

EUCEET 3: GROUP H - DEVELOPING A SYNERGY BETWEEN ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL WORLDS

PROGRESS REPORT: FEBRUARY 2009

At the General Assembly in Warsaw in October 2008, the members of Working Group H reviewed progress in preparing its report on synergies between the academic and professional worlds. Earlier discussions had changed the direction of the work, focussing it on three aspects:

- National 'State of the Art' Reports
- A brief survey of the nature of current links between companies and universities
- Collection of information on innovations and good practice

This note gives an update on these three topics and gives you another opportunity to contribute.

NATIONAL 'STATE OF THE ART' REPORTS

The idea here is for nominated authors to prepare a summary, based on existing documents such as government and professional body reports, articles in the technical and professional press, etc, summarising current views of industrial/academic issues such as those listed below:

- Manpower supply for Industry
- Quality & competency of current graduate output
- Difficulty or otherwise of finding and returning suitably qualified personnel
- Future training needs
- Received/ required changes in engineering education
- Impact of the current economic crisis

A template document, representing the situation in the UK, was circulated as a guide to what is needed, and the nominated authors are now at work on these national reports.

SURVEY OF CURRENT LINKS

This is a very brief survey which allows us to update our information on the type of links which exist between companies and universities, including information on how important these links are. Twenty EUCEET members have already replied, and those who have not done so yet are invited to complete the form below.

Question: It is assumed that most university Departments already have significant links with Industry and the professions and that many of these are well established and fairly standard. Earlier work (eg EUCEET WG3) has covered this topic, and this question is intended as an update of that work. Please indicate the type of interactions you have and how important they are to your university, by completing the table below, on a scale of 1-5, 1 being very important, 5 being of no importance. Five typical examples are given, but please add as many more as you need.

ITEM	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Use of Industrialists to give special lectures						
Site visits for students						
Placements in Industry						
Careers advice provided by Companies						
Use of Industrialists in specialist areas, eg design classes						
Use of Industrialists in specialist areas eg construction management						

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If you have not already completed this form, and wish to do so now, please complete it and return it to me.

INNOVATION AND GOOD PRACTICE

We are looking for examples of innovative links with Industry and the Profession which we can publicise amongst our colleagues as examples of good practice. About 20 EUCEET members have provided material, which I have compiled and edited, though I should make clear that this is still only a draft. I am still working on it, and the final version will include photographs, contact names and web links where appropriate. The current document is attached here. You will see that the material provided has some common themes covering good practice and some really quite innovative developments. There is still time for those who have not yet submitted material to do so. The document should give you a good idea of what sort of things we are looking for, so if you would like to add material, please feel free to do so.

SUMMARY

In general, we are making good progress. We have commissioned the national reports and hope to receive them by the end of March. We have received 20 replies to the survey and a similar number of members have submitted material on innovation and good practice. All those who have not submitted the questionnaire and innovation material can still do so, so please let me have your contributions by the end of April. You can contact me at:

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CJK/21.02.09