

NEWSLETTER May 2010

ASEM EDUCATION SECRETARIAT AND MENON NETWORK CLUSTER ERASMUS MUNDUS PROJECTS

In 2009 the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency together with the European Commission have launched an open call for tender dealing with "Clustering Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses and Attractiveness Projects". The tender has been divided into 5 several lots namely:

Lot 1: Sustainability

Lot 2: Employability

Lot 3: Recognition of Degrees and Joint Degrees

Lot 4: Regional Clusters

Lot 5: Thematic Clusters

As announced early in May 2010, the AES and the MENON network* have successfully applied for funds in the framework of Lot 4. The one-year project is intended to "cluster" master courses as well as attractiveness projects with an Asian focus funded under the ERASMUS Mundus I scheme. Within this period it is expected to carry out a survey among selected Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses (EMMC) and Attractiveness Projects (AP). This should lead to an inventory of regionally focussed activities carried out by the projects in question. In addition a workshop is supposed to take place where representatives of the respective courses and projects will present good practice examples of their strategies related to topics such as sustainability of EMMC, employability of Erasmus Mundus students and alumni, promotion activities, education/industry cooperation, research cooperation and "brain circulation". Finally it is envisaged to produce a set of practical guidelines for EMMC and APs, designed for easy use by co-ordinators and partners and to develop a dedicated thematic section on "Regional Clusters" on the "Erasmus Mundus Excellence" website.

*MENON is a European innovation and research network, which has been working in the last 10 years to provide information, evaluation, consultancy and development support to policy makers, industry and society.

NEW DIRECTORATE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE (DG EAC)

The European Commission has done a major restructuring of the DG EAC. Starting June 2010 several units which are presently summarized under the Directorates A (Lifelong Learning – horizontal Lisbon Policy Issues and international affairs) and B (Lifelong Learning – policies and programmes) will move to a newly created Directorate C called "Lifelong Learning: Higher Education and International Affairs".

Within this Directorate unit C4 will deal with EU third country-programmes such as ERASMUS Mundus. Jan Pakulski will remain Head of this unit.

As a result of the new structure it is expected that in the future, higher education policy issues and initiatives will have more emphasis within DG Education and Culture.

The directory of the DG EAC can be found under: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/organ/en.pdf

DAAD-KOWI CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COOPERATION WITH EU THIRD-COUNTRIES.

From April 22nd – 23rd the DAAD and KoWi (Liaison Office of the Scientific organizations) organised a joint conference in the Bavarian Representation in Brussels. The event was intended to bring together stakeholders from the field of education and research.

Under the headline "Reaching out beyond Europe - EU Programmes for Higher Education and Research" more than 150 participants from European and non-European universities, research organizations and EU institutions were attending, in spite of the flight disorders due to volcano eruption in Iceland. They discussed the policy framework for EU cooperation and the third country programmes in the areas of education and research. In workshops, specific project examples were presented as well as practical questions about application criteria were answered.

The presentations can be found at:
<http://www.kowi.de/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-185>

3rd EU FORUM FOR UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS DIALOGUE IN BRUSSELS

From May 3rd – 4th about 200 participants of the academia, politics, economic sector as well as of the European Commission came together in order to discuss challenges related to “University-Business Cooperation for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth“. It was agreed upon the fact that cooperation between the two sectors are indispensable to react on upcoming needs and to develop a competitive society. Underlining that the interaction between the higher education sector and the world of work is an integral part of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the audience discussed also the strategy lines such as „Youth on the Move“ and „New Skills for New Jobs“. Being in preparation is a link of the EU Forum for University-Business Dialogue and the ASEM University Industry Forum. More information on the EU University-Business Forum can be obtained under:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc1261_en.htm

INTERNATIONALISATION OF GERMAN UNIVERSITIES

According to a study recently published in London, the internationalisation efforts of German higher education institutions are quite successful. Compared to countries such as Australia, United Kingdom and China, the German universities received better marks concerning scientific cooperation and student exchange. Detailed information on the study can be obtained under:

http://www.britishcouncil.org/going_global_4_-_shaping_the_next_generation_-_j_ncnamara_a_williamson_-_pp.pdf

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ADOPTED CONCLUSIONS ON THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

During their meeting on May 11th 2010, the members of the Education, Youth and Culture Council adopted the conclusions on the internationalisation of higher education. In this context the term internationalisation is used to

refer to the development of international cooperation activities between EU higher education institutions and those in third countries. In principle the EU Ministers have agreed, among others, that higher education should form an integral part of the EU’s external cooperation policies. Also the Bologna Policy Forum which facilitates policy dialogue between the European Higher Education Area and other parts of the world should be welcomed as a tool for exchange on concrete issues of mutual interest. Accordingly, the Council members invited the European Commission to continue supporting international higher education partnerships, international academic cooperation and capacity-building actions, and to facilitate policy dialogue in higher education with interested third countries.

The Council conclusions can be found under:
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/114378.pdf

CHINESE GRADUATES ARE SUPPORTED

According to information from the Chinese Ministry of Education website, the government assists college graduates in starting their own business. Registration and administration fees are not levied by the government in case that young people register to be self-employed within two years after graduation. Founding the first company, the registered capital of the company can be in place in instalments. This year the Chinese government expects about 6,3 million new job seekers. By this initiative employment options should be diversified.

More information can be obtained under:
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2010-05/15/content_9853616.htm

EIGHT MALAYSIAN INSTITUTIONS TOWARDS AUTONOMY

On May 4th the Star online informed that self-accreditation status has been given to eight Malaysian higher education institutions. Normally educational programmes have to be accredited by the Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA). In 2008 the institutions have taken the initiative to apply for self-accreditation status und have been institutionally audited from September 2009 to March 2010. Malaysian experts as well as members from quality assurance bodies in the ASEAN region were part of the audit team.

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Nevertheless, professional programmes have still to be accredited and recognised by the relevant professional bodies.

More information can be obtained under:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2010/5/18/nation/6278617&sec=nation>

COMING NEXT:

Recommendations of the 1st Asia-Europe Education Workshop on the “Impact of the Financial Crisis to Higher Education”

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