

EDITORIAL

Enhancing the academic staff mobility

The last decade has been marked by a large number of contacts and agreements between HEIs from all regions of the world. This movement is part of the internationalization effort that is found in the universities' agenda. However, a major part of these agreements has not passed beyond the paper, having no results. Its signature has been understood by the universities as a stimulus to the establishment of new relations or as a courtesy gesture by the Rectors.

The reservations regarding the signature of these agreements have therefore increased, and many universities only accept agreements that are based by action plans and that establish the commitments of the parties regarding funding. An exception to this framework has been the agreements for mobility and exchange of students, which continue to earn interest from universities. Indeed, the signature of such agreements gives furthermore an answer to their desire of providing their students an opportunity to have an experience abroad.

In recent times the interest of HEIs in conferring a bigger dimension and importance to the mobility of professors, researchers and administrative staff has grown higher. Not because student mobility had been losing importance, but because mobility flows involving professors, researchers and administrative staff have been allowing the establishment of new partnerships and bonds, with repercussion on the creation of joint education and research projects and sharing of experiences in academic and administrative areas.

The focus on the reinforcement of institutional relations seems to go through this, and increasingly, through staff mobility, which has been valued as one of the most effective tools for the creation and consolidation of partnerships. The main concerns are namely the mutual recognition of programmes, the development and participation in joint education and research programmes or the sharing of experiences in projects' management and organization.

Thus, the focus on staff mobility should receive, from our part, a greater attention in the future.

António Marques
EBW II Project's Coordinator

NEWS

3rd Call for Applications of the EBW II Project

The third and last Call for Applications of the EBW II Project has run during May, having as deadline the 25th of May. This was the last chance given to European and Brazilian doctorate students to submit their applications to the Project in an attempt to benefit from one of the still available scholarships.

By launching this 3rd Call, the consortium sought to fulfill all available scholarships within the framework of the project, in respect for the initial proposal, approved by the European Commission.

The final results of the selection process will be published during June and all applicants will be notified by email. Afterwards the final lists will be published in the consortium's official website.

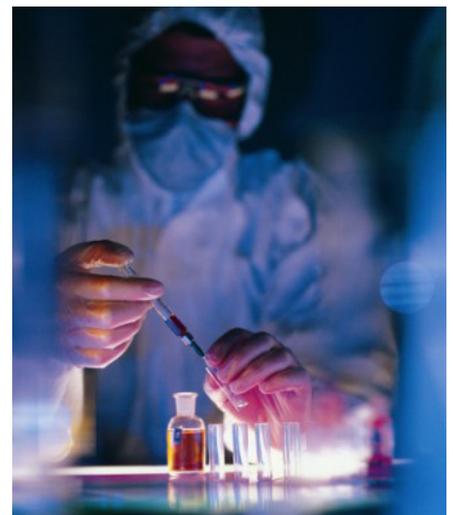
The next Newsletter...

Since the beginning of the year 2010 that the EBW II consortium has been publishing a monthly Newsletter, through which it disseminates the latest news regarding the implementation of the project, as well as the feedbacks of some of the scholarship holders who have finished or are undertaking their mobility periods. Also small presentations of the partner institutions are included each time.

As the project is running in full swing, it is now time to make a small break in the publication of these Newsletters. June to August will represent a time for the preparation of the last mobility flows, which will start no later than the 1st of September 2010. Being so, our Newsletter will come back at the end of September, with all the latest news and also new feedbacks of our "EBWs II".

The whole EBW II team is always available for you through the usual contacts.

See you in September!



EBW II BEHIND THE SCENES



During my mobility period I was visiting the “Instituto de Eletrotécnica e Energia” of the “Universidade de São Paulo”. My status was visiting professor and I had the chance of having an extremely supportive organization and coordination from the head of the “Laboratório de Fotometria” both during working hours and in personal

Name: Balázs Vince Nagy

Academic staff

Home University:

Budapest University of Technology and Economics (Hungary)

Host University:

University of São Paulo (Brazil)

programs. Being more times on visits in other countries I can conclude that during this mobility the hosting was top level with extraordinary attention from the host side. This applies to all colleagues of the Institute most of who visited my four presentations about my projects done both at the home and the host Universities. Several students were also present at these. Many of them were already interested in closer cooperation between the two Universities along with mobilities through international cooperation programs such as EBW II.

My activities were fulltime without a slight chance to get bored as I was involved in several research and development projects where we could share our experiences with the Brazilian colleagues. During scientific discussions we have started to

plan projects between the host and home institutions’ departments and we have searched the ways for a close and stable cooperation.

The EBW II coordination at USP has also been superb assistance before and during my stay. Prof. Paulo Veiga and Sandra Lima were always very supportive making me very pleased to have their coordination.

As a conclusion I can say that the whole mobility organization was very professional and I could gain great experiences with this possibility.



Name: Marina Maciel Dias

Undergraduate student

Home University:

Federal University of Minas Gerais (Brazil)

Host University:

Technical University Valencia (Spain)

It is funny to think how an email can change your life so much! After submitting my application to the EBW II project, I had exactly two months waiting. Two months that were really worthy! When I received an email with so much text, thanking for so many people having submitted their applications, I thought I had not been selected. But then I kept reading, my heart was beating stronger and I came to a sentence that stated: “we are delighted to inform you that you have been selected to undertake a mobility period of 6 months within the framework of your undergraduate studies at the Technical University Valencia”. In this moment every thought crossed my mind; the effort to write the letter, to obtain the documents, and I had many feelings at the same time: happiness, achievement and even a kind of fear for the unknown. I read the sentence several times to believe it.

Afterwards all EBWs know what came. The waiting, the concern for providing all the documents, get the visa, doing everything right and get for it. And then the travel had already begun and you don’t even realize. The whole process of doing everything for yourself was already anticipating what was about to come: an opportunity of personal,

academic, social and cultural development. Personally and I am loving to get to know Spain! It is very different and at the same time very similar to Brazil. People are nice and kind, Winter isn’t so severe, cities are wonderful, the culture is very interesting and the university provides the students, exchange or regular, the whole support they might need.

I have taken part in several parties, travels, Spanish movies’ sessions and I have met people from all over the world. It is very good to see people’s reaction when I say that I come from Brazil and to be able to tell them what is Brazil for real. Also the opposite: being able to learn more about other cultures, seeing and understanding differences.

I thank the University of Porto for giving me this dreamlike opportunity, which is just beginning! I am already certain that, when I come back to Brazil, I will take with me much more than two suitcases to be put in an airplane, and that I will be a more supportive person and professional, with a better perspective of the world, its problems and needs.

EBW II BEHIND THE SCENES

At the University of São Paulo, the EBW II Project is implemented by a team which is constituted by Prof. Paulo da Veiga, Sandra Lima and two trainees who give all the necessary support, Marília Ramos and Rafael Nunes. Here's their perspective regarding the EBW II Project:



How would you classify the receptivity and impact of the EBW II Project in the academic community of your University?

The EBW II Project was positively welcomed by the whole community at USP, including undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as teaching staff. After the success of the EBW Project, also coordinated by the University of Porto, the expectations and demands of the academic community regarding the new opportunities were raised.

With which of the Brazilian partner institutions did your University already have established cooperation before the implementation of this project?

Nowadays, USP has approximately 500 international bilateral agreements, with a wide range of countries.

Do you consider that the activities developed within the scope of the project have contributed to deepen the already existing cooperation with the partner HEIs in Brazil?

For sure, yes. The project has allowed the institutions to get to know better the teaching system of their partners, as well as the internal regulations for mobility. Furthermore, it was possible to achieve closer relations seeking the implementation of new cooperation bounds.

In what way do you consider this project has contributed to the establishment of new links of cooperation?

By better understanding the peculiarities of each teaching system, as well as the cultural differences, it was possible to aspire to and create new cooperation bounds.

Do you consider that this project could be the base for the development of joint supervision of doctoral thesis (sandwich PhD mobility with duration of 10 months or more)?

Yes, it is possible. In USP, the interested student should preferably also establish a previous contact with a professor who can tutor him and to initiate the bureaucratic process for analysis of the respective area.

To what extent has the implementation of the activities within the scope of this project contributed to the better organization of the internal structures of the international office of your institution?

The EBW and EBW II projects have contributed to create new procedures, as well as ways to evaluate the whole process by our team – since the opportunities' dissemination to the implementation of the mobility flows. It was also possible to promote the exchange of good practices, with the expertise of the coordinating team of the projects.

What significant changes do you consider to be crucial for the higher success of the project?

USP and the University of Porto have a good communication channel, what contributes to an even higher success of the projects. In a general way, it would be important to open opportunities to other fields of study, and if possible to enlarge the percentage to undergraduate students.

Do you consider it would be possible to continue the implementation of some cooperation activities with partner institutions of the consortium even without the financing granted by the Erasmus Mundus Programme? What specific activities?

Yes, but as we are a public university, the financing for mobility flows' implementation, or for other projects, is crucial. Anyway, the University of São Paulo is opened to discuss new projects and activities to achieve new cooperation bounds.



The trainee Rafael Strauss, Prof. Paulo da Veiga and Sandra Lima are part of the team at the University of São Paulo.

KNOWING BETTER...

Lund University (Sweden)



LUNDS
UNIVERSITET

Lund University was founded in 1666. It is one of the largest universities in Scandinavia and respected as one of the best in Sweden. Lund University blends centuries of tradition with dynamic development. Today the university has approximately 39 000 students. The main part of the University is located in Lund, but there are also campuses in the nearby towns of Malmö and Helsingborg. Lund University is known internationally and has an excellent reputation for innovative research, as well as for extensive academic cooperation. The students at Lund University have access to the largest, most comprehensive educational range in Sweden. There are eight faculties, approximately 315 educational programmes and more than 1600 single subject courses of which about 300 are taught in English. There are about 100 postgraduate level programmes of which more than 70 are taught in English. Internationalization permeates our entire institution and the University is part of networks with other leading institutions of higher education world-wide. Lund has more international students than any other Swedish institution, and the

number of courses offered in international collaboration is steadily growing. The hallmarks of Lund University are a democratic philosophy, critical thinking, concern for the global environment and ethnic and social diversity. Other values important to Lund University include humor, innovation and a humanist perspective. The students at Lund University comprise more than one third of the population of the city and consequently have a large impact on it and contribute to the youthful, laid-back atmosphere in Lund.

Lund University has eight faculties (Engineering, Science, Law, Social Sciences, Medicine, Humanities and Theology, School of Economics and Management and Malmö Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts)

Lund University is ranked as one of the best universities in Europe by several different, and respected, ranking studies. There are over 500 professors actively involved in cutting edge teaching and research, across a broad range of fields. The Times Higher Educational Supplement (QS Ranking 2009) ranks Lund University 1st in Sweden and 67th in the World.

Lund University cooperates with a great number of universities, university networks and research institutes all over the world. The University has exchange agreements with more than 680 universities in more than 50 countries world-wide, including more than 400 within the EU's Erasmus programme.



AGENDA

MID-JUNE

Results' notification of the 3rd Call for Applications

JUNE

Meetings at the home institutions to prepare mobility flows

JUNE TO AUGUST

Preparation of the mobility flows

AUGUST

Welcoming meetings at the host institutions with the scholarship holders

1ST SEPTEMBER

Deadline for the beginning of all EBW II mobility flows

30TH OF SEPTEMBER

Publication of the next newsletter

INSTITUTIONS OF EBW II

Federal University of Amazonas
Federal University of Minas Gerais
Federal University of Mato Grosso
Federal University of Pará
Federal University of Pernambuco
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul
Federal University of Santa Catarina
University of São Paulo
State University of Campinas

Ghent University
Grenoble Institute of Technology
Technical University Dresden
Budapest University of Technology and Economics
Technical University Valencia
Technical University Catalunya
University of Deusto
University of Lund
Technical University Eindhoven
University of Porto
University Joseph Fourier – Grenoble 1,
Santander Group European Universities Network
Forum of the Brazilian Universities
Assessories to International Matters
National Association of Leaders of Federal Institutions of Higher Education

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