

Open Seminar

“Europe-Caribbean Academic Cooperation and Mobility: Challenges and Opportunities”

11 May 2011, Kingston – Jamaica

The Erasmus Mundus Programme: an introduction

Cristina Brecciaroli

MENON Network



Mobility in HE as a **priority** for the EU

Two main support schemes for mobility funded by the EC

- 1) Erasmus Mundus Programme
- 2) Marie Curie Actions

Marie Curie Actions

PhDs mobility;
competitive but highly rewarding;
based on the single researcher's initiative;
funded within the Community Framework Programmes for
Research and Technological Development (FP6 and 7).

Rationale: “Abundant and highly trained qualified researchers are a necessary condition to advance science and to underpin innovation, but also an important factor to attract and sustain investments in research by public and private entities”

Erasmus Mundus:

a *cooperation* and *mobility* programme in the field of **Higher Education** that aims to:

- *enhance* the quality of European higher education
- *promote* European higher education
- *improve* career prospects of students
- *promote* **dialogue and intercultural** understanding through cooperation with third countries in the field of higher education

Legal basis: Decision n.1298/2008/EC

The **European Commission** is politically responsible for the Programme: it sets the budget, the priorities, the targets and the underlying criteria; it guides and monitors the general implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Programme.

The **EACEA** – the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, is responsible for its **implementation** (it manages the Calls, collects the proposals, handles the whole evaluation process, undersigns the grant agreements etc.).

EM funds allocation: a meaningful trend

I Phase (2004-2008): 290 Mil. €
+ 36,4 Mil. € Ext. Cooperation Window 2006

II Phase (2009-2013): 960 Mil. € (more than tripled)

Erasmus Mundus I was articulated in 4 Actions:

- Action 1: Erasmus Mundus Master Courses
- Action 2: Scholarships (individually granted)
- Action 3: Partnerships with Third-Country Higher Education Institutions
- Action 4: Enhancing Attractiveness (making the EU HE system more appealing to foreign students/researchers)

Erasmus Mundus II is articulated in 3 Actions

- **Action 1:** EM **joint Master programmes** (EMMCs) and **joint doctoral programmes** (EMJDs) of outstanding academic quality, which includes a scholarship scheme
- **Action 2:** **Partnerships** between EU and Third Countries HEIs in specific regions (as a basis for structural co-operation and mobility at all levels of higher education)
- **Action 3:** Measures **enhancing the attractiveness** of EU as an higher education destination (e.g. CaribErasmus)

Action 1: Joint Masters & PhDs

- Offered by HEIs in at least 3 EU countries (+ HEIs from Third Countries may participate too)
- Admission, selection and exam criteria are jointly set
- They can release double, multiple or joint degrees
- They are selected and funded by the EC for 5 years
- Attention is paid to **quality** assurance and monitoring
- Mobility for students is compulsory
- Scholarships granted for non EU and EU **students** (1 max 2 years)
- Fellowships granted for non EU and EU **scholars** (3 months max)

Action 1: Joint Masters & PhDs

Plus, with reference to PhDs only:

- Fellowships are granted for a period of 36 months
- Minimum mobility of 6 months (over the 3-year period)
- Inter-disciplinarity and innovation are encouraged
- Participation of research institutes + industry (associated members) is contemplated
 - There is “Co-tutorship” for theses among different participating HEIs

Action 2: Partnerships

- Large partnerships between **HEIs** from EU and from third countries of a specific region.
- The third countries concerned are those covered by the external cooperation instruments; a compendium on the website shows those approved for the Caribbean.
- Limited periods abroad (within the consortium of HEIs) of **students** at all levels (Ba, MA, Doc and Post-doc) and **academic** and **admin staff** enrolled or belonging to one of the HEIs partner
- Definition of priorities (subjects and objectives) based on third countries' needs

Action 3: Promotion of European HE

It funds:

- Attractiveness projects (like CaribErasmus, including internationalisation of Erasmus Thematic Networks)
- Grants for promotion of Erasmus Mundus for National Structures (restricted Calls)
- Studies, Calls for Tender (e.g. quality assessment of Masters Courses, Cluster meetings)
- Support to the EM Alumni Association (www.em-a.eu)

Caribbean participation in EMMCs

| NATIONALITY | Total | 2004 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|------------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| Antigua and Barbuda | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Barbados | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Cuba (1°) | 25 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| Dominica | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dominican Republic | 6 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Grenada | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Haiti (3°) | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Jamaica (4°) | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Saint Lucia | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trinidad & Tobago (2°) | 12 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 |

Comparison with other countries

| NATIONALITY | Total | 2004 | 2010 | 2011 |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bolivia | 30 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Colombia | 269 | 2 | 48 | 36 |
| Costa Rica | 36 | 0 | 6 | 9 |
| Ecuador | 63 | 1 | 12 | 13 |
| El Salvador | 16 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Guatemala | 26 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Guyana | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Honduras | 12 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Mexico | 408 | 4 | 77 | 66 |
| Panama | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Venezuela | 63 | 4 | 8 | 12 |

Participation: in terms of Institutions

- Number of HEIs involved in Action 2/Partnerships:
in the external window 2007 and 2009 = 0,
in 2008 = **1** (i.e. UWI – Barbados, under Lot 10 –
managed by ITC Netherlands) with 15 students
and 3 staff went on exchange
in 2010 = **2** from 2 countries (i.e. UWI – Barbados,
and UASD Dominican Rep. – Lot15 “Mundus ACP”,
Oporto Univ.);
Associated partners in EMMCs/EMJDs (Action 1) = 0

How to participate: **students**

- By enrolling in an EM Master or PhD course (Action 1) in the discipline of their interest (first check available courses on EC the website, select the one of interest and apply directly with the consortium).
- By spending a period of time studying or doing research abroad in the frame of an EM partnership (Action 2; get the information through the international relations department of own university).

☺ Info on scholarships:

➔ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/funding/scholarships_students_academics_en.php

How to participate: **HE Institutions** **from outside EU**

By **joining** an EM consortium (Action 1), a partnership (Action 2) or a project to enhance attractiveness (Action 3): in all cases, the Third country institution cannot directly submit a grant proposal which has to be done by a EU organisation.

The EC website and the *Programme Guide* provide all necessary details and support to access these modalities.

More information

Erasmus Mundus EC dedicated Website:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/index_en.php

“Study in Europe” Support Section (for logistics, visas...)

http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/index_en.html

Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association

<http://www.em-a.eu/erasmus-mundus.html>

Thank you

www.cariberasmus.eu

cbrecciaroli@scienter.org