



NEWSLETTER

Nº 5 / May 2010

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
MUNDUS 17 Project's Coordinator

NEWS

3rd Call for Applications

The deadline for the 3rd and last Call for Applications of the MUNDUS 17 Project was the 25th of May. This call was aimed at European post-doctorate researchers, Brazilian doctorate students and Uruguayan master and doctorate students as well as post-doctorate researchers and it sought to fulfill all available scholarships within the framework of this project.

At this moment the process of selection is taking place and in mid-June the applicants will be notified of the final results of this process. The applicants will be notified by e-mail and the final list will be published in the consortium's official website.



The next Newsletter...

In January 2010 the first MUNDUS 17 consortium newsletter was published and it has revealed itself to be an efficient tool for the dissemination of the project and communication among the consortium. This newsletter aims at giving more information on the behind the scenes of the project: from the experiences of the scholarship holders throughout their mobility period to the latest news within the framework of the project and also providing the opportunity of the persons responsible for the project's implementation in the several partner institutions to share their points of view.

As the months from June to August will be months for the preparation of the mobility flows, there will be a small break in the publication of these newsletters. Being so, we will come back at the end of September with even more news and comments.

MUNDUS 17 BEHIND THE SCENES



How would you classify the receptivity and impact of the MUNDUS 17 Project in the academic community of your University?

The participation in the MUNDUS 17 Project within the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Programme is a milestone in the internationalization process of UNIFESP. The reception could not have been better and the impact was felt at all academic levels in all the five campuses of the university. This enabled the creation of an institutional view on the benefits of internationalization and the strategic importance of the international insertion of the institution (and not of its isolated actors) in the scenario of global academic cooperation.

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

Only with the University of Porto, the only institution with which we had already established exchange of Medicine students and medical residents. We also had two addendums with the Faculty of Sports and the Institute of Biomedical Sciences Abel Salazar (ICBAS).

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 Europe?

Yes, we have been strengthening the bounds with our most traditional partner, the University of Porto, expanding cooperation in other fields other than Medicine.

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

The participation in the MUNDUS17 has allowed us to create new partnerships with European universities, which would have been much more difficult without the participation in this consortium. The participation in the MUNDUS 17 project, as I already mentioned, was and has been a milestone in the expansion of international cooperation of the institution. I believe that for many years, we will benefit from the participation in this consortium and, in the same way, we hope to contribute with our partner so as to ensure the benefit of all.

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)?

I think so. Nevertheless, from the UNIFESP point of view, there must be a mutual scientific-academic interest, and it must be well established so that we can create joint degree agreements with partner institutions.

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?

We had to create practices and involve all levels of University management to implement the project: the Pro-Rectorate of Undergraduate studies, the Pro-Rectorate of Graduate studies, the Pro-Rectorate of Administration, Academic Directors and Courses Coordinators. This interaction with other instances ended up having a very positive "side effect" and gave visibility both to the International Office and to the MUNDUS17 Project. Furthermore, based on the know-how of what we have acquired with the implementation of the Project, we ended up creating good practices that are being used to implement the mobility flows with institutions with which we have bilateral agreements. Being so, the participation in the MUNDUS 17 forced us to speed up the structuring and internal organization of the International Office.

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

I believe that would be interesting to have a more comprehensive knowledge of research activities of partner institutions in order to create durable and sustainable cooperation.

Vera Salvadori

Federal University of São Paulo

International Office

MUNDUS 17 BEHIND THE SCENES

The experience of studying in another country is exceeding my expectations. Getting into contact with my profession here in Spain made me realize how much I can learn with the differences and reaffirm concepts with the similarities.

Besides the professional point of view, the exchange is providing me a personal growth mainly for being in contact with other cultures. I believe this is due to the fact that I am in a University where the Erasmus programme is in general well established, which allows me to get together with people from many countries, besides a reception that makes us feel welcomed and secure. Being part of the MUNDUS 17 project has been a unique experience. I would like to take this opportunity to thank to the project for this opportunity and for all the guidance.



Name: Beatriz Oliveira Amorim

Undergraduate student

Home institution:
Federal University of São Paulo

Host institution:
University of Valladolid

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Name: Perla Nancy Sosa de Wood

Post-doctorate researcher

Home institution:
National University of Itapúa

Host institution:
University of Valladolid

The mobility post-doctorate programme is revealing itself as a very interesting academic experience, considering that it allows the possibility of exchanging knowledge and knowing other culture. Since February I am a professor and researcher at the Department of Didactics of Mathematic of the Faculty of Training and Social Work of the University of Valladolid to develop my working programme based in three fundamental aspects: teaching, learning and researching that allow me to acquire international experience in the Higher Education Institutions.

It is worth mentioning that since the first day I was able to adapt myself very well and there is a good working environment among professors. On the one hand, I should mention that Valladolid is a city with a rich cultural life being recognized for its many festivities, one aspect that I can appreciate

in its real dimension during my stay, bearing in mind that the purpose of mobility does not refers only to the academic aspect but also the cultural one. On the other hand, I would also like to mention that I took this challenge with great responsibility and I trust that it is an excellent opportunity to gain experience in the European Higher Education and to establish research networks that tackle the issue of education in a globalized world, as an exchange is an opportunity to strengthen ties between people and institutions.

Finally, I want to thank to all the people who allowed this opportunity to come true, for the support I received at all times and for the management of the mobility. I hope you can consolidate the links between universities and consortia in order to provide more space for the mobility of students, academic staff and researchers.

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KNOWING BETTER...

University of Milan

The University of Milan (Università degli Studi di Milano) is a public, multidisciplinary teaching and research institution that offers 9 Faculties, 134 study courses (divided between 1st and 2nd level degree programmes), 19 Doctoral Schools and 92 Specialisation Schools.

Its 2,500 professors represent the highest concentration of scientific expertise in the region.

Leading institute in Italy and Europe in the scientific productivity, it is the largest university in the region, with approximately 65,000 enrolled students; it is also an important resource for the socio-economic context of which it is a part. The University has 9 faculties, which offer a total of 134 courses at 1st and 2nd level degree. Research is carried in 58 departments.

The University's Departments and Faculties are housed in important historic buildings in the centre of Milan and in modern buildings in the area known as Città Studi (the City of Studies).



Teaching activities at the university are organised by Faculties. A wide variety of disciplinary fields are represented in the following Faculties:

- Agriculture (Agraria)
- Exercise Sciences (Scienze Motorie)
- Humanities (Lettere e Filosofia)
- Law (Giurisprudenza)
- Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences (Scienze Matematiche, Fisiche e Naturali)
- Pharmacy (Farmacia)
- School of Medicine (Medicina e Chirurgia)
- Social and Political Sciences (Scienze Politiche)



AGENDA

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 MUNDUS 17 mobility flows

30TH OF SEPTEMBER

Publication of the next newsletter

20 INSTITUTIONS OF MUNDUS 17

Catholic University of Uruguay (Uruguay)
Federal University of Acre (Brazil)
Federal University of Alagoas (Brazil)
Federal University of Bahia (Brazil)
Federal University of Ceará (Brazil)
Federal University of Paraíba (Brazil)
Federal University of São Paulo (Brazil)
National University of Asunción (Paraguay)
National University of Itapúa (Paraguay)
Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (Brazil)
University of the Republic (Uruguay)

Georg-August University of Göttingen (Germany)
Justus Liebig University of Giessen (Germany)
University of Barcelona (Spain)
University of Ghent (Belgium)
University of Lille (France)
University of Milan (Italy)
University of Porto (Portugal)
University of Valladolid (Spain)
Technical University of Valencia (Spain)

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