

NEWSLETTER June 2010

University Business Cooperation

CLOSER LINKS BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND BUSINESS DESIRABLE

Universities need to build stronger ties with business but must retain control over their governance, finances and curriculum, says a resolution on university business dialogue approved by the European Parliament on May 20th, 2010.

The Parliament urges European universities to adopt "innovative, far-reaching and methodical curricular reform" and follow up "young graduates more closely in order to assess the economic and social usefulness of education programmes".

At the same time, the resolution calls on businesses to step up their support for talented young people by providing scholarships, and encourages the development of international student work placements to help language learning and cross-border collaboration.

The Parliament furthermore suggests the creation of a European Industrial PhD scheme co-financed by the European Commission from its Seventh Framework Programme for research. The aim would be to promote targeted and affordable research for European companies.

As with regard to best practices the resolution attaches importance to participation of countries from outside the European Union in the EU Forum "in order to share and debate their experience and concerns".

Find the text of the resolution on the European Parliament's website at:

www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2010-0187+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN

Mobility and integration

2nd ACCESS CONFERENCE IN MANILA

From June 4th to 5th 2010, the 2nd ACCESS Interregional Dialogue Event called "Mobility as an Instrument for Integration: Sharing Experiences and New Ideas", was held in Manila, Philippines.

The ACCES Project, funded under the ERASMUS Mundus scheme, will explore the perceptions and expectations of South-East Asian higher education stakeholders towards European higher education system, promote higher education partnership schemes and support the dialogue

process between the EU and South-East-Asian higher education institutions. The event focused on how to foster mobility of students and academic staff within the South East Asia region (SEA) and between the European Union and the SEA. It was organised by the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and hosted by the University of the Philippines. A set of recommendations on how to improve mobility across the two regions in a sustainable and meaningful way were also put forward after the discussion.

For detailed information please refer to www.access-project.eu

ERASMUS Mundus

FACTSHEETS FOR ASIAN ASEM STUDENTS

As ambassadors for the Erasmus Mundus programme, many Erasmus Mundus Alumni (EMA) members have described their personal experiences of studying in Europe in country-specific student factsheets.

These factsheets have been developed in consultation with ERASMUS Mundus alumni and EU Delegations. They provide a practical guide to the programme, answering the kinds of questions most commonly asked by prospective applicants. Up to now factsheets on countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines and Vietnam are available. This growing list will cover more countries in due course under:

ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/testimonials_en.html

National activities

Denmark

DANISH STRATEGY TO ENHANCE OUTBOUND MOBILITY

The Danish Ministry of Education recently published a strategy paper called "Steppin up study and internship" which should aim at increasing the number of outgoing students within academic profession and professional bachelor programmes. The paper should contribute to the removal of mobility obstacles and to the internationalisation of academies of professional higher education and university colleges.

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Recommendations and initiatives have been formulated on the basis of a number of surveys regarding opportunities and obstacles to outbound mobility.

The strategy can be electronically obtained under:
<http://www.uvm.dk/~media/Publikationer/2010/English/Stepping%20up%20study/Stepping%20up%20study%20and%20internship%20abroad%20til%20web.ashx>

France

INDICATOR FOR SOCIAL PERFORMANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS NEEDED

French Education Minister Valérie Pécresse pronounced herself in favour of creating an indicator of social performance applicable to all higher education institutions in order to accompany and accredit efforts of social inclusion. When she visited the Ecole centrale at Paris on June 8th 2010, which increased its intake of students receiving maintenance grants from 11% in 2007 to 17% in 2009, she declared that activities for social inclusion need to be supported, systematised and recognised. An indicator of social performance would not only measure progress being made but also identify further needs for action.

For more information consult the press release of the portal of the French government at www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/un-indicateur-de-performance-sociale-pour-les-grandes-ecoles-et-les-universites

Japan

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In May, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) published "Guidelines for Building Organized and Continuous Cooperation Including Double and Joint Degree Programs between University in Japan and University in Foreign Countries". The guidelines, based on a report on policies to university education that was elaborated by the working group of the University Council of Education, aim to promote international cooperation and to contribute to quality assurance and higher education in Japan and partner countries.

The guidelines are available under:
www.mext.go.jp/english/koutou/detail/1294463.htm

ATTRACTING FOREIGN STUDENTS

Under the "Global 30" initiative the Japanese government wants to attract more foreign students to Japan. The State University of Tsukuba is one of the selected universities, to implement this. On May 19th it opened its first European office at the DAAD in Bonn.

"We hope for a lively exchange between German universities and our university," said the President of the University of Tsukuba, Professor Nobuhiro Yamada. Head of European Office and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the Tsukuba University, Professor Makoto Arai, was delighted: "We are now as it were, part of the "DAAD family". As a matter of fact it is due to the DAAD-Alumnus that Bonn was chosen for the location of the office.

With the European Office, the University of Tsukuba primarily wants to attract European scholars and students. The Europe Office will introduce inter alia the research projects of the university, through meetings and seminars, and also inform students at fairs about the courses offered. The university indeed has an ambitious goal: by 2020 one in four students will be international students. University of Tsukuba opens up not only in a geographically but also linguistically and in the matter of subjects: nine new English-taught courses were introduced in 2010 - including subjects such as Life and Environmental Sciences and International Relations, which seek answers to current global issues.

More information on the University of Tsukuba can be obtained under:

<http://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/english/>

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