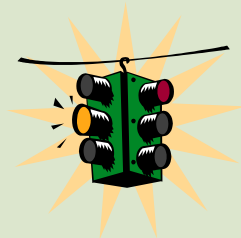


# European Master of Science programme in Gerontology

## Content

1. Background
2. Programme
3. Mechanics of the Programme

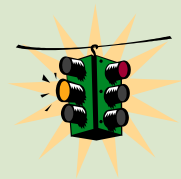


## Critical Issues

Dr René JT van Rijsselt, Programme Director EuMaG

# European Master of Science in Gerontology

- Initiated (1999) and financially supported by the European Commission
- International consortium of experts designed and developed programme
- Programme characteristics
  - Flexible, modular, part-time programme; 90 ECTS; 2400 study hours
  - Especially designed for professionals (health, social work etc)
  - 3-M: multi-disciplinarity, multi-locality, multi-linguality
  - Full programme (MSc) or certificates for single modules
  - Short residential stays (max 10days) combined with e-learning
  - 1st year fixed: 5 core modules on different location
  - 2nd year: free modules and master dissertation
- Financial support EC is substantial, but uncertain in the long run, lacks continuity, endangers implementation, bureaucratic, timeconsuming
- Consortium members are in the first place scientists
  - Interested in content discussions
  - Less competent in format design, financial affairs, international regulations
- Support from consortium members only in time resources





# EuMaG-Consortium Members

Netherlands

(incl administrative centre)

Germany

France

United Kingdom

Ireland

Spain

Portugal

Italy

Greece

Austria

Belgium

Finland

Norway

Sweden

Iceland

Denmark

Joined in 2002:

Malta

Czech Republic

Also joining in 2004:

Poland

Hungary

Slovenia

Slovak Republic

Bulgaria

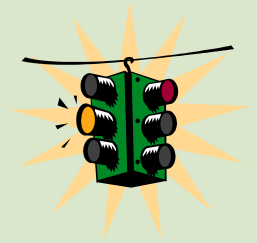
Romenia





# Consortium members

- Great diversity in level of commitment
- Great variety in “show-no show” bussiness meetings (60%)
  - Caused by week-end meetings
  - EuMaG Investment besides the regular job
  - Top scientist; very busy and involved in many projects and developments
- Problem of continuity
  - Decision-making: especially on crucial issues
  - Restarting old discussions
  - New members have no historically knowledge of the project
- Different cultural backgrounds
  - Eg. negotiating, language issues
- Great diversity in national regulations in training issues
  - Fees: varies from 0€ (Nordic countries) to market prices
  - Entry requirements; duration of programmes; academic degrees
  - Teaching in other languages



# Europe versus USA

- Significant differences in approach of ageing
  - Usa: historical tradition in successful ageing strategies; social movements; interventionist approach;
  - Europe: mainly process of ageing; social, psychological and economic processes and consequences: theoretical approach
- Number of credit based gerontology programmes (1992)
- Europe = 12 countries of the European Community (1998)

	Pop (mil)	% 60+	# trai-ger
europe	375	15,4	60 !
usa	261	12,6	1639

Sources:

Dr M. Meyer (2001)

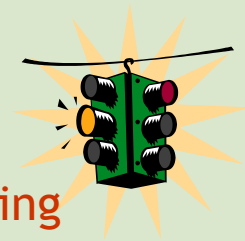
AGHE (1992)

# Current state higher education in gerontology EU

- Minimal number of academic training programmes in gerontology
- Variegated picture with structural diversity in:
  - Entry requirements
  - Duration of programmes
  - Conceptual frame works
  - Curriculum contents; basic literature
  - Degrees
- Uneven distribution of academic programmes accross Europe
  - Blank spots (South, North and Central Europe (New EC Members))
  - Lack of opportunity for students to study gerontology
- Decreasing number of students in national gerontology programmes
- Increasing need for professionally qualified gerontologists

## Counter trends

- Bologna agreement: international harmonisation of university training
- Introduction of European Credit and Transfer System (ECTS)
- Increased mobility of students and staff (through EC-funding programmes)
- European Commission (DG-Public Health) supports training programmes
- UN-plan of action on Ageing 2002

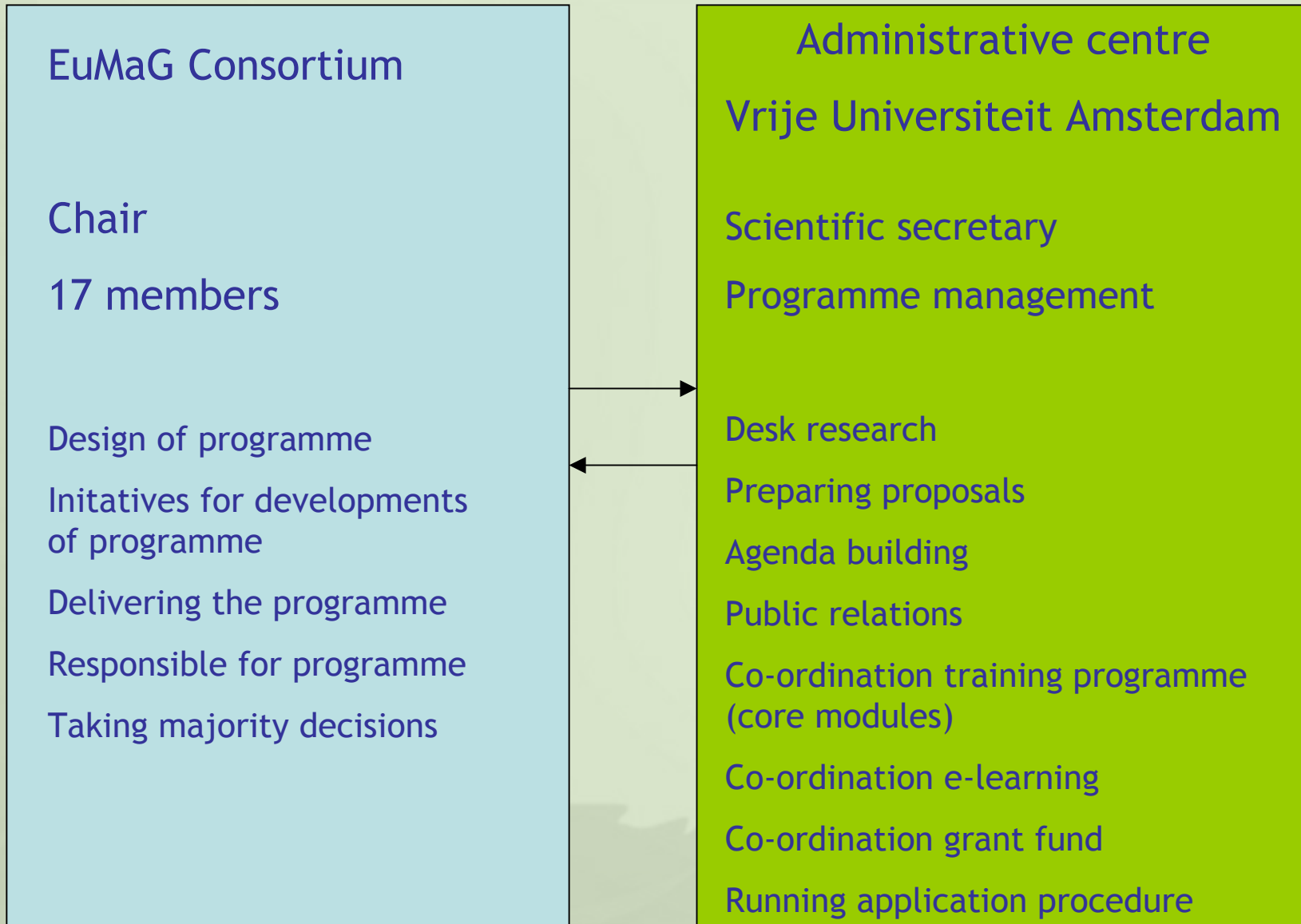


# UN-plan of Action: Madrid 2002: p20/21

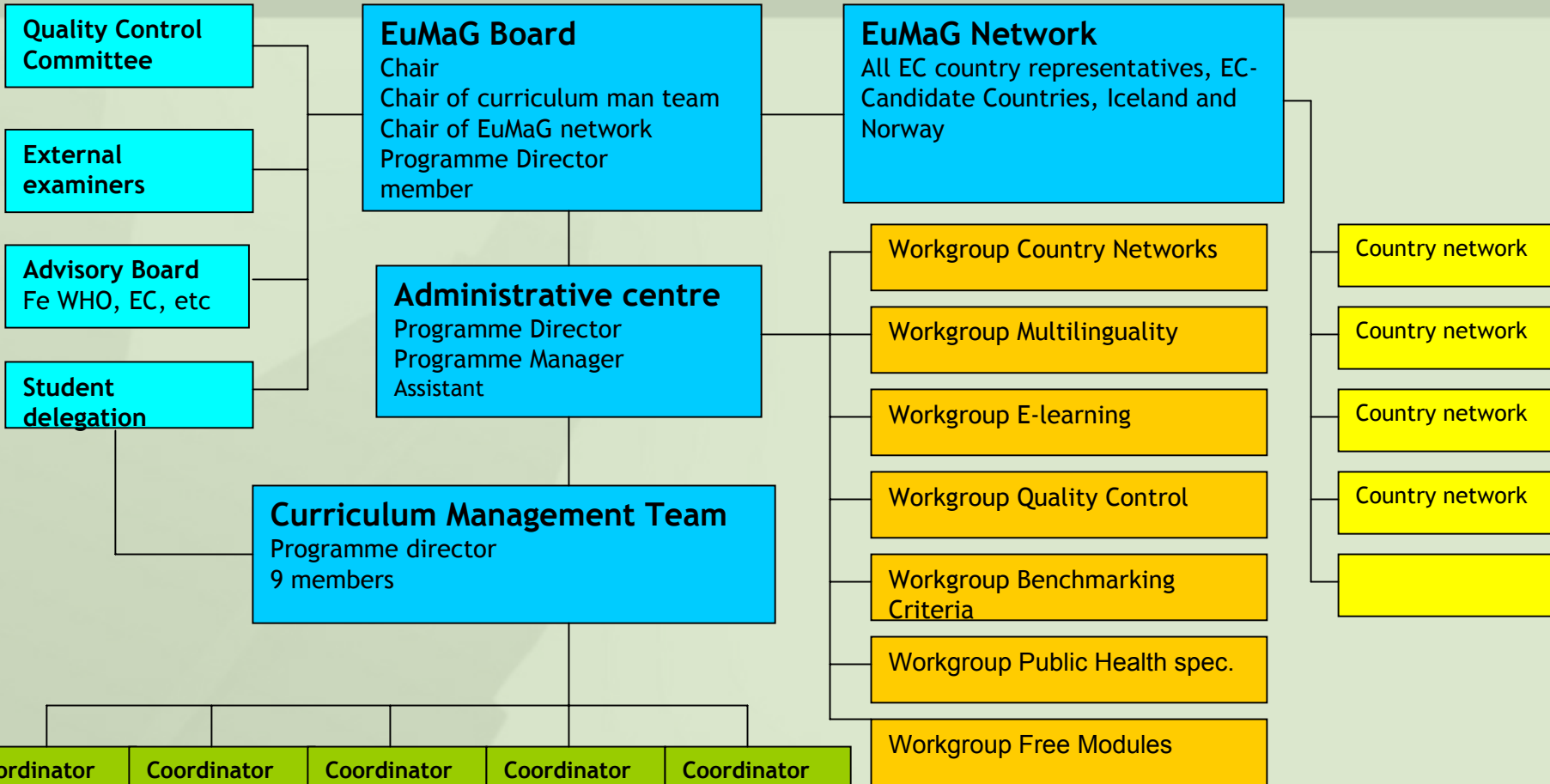
- Issue 4: training of care providers and health professionals:
  - urgent need worldwide to expand educational opportunities in the field of geriatrics and gerontology for all health professionals who work with older persons and to expand educational programmes on health and older persons for professionals in the social service sector. Informal care givers also need access to information and basic training on the care of older persons.
  - Objective: Provision of improved information and training for health professionals and para-professionals on the need of older persons.
- Actions
  - Initiate and promote education and training programmes for health professionals, social care professionals and informal care providers in the services for and care of older persons, including in gerontology and geriatrics and support all countries, particularly developing countries in these efforts;
  - Provide health: and social-care professionals with continuing education programmes with a view to an integrated approach of health, well-being and care of older persons as well as social and psychological aspects of ageing;
  - Expand professional education in gerontology and geriatrics, including through special efforts to expand student enrolment in geriatrics and gerontology.



# Organisational Scheme EuMaG 1999-2003



# Organisational Scheme EuMaG 2004-



Coordinator	Coordinator	Coordinator	Coordinator	Coordinator
Core Module 1 Introduction in Gerontology	Core Module 2 Psycho Gerontology	Core Module 3 Social Gerontology	Core Module 4 Health Gerontology	Thesis Free modules
Core Module 5 EuMag Summerschool	University Heidelberg (Ger)	Keele University (UK) + 1 represent.	Université Versailles (Paris-Fr) + 1 represent.	To be decided
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	+ 1 representative			+ 1 represent.

Organisational chart  
European Master in Gerontology (EuMaG)  
agreed in 2003



# Aims of the EuMaG Programme: part 1

## First phase: development (1999 - 2000):

- Development model curriculum in Gerontology
  - Multidisciplinary
  - European added value
  - Valid throughout the European Union
- Recommend flexible framework for partners across EU
- Optimise the use of existing master programmes in gerontology
- Develop new programmes
- Flexibility in the elective additions to the core programme
- To enable students from various member states to study for a masters degree in gerontology in more than one country
- To promote language skills
- Ability to work in different european countries
- To enhance professional gerontological skills and expertise

# Aims of the EuMaG Programme: part 2

## Second phase: Implementation I (2002-2003)

- 1) Continued development of the EuMaG curriculum and general course structure; in particular to meet the linguistic European added value for European Master Programmes (at least 2 languages)
- 2) Development, running and evaluation of six training modules in EC countries; including participation in the Summerschool/EU-basics Course, in collaboration with EC-sponsored Master's programmes
- 3) Continued development of consortium and infrastructure; including co-ordination with fellow EC-sponsored Master's Programmes
- 4) Continued review of current policy and practice in postgraduate training in Gerontology
- 5) Continued development of the marketing and promotion policy for the EuMaG programme (eg further updating of the EuMaG website)
- 6) Development of quality assurance model and policy concerning the issuing of certificates
- 7) Analysis of the financial support facilities and opportunities for student and teacher mobility

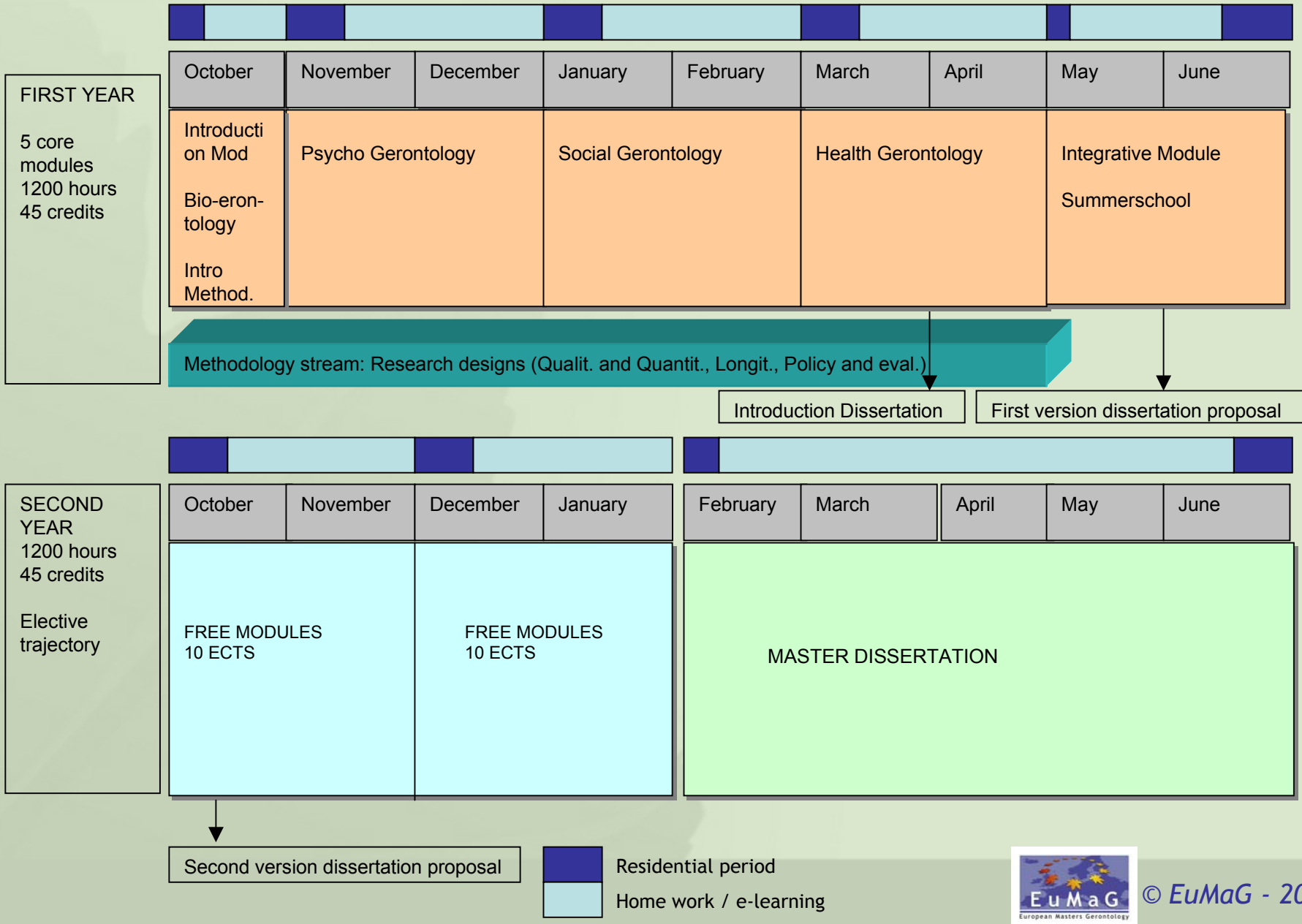
# Aims of the EuMaG Programme: part 3: 2004-2005

- 1) Continued development and monitoring of the EuMaG curriculum and general course structure; with special attention to recent developments and threats to public health in relation to population ageing;
- 2) Continued running and evaluation of the first EuMaG training year;
- 3) Development, running and evaluation of EuMaG second training year;
- 4) Development and implementation of two innovative master specialisations: 1: health determinants and health status in Europe; 2: consequences of population ageing for health care facilities and long term care for the elderly;
- 5) Participation in the Summerschool/EC-Basics Course, in close collaboration with fellow EC-sponsored Master programmes;
- 6) Further development and implementation of the multilingual approach of the first EuMaG year;
- 7) Development and implementation of e-learning and long distance learning;
- 8) Benchmarking gerontological modules in Europe, and setting up quality measures and standards for gerontological curricula.
- 9) Continued development of the EuMaG-network and infrastructure, first by introducing 8 EC candidate members states, second by establishing country networks;
- 10) Linkage of the EuMaG-network to other (gerontological) networks such as: WHO, UN, EUA e
- 11) Continued review of current policy and practice in European and Transatlantic postgraduate training in Gerontology;
- 12) Continued development of marketing and promotion policy (including maintenance of website);
- 13) Implementation of the developed quality assurance model;
- 14) Continued development and implementation of grant structure.








# EuMaG Full Two Year Programme



# EuMaG First Year Programme: the Core Modules

October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	
<b>Intro Module</b> (27/9 – 02/11) Week 40 – 44 Amsterdam Netherlands 27/9 – 05/10 deadline ass. November 2nd 2003		<b>Psycho Gerontology</b> (8/11 – 04/01) Week 45 – Week 1 Heidelberg Germany 8/11 – 16/11 deadline assessment January 4 <sup>th</sup> 2004		<b>Social Gerontology</b> (05/01 – 29/02) Week 2 – 9 Keele United Kingdom 17/1 – 25/1 deadline assessment Februari 29th 2004		<b>Health Gerontology</b> (01/03 – 02/05) Week 10 – 18 Paris France 13/03 – 21/04 deadline assessment April 21st 2004		<b>Summerschool</b> (03/05 – 04/07) Week 19 – 27 Dublin Ireland Date to be determined deadline assessment July 4 <sup>th</sup> 2004	
<b>Introduction Module content</b> introduction gerontology - history of gerontology; - ageing: complexity, phases, variability; - ind. perspective: concepts & theories; - col. Perspective: concepts & theories; - gerontology: interdisciplinary approach; - ageing Europe: demographic transition introduction bio-gerontology - introduction to biology of ageing; - evolution of the human life course; - special senses and ageing; - the evolutionary model of ageing.		<b>Psycho Gerontology content</b> -Myths and realities: Concepts, models and history of psychology of ageing; -Stability and change in perception and cognition; -Personality, self and identity over the lifecycle; -Coping, adaptation & successful ageing; -When coping fails: Mental health and psychopathology; -Psychological assessment, support and interventions; -Human factors and environmental designs for older people.		<b>Social Gerontology content</b> -General framework: Macro and micro social context of ageing; -Time, historical processes and demographic change; -Macro social context of ageing; -Micro social context of ageing; -Macro level interventions in a European context; -Micro level interventions in a European context; -Quality of life as outcome for successful ageing.		<b>Health Gerontology content</b> Ageing, health and diseases - model of health and illness; - relationships ageing and diseases; - variations in health status; - determinants of health in later life: genetic and environmental; - epidemiology and prevention of ageing health in later life in the future Care systems and policies - global issues specific problems old age medico-social policies in contrasted EC countries		<b>Summerschool content</b> Care systems and paradigms Cross national research methodology National reports on services and social policy Cross national reports on services and social policy	

	Residential Hours
	Home work
	Assessment



# EXAMPLE HEALTH GERONTOLOGY

## AGEING, HEALTH AND DISEASES

1. MODEL OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS
2. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AGEING AND DISEASE
3. VARIATIONS IN HEALTH STATUS OF OLDER AGE GROUPS
4. DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN LATER LIFE
5. EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTION OF AGEING, DISEASES, AND SYNDROMES IN ELDERLY
6. HEALTH IN LATER LIFE IN THE FUTURE

## CARE SYSTEMS AND POLICIES

1. GLOBAL ISSUES (PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN EU)
2. SPECIFIC PROBLEMS (FUNDING, CO-ORDINATION, ATTITUDES)
3. OLD AGE MEDICO-SOCIAL POLICIES IN CONTRASTED EU-COUNTRIES

# Arrangements Core Modules

- Content of core modules benchmarked in the first project phase (report 2000)
- Literature and assessment strategy carefully developed, agreed upon and written down in the 2000-report
- Co-ordination executed by hosting university
  - Lodging facilities
  - Teaching facilities
  - Programme, literature through internet etc
- Team-teaching: at least 2 more universities (other countries) involved
- Co-ordinator reports changes in content, assessment procedure
- Literature and module is profoundly evaluated

# Mechanics of the EuMaG Programme

- Customer profile
- Who owns the EuMaG degree?
- Quality assurance
- Entry requirements: accession criteria
- Accession figures 2002-2004
- Assessment strategy
- Master dissertation / thesis
- Mobility: the EuMaG approach
- Multi-linguality: the European issue
- Eumag financial arrangement
- E-teaching and e-learning
- EuMaG certificate
- EuMaG-website



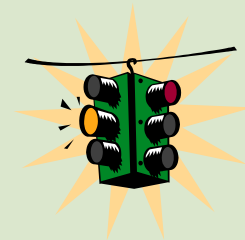
# Customer Profile EuMaG

## Accessible for:

### Working professionals

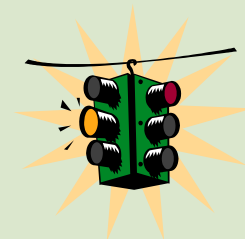
- 2001 EC-Market-research: potentiality for “working professionals”
  - Especially for health professionals, social care professionals and informal care providers in the services for and care of older persons (UN,2002:20/21)
- Regular university students (in another Master’s programme)
    - To study the typical European comparative approach
    - To study Gerontology modules not available in home country
    - To prepare for work on the international (European) labour market

1. Difficulty to combine the two groups
2. Differences in knowledge and work experience
3. Differences in fees (unequality)
4. Maximum of 25 students per cohort to assure teaching quality: financial problem
5. Students from outside Europe



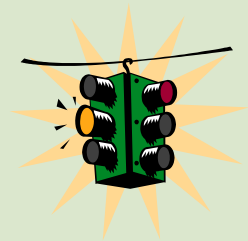
# EuMaG-Degree: Who owns the degree?

- Who goes to jail when something goes wrong?
  - Master's diploma signed by EuMaG-Board and University where the master's thesis has been written
  - Joined programme; all universities accept each other's programmes and degrees through contracting
  - Closely related to quality assurance
1. International degree is a very complex issue
  2. Maximum diversity in national regulations
  3. Almost no experience in joined (international) degrees
  4. Acceptance of the degree is uncertain:
    - National governments
    - Academic community
    - Working organisations in health and social care



# Quality Assurance

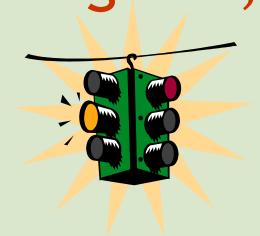
- Consensus on programme format and content
  - Teaching by international teams of staff (core modules)
  - Benchmarking criteria and procedures: credits, content
  - Profound evaluation of modules by students and staff
  - Quality assured by all partners of the network
  - Accreditation of programme by independent international organisation and/or colleagues from US/Canada etc
  - Building an EuMaG Network, PR to organisations
1. No international standard regulations and procedures concerning quality assurance
  2. Maximum diversity in content and format throughout Europe, and in definition of quality
  3. Who is benchmarking and accrediting?



# Entry Requirements: Accession Criteria

- Master's degree
- Bachelor's degree in social or health sciences
  - equivalent: academic and non-academic (eg. Vocational training);
  - Non-academics: Deficiency in methodology and statistics: entrance examination
- Bachelor's degree in a non-relevant field
  - Need additional qualification of at least two years of additional professional working experience in the field of ageing, gerontology or public health
- Non-bachelor's
  - Requirement: working experience of at least four years in a relevant field;
  - Letters of recommendation
  - Entrance assessment

1. No standard European criteria for (university) degrees;
2. Difficulty to compare national degrees
3. No standard content for training programmes
4. Selection by intuition



# Accession Figures 2002-2004

- Preparatory phase: until september 2003: 150 students
  - Summerschool Valencia 2002: 35
  - Summerschool Crete 2003: 25
  - Preparatory core modules: Amsterdam, Keele, Paris: total 90
  - University bachelors 75%
  - Non-university bachelors (most professionals): 20%
  - Masters degree: 5%
- Running the EuMaG programme: September 2003
  - Almost no pr-activities
  - 9 full students in the whole programme:
    - 8 bachelor and 1 master; 2 professionals and 7 university students



# Assessment Strategy

- Aims
  - Knowledge: theory, concepts, research, social and academic debates
  - Especially in international comparative (European) issues/research
  - A critical attitude towards knowledge and society
  - Training of academic oral and writing skills
- Assessment philosophy:
  - Concept of progressive academic learning: accumulation knowledge skills
  - Different kinds of assessment: presentation, paper, oral & written exam
- Examples:
  - Core modules: 10 full days residential per core module
    - Intensive lecturing
    - Didactic lectures with interactive tasks
    - Group work in smaller groups of students
    - Clear focus on discussion, debate and presentations (oral academic skills)
  - Knowledge tested on different levels
    - Written examination with exchange through “Blackboard” (web based)
    - One or two working papers (5-10 pages) (Blackboard)
    - More substantial paper (20 pages) (Blackboard)
  - Master dissertation

# Master Dissertation / Thesis

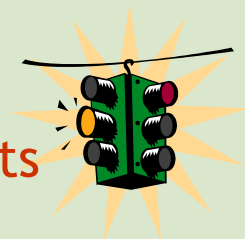
- 25 ECTS: 675 study hours
- Dissertation proposal at the end of the first year
  - Rooted in gerontological theory
  - Related to current relevant social debates (Ageing issues)
  - Related to (public) health issues
  - Substantial Research / Methodological part
  - European added value:
    - International comparative approach;
    - Country comparison
- Free language choice (extended summary in English)
- Free university/country choice
- Dissertation Committee: assesses & appoints supervision team
- Supervision team: two academics from two countries
- No decision taken on the defending procedure

# Mobility: the EuMaG Approach

- Mobility of students and staff important and crucial to achieve the European added value
- 40% of the complete programme should be done in a second language
- Master dissertation: research programmes of network members are open for EuMaG students
- Mobility of students
  - First year: 5 modules in 5 different European localities;
  - Core modules;
  - Second year: free modules taught throughout Europe;
  - Financial support through EC-Socrates exchange funds;
- Mobility of staff
  - Limited to the first EuMaG year: international team teaching
  - Especially for the Summerschool/Integrative module
  - Financed through EC-Socrates exchange funds and bilateral agreements

# Multi-Linguality

- Aim:
    - To promote language skills
    - Ability to work in different european countries
    - To improve European professional gerontological skills and expertise
    - To enable students from various member states to study for a masters degree in gerontology in more than one country
  - Basic rule: 40% of the programme in a second language
  - Language tutor support:(core modules) in *available* languages: lectures in English and local language
  - Language proposal & Language evaluation
  - Free language choice for Master dissertation
1. Multi-linguality condition is problem for English & Irish students
  2. Not all languages are equal: english=international Scientific language
  3. Lectures core modules in more languages: not enough students

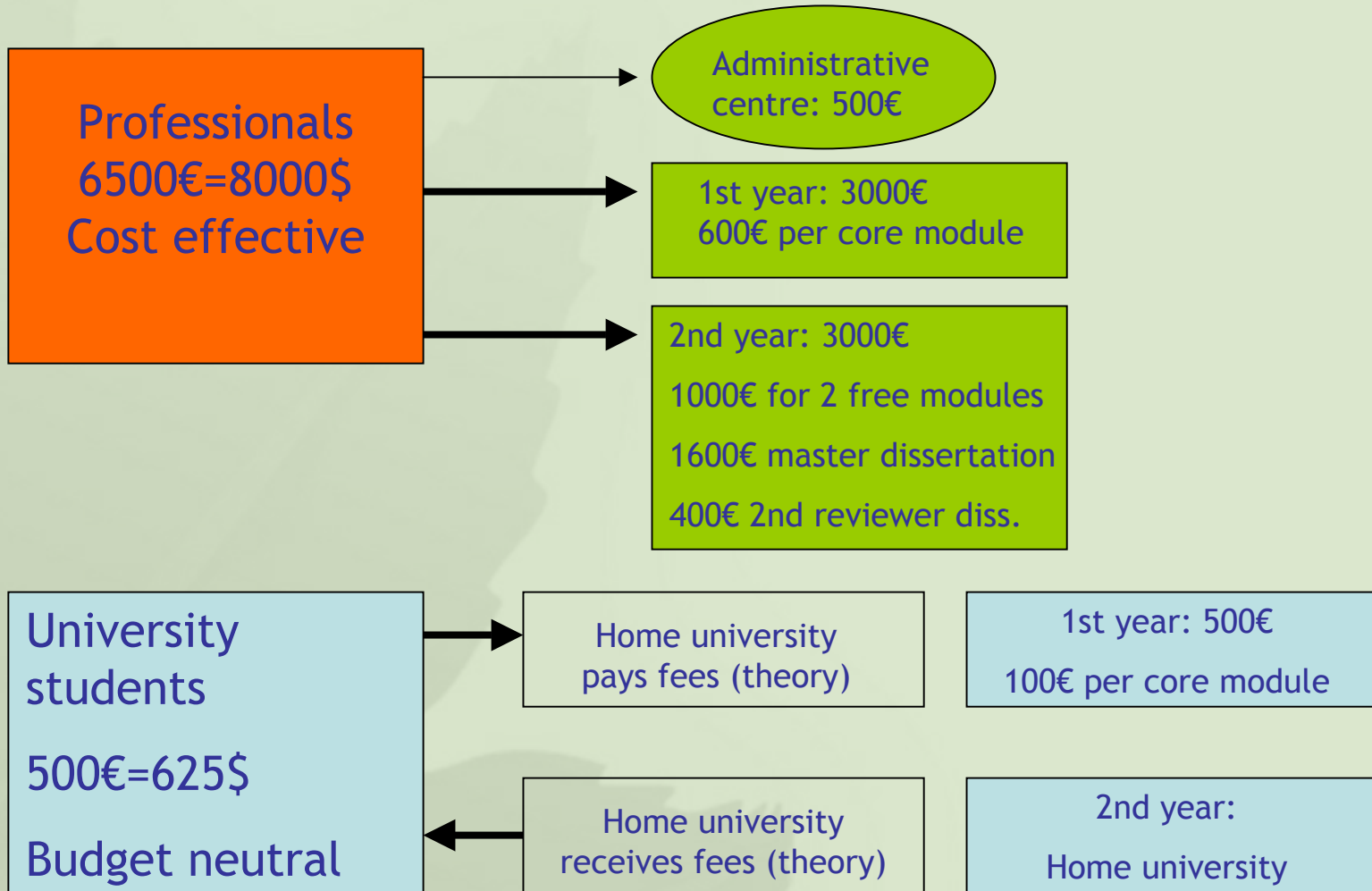


# EuMaG Financial Arrangements

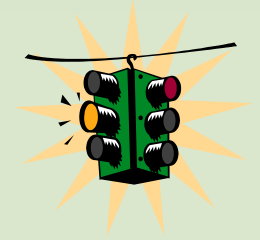
- Administrative centre paid by European Commission (through grant)
- Administrative centre collects all fees and pays delivering universities
- Administrative centre registers all participants and negotiates fees
- Administrative centre co-ordinates grant fund
- Two categories of participants:
  - Professionals:
    - 6500€ for 2 years: 3000€ per year 500€ administrative centre
    - Free to study (and participating in research programmes) at all consortium universities in the second year
  - Regular university students:
    - Study 1st year EuMaG: 500€ for 5 core modules
    - 2nd year at home university (no fees)
    - 2nd year at another university: fee negotiation between both universities
- Travel and subsistence costs not included in fees
- Hosting universities offer cheap lodging facilities
- Grand fund opportunities



# Fees and Money Streams



# Fees: Critical Issues

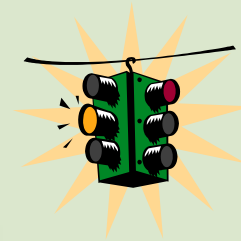


- Programme is relatively expensive for students compared to some European university standards: eg in Nordic Countries university training is free
- Programme is relatively cheap for professionals (working organisation can support in time and money)
- The university-escape-route for professionals
- Two different fees for two categories for the same programme: discrimination?
- Travel and subsistence costs not included in fees

# E-Teaching and E-Learning

- Web-based platform “Blackboard” for all modules
- All module information (programme, assessment etc)
- Individual and group work (delivering, discussing etc)
- Group discussion opportunities
- One to one discussion: tutor and/or students
- Fixed consultation hours tutors (email based): not yet webcam etc.
- E-teaching is not yet developed (next phase experiments)

1. Requires a lot of investment
2. Very time consuming
3. Doesn't replace face-face contact
4. In implementation phase



# Example Eumag Certificate



## Certificate

European Masters in Gerontology

The undersigned, Chairman and Course Director of the European Masters in Gerontology (EuMaG), declare that this certificate has been issued for attendance and completion of the:

### Core Module *Introduction to Gerontology*

To:

**Maria EuMaG**

Praha, Czech Republic

born on 01-10-1975

Credit points: 5 ECTS

Academic year: 2003/2004

Certificate no. 000-0301-000

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of EuMaG Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Course Director EuMaG



# Certificate Appendix

## Certificate Appendix

Appendix to Certificate no. 000-0301-000  
for the module *Introduction to Gerontology* of the European Masters programme in Gerontology (EuMaG)



This certificate is to confirm that **MARIA EUMAG**, Praha, Czech Republic, born on 01-10-1975, has attended and successfully completed the EuMaG module *Introduction to Gerontology 2003/2004*.  
Credit points for the module *Introduction to Gerontology* : ECTS 5

The module *Introduction to Gerontology* comprised the following components:

1. Residential course week (Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 27/9-5/10/2003) (54 hours; 2 ECTS)

### Lectures:

#### INTRODUCTION

Introduction Ageing : Complexity, phases & variability (1)

*Prof dr Sijma (NL)*

Introduction Ageing : Complexity, phases & variability (2)

*Prof dr Sijma (NL)*

History of Gerontology (1)

*Prof dr CPM Knipscheer (NL)*

History of Gerontology (2)

*Prof dr CPM Knipscheer (NL)*

Demography : Ageing Europe (1)

*Dr G. Beets (NL)*

Demography : Population Ageing (2)

*Dr G. Beets (NL)*

Demography : Cohorts and Generations (3)

*Dr René van Rijsselst (NL)*

Psycho-gerontology : Ageing: the individual perspective (1)

*Prof dr A. Kruse (GER)*

Psycho-gerontology : Ageing: the individual perspective (2)

*Prof dr A. Kruse (GER)*

Social Gerontology : Ageing: the collective perspective (1)

*Dr A. Grenier (UK)*

Social Gerontology : Ageing: the collective perspective (2)

*Dr A. Grenier (UK)*

Health Gerontology : Ageing: disease and health care systems and policies (1)

*Prof dr J.-C. Henrard (FR)*

Health Gerontology : Ageing: disease and health care systems and policies (2)

*Prof dr J.-C. Henrard (FR)*

Gerontechnology

*Prof dr H. Bouma (NL)*

#### BIO-GERONTOLOGY

Bio-gerontology : Introduction to the Biology of Ageing (1)

*Prof dr A. Drusini (It)*

Bio-gerontology : Evolution of human life course (2)

*Prof dr A. Drusini (It)*

Bio-gerontology : Special senses and ageing (3)

*Prof dr A. Drusini (It)*

Bio-gerontology : Special senses and ageing : practice (4)

*Prof dr A. Drusini (It)*

#### METHODOLOGY

Methodology : Ageing research (1)

*Dr Nadia Mihăciuc (It)*

Methodology : Ageing research (2)

*Dr Nadia Mihăciuc (It)*

Methodology : Longitudinal studies (3)

*Prof dr CPM Knipscheer (NL)*

2. Distance learning and assessment (81 hours; 3 ECTS)

The participant has successfully completed the following assessments:

Assesment	Description	Grade
Assignment 1	Methodology: writing an extensive study protocol	A
Assignment 2	Demography: compiling an overview of key gerontological data in the student's home country	C

Grading: A = excellent, outstanding / B = very good / C = good / D = satisfactory / E = sufficient

Amsterdam, .....

Prof dr CPM.Knipscheer, Chair of EuMaG Board

[www.euomag.org](http://www.euomag.org)

Dr R.J.T. Van Rijsselst, Course Director EuMaG

EuMaG Administrative Centre, De Boelelaan 1081-c, Fac PSW / Kz. U529, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands



# www.eumag.org



The screenshot shows the EuMaG website homepage. At the top left is the EuMaG logo with the text "European Masters Gerontology". To the right is a banner image of people in a classroom setting, with the text "Welcome to the EuMaG - The European Masters Programme in Gerontology". Further right is the European Commission logo and the text "This Programme is Supported by the European Commission".

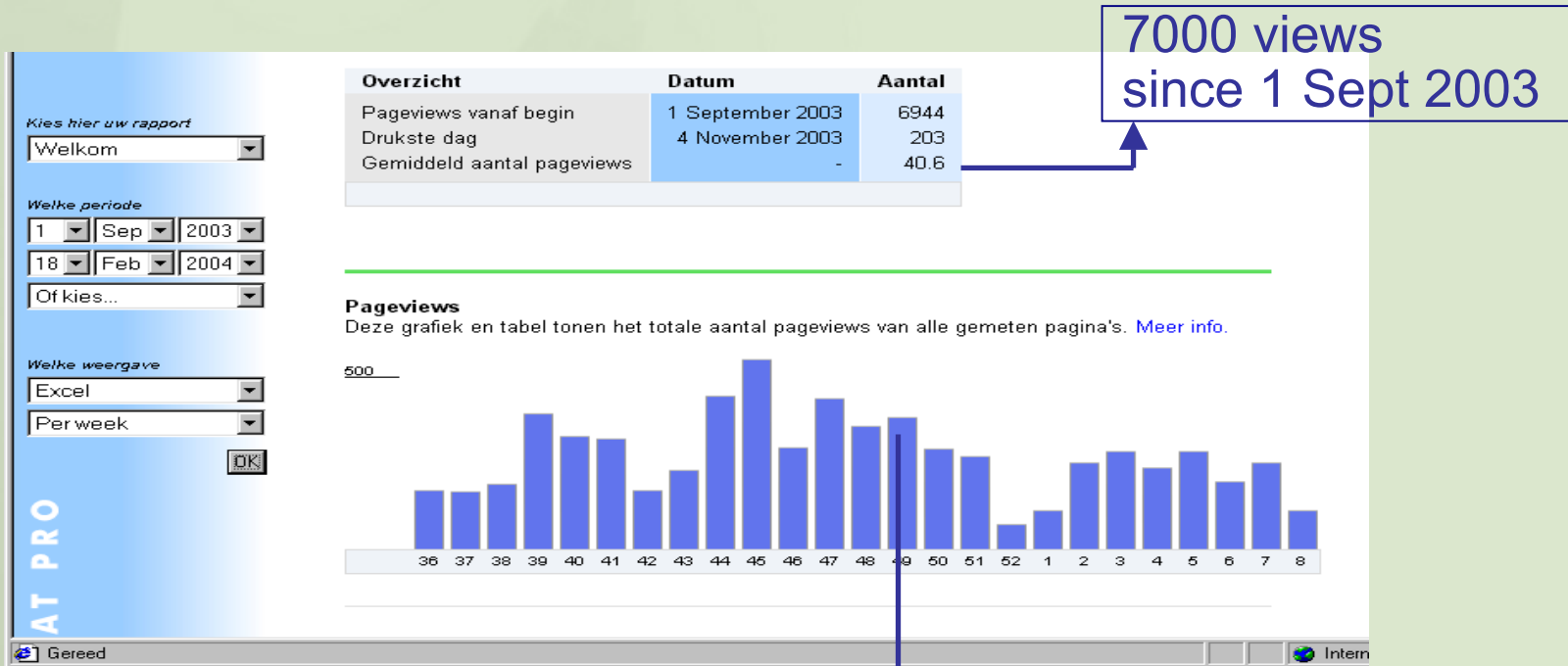
The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Information**: A sidebar menu with links for "About EuMaG", "Ageing Societies", "EuMaG Programme" (with sub-links for "First Year" and "Second Year"), "Who Can Apply?" (with sub-links for "Professionals" and "Students"), "Contact Information", and "The Entire Network".
- Health Gerontology**: A section titled "Upcoming Module" featuring a photograph of a modern building. The text reads: "HEALTH GERONTOLOGY, PARIS. EuMaG's forthcoming module is Health Gerontology, organized and hosted by the Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (Paris). Registration is open until 10 February. It is possible to enroll for the lecture week only, (12-21 March) or for the full module incl. distance learning, assessment and credits." Below this is a link to download the programme of the lecture week (PDF) and a link to a "printer-friendly version".
- The Heart of EuMaG**: A section with a link to "The Admin Centre".
- The EuMaG Network**: A list of countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Italy.
- Gerontology calendar**: A section with the text "February 26-29, 2004 Richmond, VA, USA Annual Meeting on Gerontology in Higher".
- Other EuMaG Courses**: A section with the text "Social Gerontology (current module) Keele, UK".

At the bottom left, there is a "Subscribe to the Newsletter!" form with an input field and a "submit" button, with the instruction "(enter a valid email address)". At the bottom right, there is an "Internet" icon.

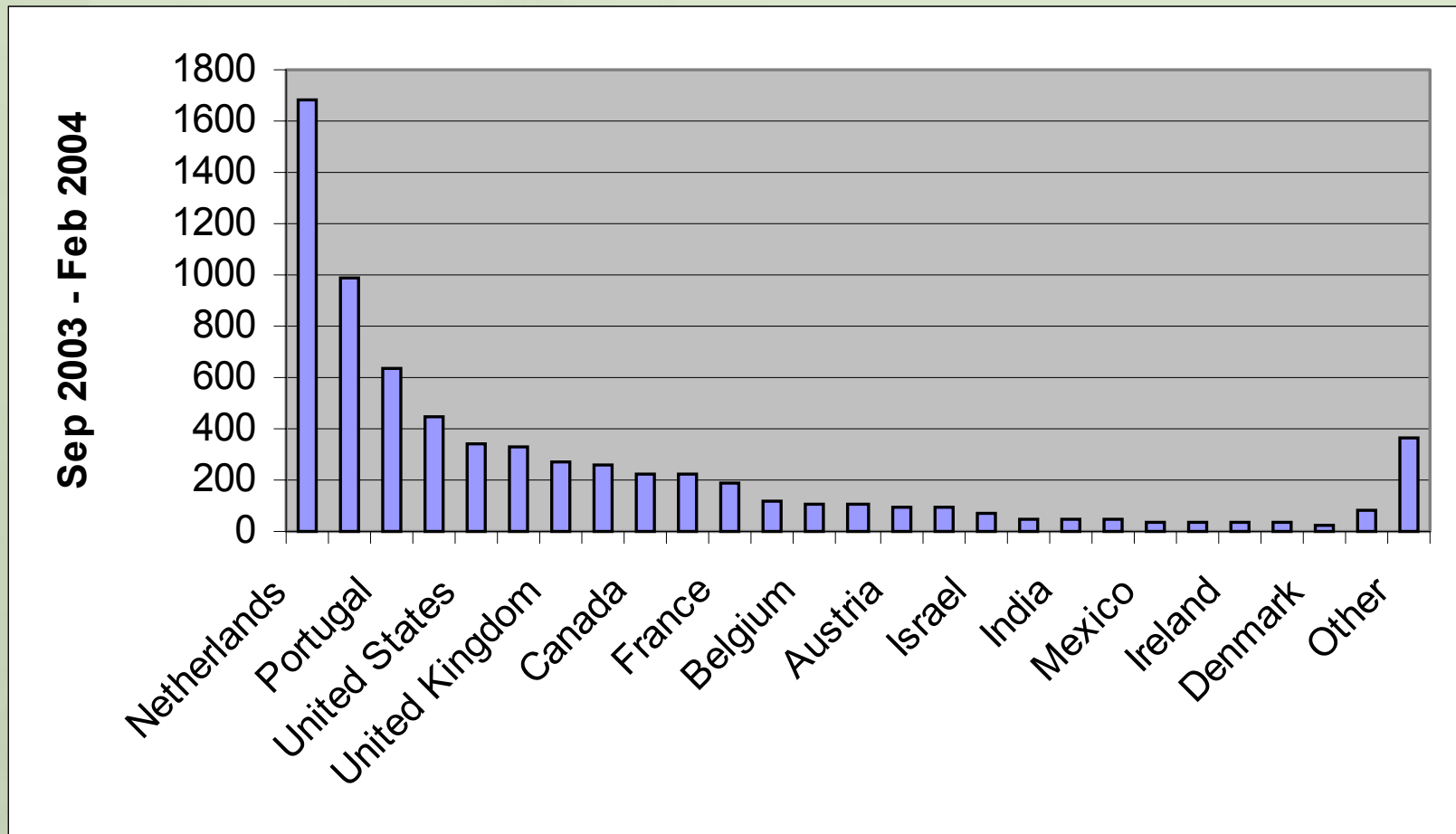


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Thank you for your attention