



Erasmus Mundus



## **SEMINAR REPORT**

# **“Europe-Haiti Academic Cooperation and Mobility: Challenges and Opportunities”**

20<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Seminar “Europe-Haiti Academic Cooperation and Mobility: Challenges and Opportunities” was organised on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2012 by the CaribErasmus project, with the support of the European Commission and of the Haitian Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. The event was targeted at principals and chief administrative officers; academic officers in charge of international relations, curriculum development and research; senior academics, lecturers and instructors; students and researchers as well as to other higher education stakeholders in policy-making positions.

The objectives of the event were:

- To promote the mobility opportunities offered to Haitian students and researchers by the Erasmus Mundus programme.
- To discuss the main barriers to Europe-Haitian and Europe-Caribbean academic cooperation and mobility and advance on possible shared solutions.
- To present the first results of the CaribErasmus project, including a survey on the opinions of Caribbean students and researchers about European higher education and a web portal guiding Caribbean students and researchers through available scholarships to study in Europe and a website build to share the experiences from others Caribbean students who already had the experience

## **2. EVENT REPORT**

Thirty participants took part in the seminar, from different stakeholders groups, including representatives of students. The seminar was opened with some welcome remarks by Mr. Pierre-Michel Laguerre, Director General of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training of Haiti. In his remarks, full endorsement was given to the CaribErasmus project objectives and activities, that were judged as very important to increase the capacities and skills of Haitian students as well as the potential internationalisation of Haitian universities.

Mr Fabio Nascimbeni, CaribErasmus project coordinator, welcomed the participants also on behalf of the European Union Delegation in Haiti which unfortunately could not attend the event, and briefly stated the importance of having Haiti involved in the project exercise. He also introduced the CaribErasmus project aims, the activities that were executed and planned in furtherance of project objectives and the state of construction of the principal objective; the policy 'green paper' for delivery to EU policy interests in September 2012. Mr. Raymond Noel, from the State University of Haiti, directed and facilitated the proceedings for the day.

Thereafter, the event was contextualized by way of a succession of presentations by partner representatives. Iva Voldánová from EURASHE shared her view on the European strategic perspectives for internationalisation of higher education; Fabio Nascimbeni from MENON introduced one of the principal vehicles through which this strategy is being implemented; the Erasmus Mundus programme. He emphasized the changes that were in store for the programme for 2014 onwards, highlighting the expected consolidation and increased funding. He also used the opportunity to promote the website where detailed and updated information can always be found: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus\\_mundus](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus). The records show rather low levels of engagement by Haitian and in general of Caribbean students and researchers with the European higher education system. Tahirí Calderón outlined the many opportunities for mobility which are available on the Caribbean section of the StudyPortals websites, which is a one-stop shop for relevant program information for European higher education and finally Jimena Arango presented the results of the online survey on attitudes of Caribbean students and researchers to Europe. .

After a coffee break, the work resumed with an introduction by Fabio Nascimbeni of the framework on which the CaribErasmus Green Paper is being constructed. That framework set the stage for a discussion with participants facilitated by Raymond Noel on the critical issues – and some suggested responses – of Haitian universities internationalisation and on Haiti-Europe academic cooperation and mobility.

The main challenges identified were:

- The complexity of the application procedures of EC programmes for Haitian professors, and therefore the need to build capacity to react to internationalisation challenges among national HE establishments.
- The low level of awareness for students and staff on existing mobility and cooperation possibilities with Europe, and therefore the need to provide punctual information on these opportunities through an international relations office liaising with Haitian universities.
- The low level of scientific excellence in Haiti, which can hinder the participation in collaborative research consortia, and the difficulty of finding partners in Europe. Those could be tackled by running institutional capacity building actions in Haitian universities and by carrying out promotional actions in Europe on the excellence cases which do exist in Haiti.
- The high costs implied on the selection, departure and stay of Haitian students abroad, plus the existent difference/gap between public and private universities to access scholarships or exchange possibilities.
- Diploma and credit recognition for Haitian Universities remain a challenge. Better transparency on the process must be done beforehand as Haitian academic structures differ from EU ones.

A possible solution for the above challenges was discussed, in the shape of a local unit, to be established possibly within an already existing institution such as the Ministry of Education. Build local support, through a small support structure composed of the MoE, the State University, the UIF, the Rectors Conference (CORPUHA), and an open doors communication with other Caribbean countries such as the Dominican Republic which have some experience and access to this relevant information and can serve as a support. This unit should build on existing funds such as Europeaid (Edulink) and existing programmes such as the French universities consortium for the Haiti reconstruction, and use the experiences of existing bilateral programmes (mainly with French universities) to foster the participation in EM.



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## **Annex 1: Agenda**

### **09.30 – 10.00 Accueil et introduction**

- Pierre-Michel Laguerre, Directeur Général du Ministère de l'Education Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle, Haïti
- Fabio Nascimbeni, Projet CaribErasmus

### **10.00 - 11.30 Promotion de la mobilité des étudiants et chercheurs: stratégies et outils**

- “La stratégie européenne d'internationalisation de l'Enseignement Supérieur”, Iva Voldanova, EURASHE
- “Le Programme Erasmus Mundus: fonctionnement et offres”, Fabio Nascimbeni, MENON
- “ Une vue d'ensemble des opportunités d'études offertes par les universités européennes : résultats de l'enquête CaribErasmus et portail web du projet”, Jimena Arango et Thairi Calderon, Universidad Iberoamericana

*Questions - Réponses*

### **11.30 - 13.00 Adapter le soutien à Haïti**

*Débat sur comment adapter les opportunités offertes par Erasmus Mundus à la situation spécifique d'Haïti : problèmes, défis, solutions.*

13.00 - 14.00 Déjeuner



## Annex 2: Participants' list

Participant	Function	Institution
Patrick ATTIE	Directeur Adjoint	ESIH
Harold NARCISSE	Directeur Administratif	ESIH
Alain DEPPE	Conseiller - Enseignant	ders
Lionel METELLUS	Directeur Aff. Académique	INUQUA
Jn Emmanuel ELOI	Directeur Rech. Scientifique	INUQUA
Kerns Joseph JEAN		INUQUA
Bruel GERANÇON		INUQUA
JN Marie LOUIS	Doyen	UNDH
Yves BLANCHARD	Directeur Recherche	UNDH
Mme Magalie JEAN		UNDH
Jean-Vernet HENRY	Recteur	UEH
Dominique J. EYMA	Directrice Premier cycle	UEH
Raymond NOEL	Coordonnateur CUD/UEH	UEH
Fritz DESHOMMES	Vice-recteur	UEH
Fabio NASCIMBENI	Menon	MENON
Jimena ARANGO	Menon	MENON
Iva VOLDANOVA	Eurashe	Eurashe
Tahiri CALDERON	Unibe	Unibe
Florence PIERRE-LOUIS	Directrice / DESRS	MENFP
Nadine HENRY	Assistant Directeur / DESRS	MENFP
Pierre Michel LAGUERRE	Directeur Général	MENFP
Lourdy DORISMOND	Recteur UPAG	MENFP
Lucien JEAN-BERNARD	Recteur	UNEPH
Robert R. JOSEPH	Vice-recteur	UNEPH
Vanessa Ariel Paul	Etudiante - UniQ	Etudiante - UniQ
Edeline Lafond	Etudiante - UniQ	Etudiante - UniQ
Jean-Fabrice LEANDRE	Etudiant - UniQ	Etudiant - UniQ
Edmond Séraphin	Etudiant - UniQ	Etudiant - UniQ
Charly Desgrottes	Etudiant - UniQ	Etudiant - UniQ
Deusmar Benjamin	Etudiant - UniQ	Etudiant - UniQ
Ange-Lucie Joseph	Etudiante - UniQ	Etudiante - UniQ
Enold J. Joseph	Etudiant - UniQ	Etudiant - UniQ
Humphrey BEAUVAIS	Etudiant - UNDH	Etudiant - UNDH
Nimschi Miguel Alexa	Etudiante - UniQ	Etudiante - UniQ