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APPENDIX TO EC VISION ROAD MAP
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ECVISION: NEXT STEPS

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For inquisitive and travel-loving youngsters of the late 18th century and early 19th century, it was not unusual to combine adventurous roving around Europe with short bouts of study at several famous academies or universities. A well to do young man would, for instance, travel at leisure from Leyden to Göttingen to follow a semester on physics by Georg Christoph Lichtenberg or on the philosophy of law by Arthur Schopenhauer, and then move on to Oxford or Padua, Vienna, Heidelberg or Salamanca to ‘do a semester of theology, natural history, mathematics, philology’ or whatever. There were even students that moved from the one famous professor to the next, in this way embodying the cross border spirit of free learning. And no one ever bothered about the validity of their diplomas and certificates. Who would question the standards of Cambridge or Coimbra, who would question the authority and quality of Kant or Hegel?

To be sure, this used to be a privilege of the happy few. One had to belong to the leisure class, one had to be wealthy, one had to be a man of means. Yet today, in our far more democratic times, cross border study could well be within reach of many.

A fantasy to become true

Imagine a supervision student following programs at different training institutes, ranging, for instance, from Riga to Münster or from Basel to Amsterdam. And think of the advantages to trainers and supervisors if they could move around freely as well, and practice their trade cross border.

I admit: this is still a fantasy. But it is also an ideal. And it may not be as farfetched as it looks. Just think: along the borders between Germany and The Netherlands students enroll in universities and training courses on both sides. German students may follow supervision as part of their social work education in Maastricht or Enschede, and Dutch students may be supervised as part of their training in Aachen or Cologne. And what about the multitude of ‘foreign’ students from all over Europe (and beyond) coaches, trainers and supervisors encounter in the course of their work. In Amsterdam, for instance, it is not uncommon for supervisors to work with groups consisting of three or four different nationalities. The same will undoubtedly apply to Berlin.

But will their diplomas be recognised cross border? Or the certification of the institutes where they work, their training courses, their supervision certificates? How freely can students and practitioners really move around Europe, to study, learn, coach, exchange knowledge or supervise? Up till today that is not as easy as it should. What is ANSE doing about it to remedy the situation?

What is needed?

Supervisors should be able to move, learn and work together in the European space freely and unimpeded. In order to facilitate cross border opportunities for students and professionals in the field of professional guidance, ANSE has been looking - and continues to look - for ways to strengthen their position, and at the same time to enhance the position of the supervision trade on the European level.

We found that this can be done by the fruits of the EC Vision Project. The EC Vision Glossary guarantees comparability of terms, definitions and legal frameworks, and the EC Vision Competence Matrix offers comparability of supervisory competences and qualifications by describing these in learning outcomes.

Active use of these documents all over Europe, primarily by training institutes and in national quality development, would not only enhance cross border exchange and understanding, but also help to create a common European standard of supervision and coaching. This is one of the most important middle and long term targets of ANSE policy.

But free movement of our supervisors also needs mutual recognition of each others registered members and training courses, and free, cross border access to work and job opportunities for practitioners.

What is to be done?

Luckily, the EC Vision closing conference in Vienna last year provided us with a wealth of suggestions.

- ECVision follow up. We will actively promote the dissemination and implementation of the ECVision Glossary and the ECVision European Framework of Competencies. Therefore we will seek the active cooperation of national organisations and training institutes.
- Project Mutual Recognition and Quality Management. Together with national organisations we propose to work out procedures to effectuate this policy. It would seem expedient to connect the Mutual Recognition process with the Quality Management agenda, and also to create links with the EC Vision Competence Framework. The importance of this project is clear: mutual recognition strengthens the position of our profession, which is to the benefit of all of us. Every single supervisor wherever in Europe will profit from it. European recognition of our profession is a major step forward in terms of the politics of our profession. Even if most supervisors are not (yet) moving around, more and more prospective supervisees – both students and professionals - will. Those who choose not to go out into the world will find the world will come to them. Therefore: recognition in Europe means a better position locally.
- ANSE is responsible for the furtherance of the interests of our profession on the European level. As other associations in our field – like those of coaches, HRM-specialists and

others – are also moving in this direction, we have to move with sufficient speed to safeguard our intellectual and professional ownership, both locally and internationally.

- European Professional Card for supervisors and coaches (EPC). The EPC - as instigated by the European Commission - is an electronic device for the recognition of professional qualifications between EU countries. For professional supervisors and their institutes, it is far easier to manage than the traditional procedures of recognition. ANSE is very much in favor of developing such a device to the benefit of all our professional practitioners and to the benefit of our profession. Obviously, for the EPC to be feasible, mutual recognition is a most important precondition.

How will we do it?

Great plans often fail for two reasons. Firstly, because they are too abstract, and do not take the every day reality of people into account. Secondly, because they are too detailed and therefore rigid, inflexible, and tending to push people in stead of listening to them and cooperating with them.

Therefore, the ANSE Board proposes to:

- First of all create an atmosphere of trust by meeting with (the boards of, or representatives of) national organisations, listening, discussing, getting to know each others worries and wishes with regards to the EC Vision follow up agenda.
- Cooperating with national organisations and training institutes through seminars and conferences on the implementation of EC Vision instruments, and the design and furtherance of a parallel cross border quality development system
- Include sharing research outcomes in this process.
- Cooperate with sister organisations whenever possible, in stead of competing.
- Prepare a ‘road map’ in order to facilitate the implementation process.
- Not to press for undue speed, nor to beat about the bush too long, looking carefully to keep all of us aboard, while at the same time keeping a close eye on the competition.
- Take great care of the position of smaller national organisations to avoid them being overlooked, or underrepresented.
- Underline: it is not a matter of push, but of pull. The doors are open. Let’s together take a chance to go through it.
- Emphasize the opportunities. Furthering the use and implementation of the EC Vision agenda, mutual recognition and, finally, an EPC to the benefit our supervisors and coaches individually, and our profession as a whole.

Let me finish by saying how important and fruitful the active support of National Organisations has been, and will in the future go on to be. How great would it be if ANSE could - to name an important aspect - gain the cooperation and support of training institutes and universities related to our national member organisations.

Clearly, a process like this, by far the most ambitious ANSE so far embarked on, is only possible if we all stand together. We need time, energy, patience, and trust. Above all, we need each other. Which is what ANSE is all about.