

EUE-Net Conference Istanbul
9-11 September 2010

Q-PlaNet

Future of the Quality Placements Network

Future network - TOPICS

- Tasks of the network
- Needs of the network
- Two possible solutions
- Funding
- Membership

What tasks has the Q-PlaNetwork?

- to contribute to the permanent improvement of the quality standard for placements and further development of quality aspects in mobility
- to build up and maintain university-enterprise cooperation
- To assist in Q-PlaNet labeling: improve and supervise QRC structures and functioning
- to push forward the overall understanding, realisation, and integration of quality placements in Europe towards QRCs, HEIs, governments, and the EU, including tasks such as
 - assisting in integrating placements in curriculum structures,
 - assisting in preparing and evaluating placements,
 - managing and distributing money and grants in the context of quality placements
 - organisation and brainstorming for events, other dissemination ideas
- to discuss new QRC applications and the official accreditation procedure

What does it need to fulfil its tasks?

- Members that are **QRCs, committed to the Q-PlaNet concept** and ideally Erasmus consortia
- A **website** with contacts, list of recognised QRCs, conditions of labelling and recognition, news, events, publications
- **Presence** at relevant events in Europe and towards NAs
- Strong link with the **LLP National Agencies**
- **A legitimisation** – is already given via:
 - LLP programme / most members shall be Erasmus consortia
 - Q-PlaNet was a project officially approved by the EU
 - Q-PlaNet Quality standard is based on the European Quality Charter for mobility
 - The founding network of 5 QRCs has been established with an official recognition procedure

Solution 1: network as administrative structure

Problems:

- Board or similar, needs to be maintained
- A membership fee would be necessary
- Missing of unique feature: there are numerous networks...
- Difficult to maintain activity and responsibility among all members („leave it to the board...“)
- Risk of becoming an „open club“ where every institution is member without commitment

Solution 2: a network of networks

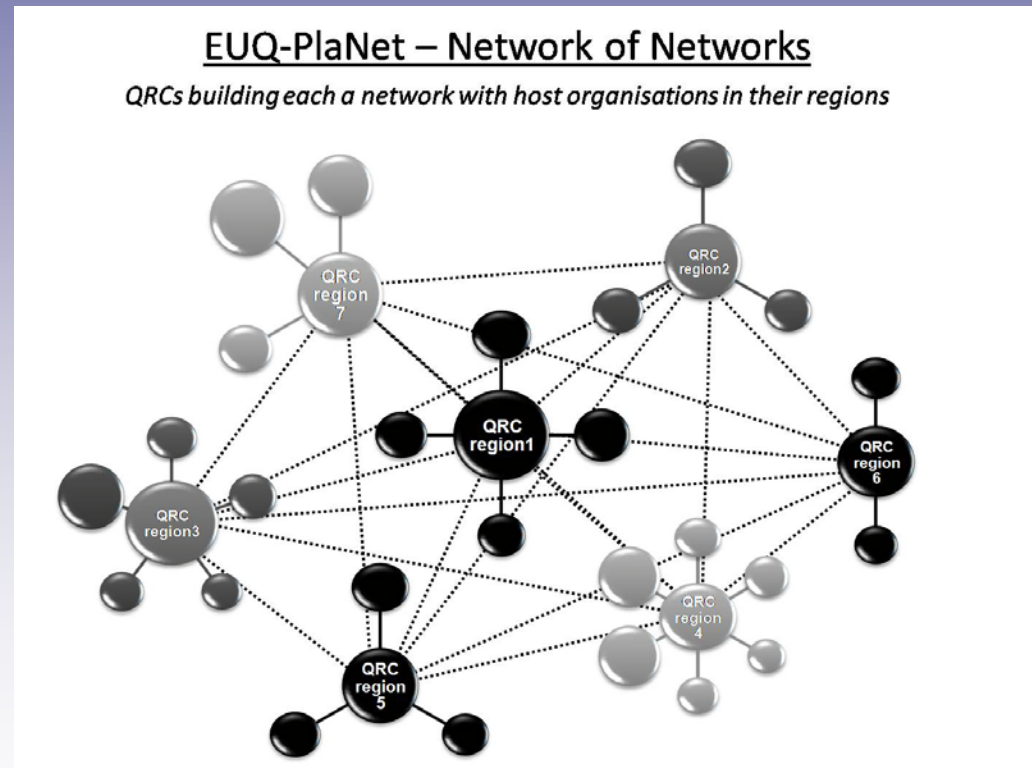
Problems:

- A self sustained network asks a high degree of responsibility and commitment from **each** partner (but is also an asset!)
- Website administration needs to be done centrally
- Difficulty to check new QRC applications
- Difficulty of a body to issue the recognition certificates
- Representation of the Network may be difficult at relevant events (such as ERACON, Erasmus coordinator's meetings, EAIE, NAs)

Solution 2: a network of networks

Advantages:

- Less administration, less costs
- More commitment and efficiency
- Concentration on the essential: labeling and networking



Funding

- mainly addressed members are **Erasmus consortia** who receive OM-funding (“organisation of mobility” as part of Erasmus or Leonardo da Vinci grants) which is foreseen for exactly the tasks the Q-PlaNet system is referring to
- Staff costs: to be taken over by the QRC - new full-time staff is not necessarily needed and the HEI to which the QRC is affiliated to is in the mid- and long run profiting from being a member
- Meetings/conferences: participation fee for bigger conferences could be a solution, travel to be covered by each participant
- For dissemination and other general costs concerning the whole network: voluntary contribution of members, sponsoring, OM money, NA support

Who can be a QRC and member?

Any institution **being a HEI or being affiliated to an HEI**, fulfilling the criteria:

- Being able to **carry out the Q-PlaNet labelling**: having contacts to potential host organizations (list, database) and being able to evaluate their quality (quality check)
- Having an administrative office / localisation (**office**)
- having **qualified employee(s)** able to dedicate an appropriate time to tasks concerning or in any form related to the Network
- being able to describe its **organizational structure**
- having a **website**
- having **contacts to other HEI** in the region and (in optimal case) are accepted on regional or national level (depending on the country size) by other HEI
- having documented **best practices**, history of placements, written evaluation
- being able to fulfil the tasks of **Network members**
- Being **recommended** by 1 existing QRC and having filled out the application form

Why apply to become member?

- Better qualification and traineeships for own students in home region
- Better qualification and traineeships for own students abroad, easy search
- International network and contacts within Europe
- No more need of checking host organisations abroad because this is done by the respective QRC to which high degree of confidence is there
- Facilitating acknowledgement of training experiences abroad as host organisation is of high quality
- Motivation to share experience and to improve the quality of placements and education
- Power

Discussion!



...Remarks? Ideas?

