i>	<i>Work package Nr</i>	<i>Outline description of deliverable</i>	<i>Month due</i>
1	1.1	Draft constitutional arrangements, design of project identity and publicity materials for the network	1
2	1.2	Common information, software, communication, internet and database protocols	2
3	1.3	Database of HE reform case studies and networks relevant to HERN partners	3
4	1.4	Project website	3
5	2.1	A one day seminar on the changing role of HE: contexts, histories and the development of lifelong learning (LLL) through Continuing Education (CE) and the first HERN steering group meeting.	3
6	2.2	Linked eForum and report of website discussion	5
7	3.1	A one-day seminar on The role of tomorrow's HE in fostering gender equity and employment and steering group meeting.	6
8	2.3	Conference paper on CE and training in context of HE Reform in Europe	7
9	3.2	Linked eForum and report of website discussion	8
10	4.1	mailbase of employment outcomes for disabled graduates	8
11	4.2	Conference in conjunction with WP 5	9
12	5.1	audit of policies for disabled students in HE and formation of HERN disability steering committee	9
13	3.3	Conference paper on HE, equity and employment	11
14	6.1	A one-day seminar on European enlargement and citizenship: the role of HE and steering group meeting.	11
15	6.2	Linked eForum and report of website discussion	12
16	2.4	Contribution to brief guide to policy on HE, equity and employment	13
17	3.4	Contribution to brief guide to policy on HE, equity and employment	13
18	6.3	Conference paper on HE, equity and employment	13
19	6.4	Contribution to brief guide to policy on HE Reform, society and change, employment, access and citizenship	13

<i>Deliverable</i>	<i>Work package Nr</i>	<i>Outline description of deliverable</i>	<i>Month due</i>
20	7.1	A one-day seminar on Governance challenges for different nation institutions in managing change and a steering group meeting.	15
21	7.2	Linked eForum and report of website discussion	16
22	8.1	A one-day seminar on Addressing inequalities of gender participation in institutional decision making systems and a steering group meeting.	17
23	5.2	brief 'guide to policy' report on strategies for supporting print disabled students in HE	18
24	8.2	Linked eForum and report of website discussion	18
25	4.3	conference paper on disability perspectives for society, teaching, learning and employment	21
26	7.3	Conference paper on the impact of HE reform on governance systems	21
27	8.3	Conference paper on 'The position of women in HE and implications for wider society'	21
28	9.1	A one-day seminar on Legitimacy, quality and accountability for lifelong learning and higher education and a steering group meeting.	21
29	5.3	conference papers on disability perspectives for society, teaching, learning and employment	22
31	5.4	training manual on applicability of print disabled student support in different HE contexts in Europ	22
32	5.5	scientific publication on new perspectives for social integration of visually impaired students in HE society	22
33	9.2	Linked eForum and report of website discussion	23
34	5.6	establishment of relevant HE strand to WCN Europe network	24
35	9.3	Conference paper on "Steering Change in HE, management implications and quality assurance'	24
36	7.4	Contribution to brief guide to policy - on past and present systems and challenges for the future	25
37	8.4	Chapter for brief guide to policy on 'Internal management, gender and staff development in HE in the context of reform & EU enlargement'	25

<i>Deliverable</i>	<i>Work package Nr</i>	<i>Outline description of deliverable</i>	<i>Month due</i>
38	9.4	Chapter for brief guide to policy - "Relations with the State and quality in HE"	25
39	5.7	Seminar paper on ways of supporting visually impaired students in HE society	27
40	10.1	A one-day seminar on Key features of teaching and learning in the university of tomorrow and a steering group meeting.	27
41	10.2	Linked eForum and report of website discussion	28
42	10.3	Conference paper on Key theoretical issues and strategies for changing pedagogic practice	29
43	11.1	A one-day seminar on Distance education and the use of technology for tomorrow's knowledge society and a steering group meeting.	30
44	11.2	Linked eForum and report of website discussion	31
45	12.1	A one-day seminar on Guidance for employment and inclusion: the development of new competencies and a steering group meeting.	32
46	11.3	Conference paper: Evaluating management of change strategies for ODL study programmes across Central and Eastern Europe	33
47	12.2	Linked eForum and report of website discussion	33
48	4.4	Contribution to guide to policy on disability perspectives for teaching, learning and change.	34
49	10.4	Chapter for brief guide to policy: Key issues and strategies for changing pedagogic practice in different EU contexts	36
50	11.4	Chapter for brief guide to policy: 'HE reform, teaching and learning, change and quality: student diversity, distance learning and guidance	36
51	12.3	Conference paper on Student diversity, distance learning and guidance	36
52	12.4	Chapter in brief guide to policy: HE Reform, teaching and learning, change and quality: student diversity, distance learning and guidance	36
53	12.5	Interactive CD ROM	36
54	13.1	Plan for future collaborations	36

The project deliverables completed or substantially progressed during the first 6 months were:

1	Draft constitutional arrangements, design of project identity and publicity materials for the network	1
2	Common information, software, communication, internet and database protocols	2
3	Database of HE reform case studies and networks relevant to HERN partners	3
4	Project website	3
5	A one day seminar on the changing role of HE: contexts, histories and the development of lifelong learning (LLL) through Continuing Education (CE) and the first HERN steering group meeting.	3
6	Linked eForum and report of website discussion	5
7	A one-day seminar on The role of tomorrow's HE in fostering gender equity and employment and steering group meeting.	6

4. Exploitation and dissemination of results

A seminar was held as part of SRHE's Eastern European Network to launch the network in the UK (November 2001)

An article was published in SRHE News (December 2001) to publicise the start of the network to the UK academic community.

A description of the HERN project and a link to the web-site has been placed on SRHE's web-site (www.SRHE.ac.uk)

The project web-site contains continuously updated information on the project and its activities.

An article has been prepared for publication in the forthcoming SRHE International News (June 2002)

SRHE International News is will publish the papers presented at Seminar 2 in Athens in the edition due out in May/June 2002.

MANAGERIAL REPORT

5. Management and co-ordination aspects

There have been no major problems with co-ordination or project management. Despite the short notice of the start and the intervention of the Christmas holidays, Seminar 1 was run by the Continuing Education Development Foundation of Latvia in Riga, Latvia, in January. The seminar was very well attended with high-level representation from the Latvian government and higher education institutions as well as 12 partners from Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Austria and the United Kingdom. The Greek partners were unable to attend because of teaching commitments and the Bulgarian partner because of a problem with the transfer of funds (subsequently resolved).

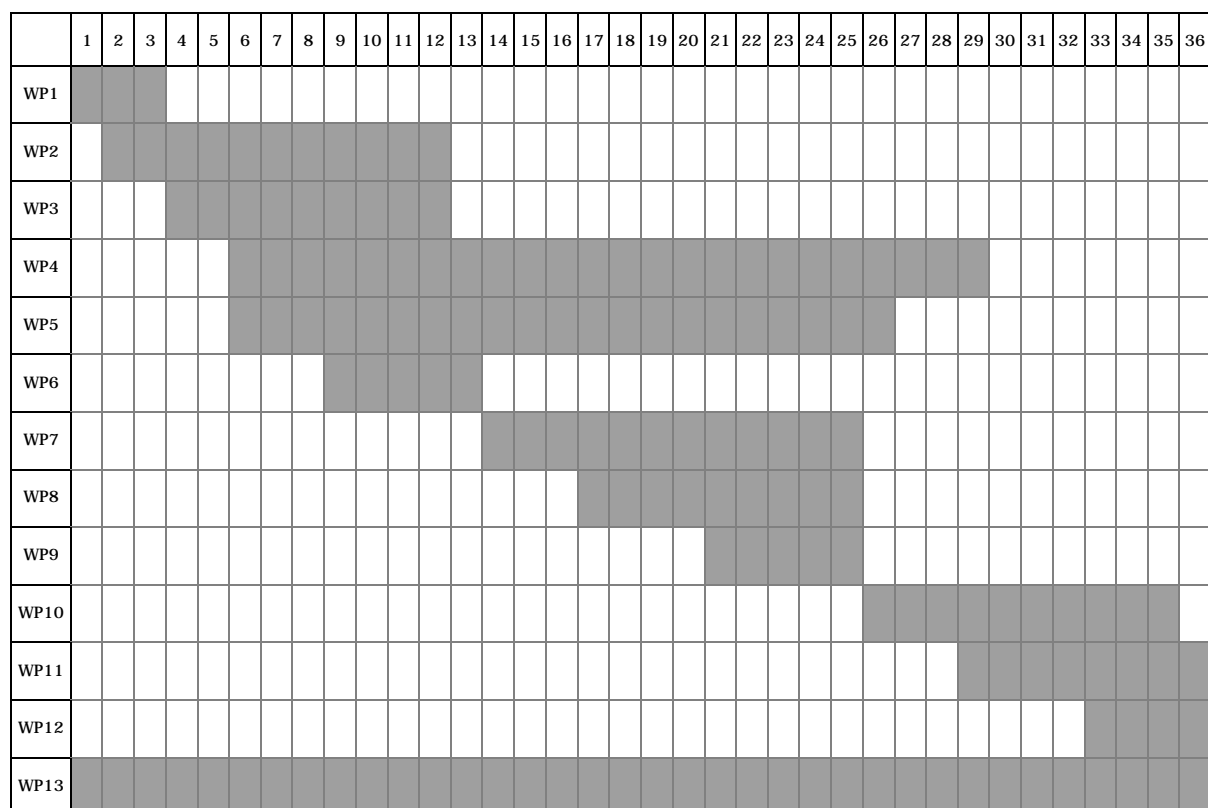
Such problems as have arisen have been connected with the transfer of funds. University of Surrey Roehampton had sent out cheques but these caused problems in some cases, especially for the Bulgarian partner and, to a lesser extent, for the Latvians and Swedes. It has been decided that in future funds will be transferred electronically.

The initial challenge for the co-ordinator, was to get the network running effectively – especially to put in place a structured calendar of events. The second challenge was to ensure that the basic systems and support mechanisms (like the eForum software and web-site) were in place. The third challenge has been to conduct the information audit – which is progressing, but slower than anticipated. This is likely to require more effort from the co-ordinator than was originally envisaged.

The next major challenge is to convert the initial progress into project momentum. The partners are all committed to supporting the network and are working hard on their specific portions – but there is a need to gain greater synergies from the co-operative effort. This is necessary because the principal outcomes (papers and communications) depend for their impact on the synthesis of many strands of activity. Addressing this is a key project co-ordination objective for the second six-month period, though it is likely to be required throughout the life of the project and reflects an increased level of commitment.

5.1 Progress chart.

The progress bar-chart (Fig 2 in the original bid) is appended below. There have been no substantive changes.



5.2 Contact List

<i>Nr</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Partner address details</i>
1	USR	Dr Myszka Guzkowska University of Surrey Roehampton Roehampton Lane LONDON SW15 5PH UK m.guzkowska@roehampton.ac.uk
2	SRHE	Prof Heather Eggins Society for Research into Higher Education 76 Portland Place LONDON W1B 1NT UK heathereggins@srhe.ac.uk
3	CHES	Dr Helena Sebkova Centre for Higher Education Studies U Luzického seminare 13, 118 00 PRAHA 1 CZECH REPUBLIC sebkova@csvgv.cz

<i>Nr</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Partner address details</i>
4	BES	Dr Nikolay Popov Bureau for Educational Services Galabetz Street 2-A 1505 - SOFIA BULGARIA npopov@fnpp.uni-sofia.bg
5	UNI LINZ	Univ Doz Dr Klaus Miesenberger Interuniversitäres Institut für Informationssysteme zur Unterstützung Sehgeschädigter Studierender University of Linz A-4040 LINZ AUSTRIA K.miesenberger@aib.uni-linz.ac.at
6	ESREA	Dr Barry Hake Centre for Learning in Organisations European Society for Research on Education of Adults (ESREA) Universiteit Leiden Postbus 9555 Wassenaarseweg 52 2300RB - LEIDEN NETHERLANDS hake@fsw.leidenuniv.nl
7	VDU	Dr Vaiva Zuzeviciute Centre of Educational Research Faculty of Social Sciences Vytauto Magnus University Donelaičio str. 60-507 LT-3000 KAUNAS LITHUANIA vaiva_zuzeviciute@fc.vdu.lt
8	ATHENS	Dr Despina Sidiropoulou-Dimakakou Department of Psychology National and Capodestrian University of Athens 15784 - ATHENS GREECE dsidirop@cc.uoa.gr
9	KTH	Prof Mats Hanson KTH Learning Laboratory Royal Institute of Technology Lindstedsvagen 5 S-100 44 STOCKHOLM SWEDEN mats@damek.kth.se

<i>Nr</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Partner address details</i>
10	CEDeF	Mgr Paed Ilze Buligina Continuing Education Development Foundation Ministry of Education Valnu street 2 LV-1050 RIGA LATVIA ilzbulig@izm.gov.lv
11	JU	Prof Marek Frankowicz Faculty of Chemistry Jagiellonian University Ingardena 3 30-060 KRAKOW POLAND frankowi@chemia.uj.edu.pl

6. Annexes

- 1 Deliverable 1 Draft constitutional arrangements, design of project identity and publicity materials for the network
- 2 Deliverable 2 Common information, software, communication, internet and database protocols
- 3 Deliverable 3 Database of HE reform case studies and networks relevant to HERN partners
- 4 Deliverable 4 Project website
- 5 Deliverable 5 A one day seminar on the changing role of HE: contexts, histories and the development of lifelong learning (LLL) through Continuing Education (CE) and the first HERN steering group meeting.
- 6 Deliverable 6 Linked eForum and report of website discussion
- 7 Deliverable 7 A one-day seminar on The role of tomorrow's HE in fostering gender equity and employment and steering group meeting.