NEREUS General Assembly, Granada: April 2010 Minutes of the Communication, Education & Training Working Group

Delegates Attending

Martina Hilger (Co-chair)

Malecka Saleman (Co-chair)

Dr Simon Roberts

Dr Peter A. Hecker

Stefan Schneiderbauer

Adam Edwards

Udo Rudolph

Delphine Texier

Artur Gil

Stephane Beyrand

Catherine Muller

Thomas Geist

Roya Ayazi

1. Dr Hilger and Ms Saleman introduced themselves as the new co-chairs of the working group and welcomed the delegates attending.
2. Dr Hilger explained that although this was the third meeting of the working group, in the past there had been a high turnover in the group’s membership. The delegates attending were therefore asked to provide a commitment to being permanent members of the group in the future. Those delegates that prepared to take on a permanent role are shown in the list of attendees above.
3. As the working group were effectively meeting for the first time, Dr Hilger asked the delegates attending their opinion on how the working group would be known in the future. The decision was that the group would be the Communication, Education and Training (CET) Working Group and that it would take on a role to raise the public’s awareness of space technology.
4. Dr Hilger asked the working group to consider the NEREUS General Assembly Strategy Discussion Paper. She commented on the fact that the General Assembly intended that the paper would be used as a method for brainstorming the future direction of NEREUS. To do this, the chairs of each working group would be collating their working group’s input into the strategy document. Dr Hilger asked the CET Working Group members to formulate answers to the questions raised under the eight action points in the strategy document. The members decided that the CET Working Group should provide answers to all the questions but that individual members may, in the first instance, prefer to concentrate on answering specific questions they thought most relevant to their regions and activities.
5. To assist members to answer the Strategy Discussion Paper, Dr Hilger asked the working group for their opinions on the group’s future direction. The members agreed that the group should formulate its own mandate for communication, education and training.
6. With regards to communication, the group decided that this should be on promoting the public awareness of the benefits of space technology, especially in terms of the economic benefits to the NEREUS regions. Furthermore, the group would communicate the public’s perceptions and requirements of space technology back to the NEREUS General Assembly. However, the group members stressed that they felt that their role should be to communicate the group’s activities rather than act as a method for disseminating information from the other NEREUS working groups.
7. In terms of education and training, the group decided that these should have elements in the education sector from primary to university level, as well as a less formal role in public awareness. Again the group agreed that education and training programmes required input from the educators/trainers and from the end users such as industry/business. The group decided that training and education should be, where possible, trans-regional in order that regions communicate their experiences to all the others.
8. Ms Saleman introduced the mapping exercise questionnaire. The questionnaire was formulated at a previous working group meeting and sent to all of the NEREUS regions. So far only five regions had replied. The group felt that this was most likely a result of difficulties in filling in the form. Ms Saleman told the group that her initial review of the answers received so far were not homogenous and were therefore difficult to interpret and synthesise into a meaningful format. However, it was felt that the information was valuable for future use.
9. The working group decided future mapping of activities in communication, education and training would be undertaken by theme and that each theme would be organised by keywords. The objective would be provide an overview of education and training in schools, universities and other organisations for use by industry and the wider public. The aim would be to bring education/training organisations together with business/industry, with the goal of linking the education and training to courses, apprenticeships, jobs and internships.
10. To formalise the working group’s mapping activities, the group decided that there would be a sub-group meeting to discuss future directions. Ms Saleman told the group that she would communicate the date of the meeting to the members and that all were invited.
11. Dr Hilger invited the group’s members to explore funding opportunities for future projects in communication, education and training. The members agreed that the working group was the basis for a consortium that could influence a NEREUS work programme, respond to future EU programmes or work to activate new programmes.
12. The group agreed to meet at the Toulouse Space Show on or around June 11th. If this date is inconvenient to the majority of members, the members agreed to consider an alternative date of June 14th in Brussels.

Meeting closed.