

Newsletter n°7

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Mobility out of Europe!! ERASMUS MUNDUS & MOBILITY



Erasmus Mundus is a worldwide cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education. It has the aim of enhancing the quality of European higher education and promoting dialogue among different cultures through cooperation with Third-Countries. Erasmus Mundus contributes to the development of professionalism and international cooperation of Higher education institutions in Third Countries by increasing mobility between the European Union and these countries.

It's main objectives are:

- the enhancement of quality in European higher education;
- the promotion of the European Union as a centre of excellence in learning around the world;
- the promotion of intercultural understanding through cooperation with Third Countries as well as for the development of Third Countries in the field of higher education.

The Erasmus Mundus Programme 2009-2013 is open to higher education institutions and to any organisation active in the field of higher education and research as well as to students, doctoral candidates, teachers, researchers and university staff (academic and/or administrative) from any part of the world.



Funds are available for supporting the following 3 main Actions:

- Action 1: *Joint programmes* of outstanding quality at masters and doctoral levels including scholarships/fellowships to participate in these programmes;
- Action 2: *Partnerships between Europe and Third Country* higher education institutions including scholarships and fellowships for mobility at all academic levels;
- Action 3: *Promotion of European higher education* through projects to enhance the attractiveness of Europe as an educational destination and a centre of excellence at world level.

A significant role is played by 'mobility' of *individual students, researchers and university staff* who wish to spend a study / research / teaching period in the context of one of the above mentioned joint programmes or cooperation partnerships (Action 1 and Action 2).

In particular:

- ⇒ Students in higher education can receive scholarships for:
 - Undergraduate studies (Action 2)
 - Masters studies (Actions 1 and 2)
- ⇒ Doctoral candidates can receive fellowships for:
 - Doctoral studies (Actions 1 and 2)
 - Post-doctoral studies (Action 2)
- ⇒ Teachers and researchers can receive fellowships for:
 - Teaching and research periods (Actions 1 and 2)
- ⇒ Other academic staff can receive scholarships / fellowships under Actions 1 and 2

Students who took part already in the programme have created *Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association* (<http://www.em-a.eu>) which provides 'services' for its members, such as a forum for networking, communication and collaboration, along with the promotion of Erasmus Mundus as a European programme of excellence in international education.

You can find other information about Erasmus Mundus and how to apply for a grant on the following web sites:

EC Education and Training: http://ec.europa.eu/education/external-relation-programmes/doc72_en.htm

EACEA Erasmus Mundus: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/programme/about_erasmus_mundus_en.php

EACEA mail-box: EACEA-Erasmus-Mundus@ec.europa.eu

Student ambassador – Unai “Adventure” in Italy!

In my work placement I have enrolled many different tasks:

- Assemble safety lockers for cash with specific materials, depending on the demand of the company.
- Assemble and program OPT Screens that are built by assembling different materials.
- Verify and program ATM and keys-in business cards with a computer programme

The thing I've had in Italy that I think is the most important has been that relations with my roommates. We have created an easy-going and fun atmosphere at home and because of that it's easier to go to work every day, waking up with a good mood.

Besides that, in my company I have also met lots of nice people since I had a person that speaks Spanish and who helped me, from the first day, with all the things I needed.

Apart from that, I consider myself lucky for having good relations with the Italian teacher and my CSCS monitor and I can classify my experience in Italy as very positive.

To conclude and make a final statement about all the Erasmus colleagues that I've met, I also want to say that they were the best people I could have ever met in such “adventure”!

European Forum of Vocational Education and Training (EFVET) – Interview with Past President - Hans F. van Aalst

1. You've got a large experience as president of EFVET in analysing different strategies in Vocational Training Institutions. Can you explain us if there has been an evolution in the VET institutions during the last 15 years in Europe?

Yes, there has been a large evolution in VET during the last 15 years, above all, European institutions have developed this aspects of the Vocational Education and Training:

- Larger scale of institutions
- Professional management
- Connection of VET and work
- Minimum qualification and/or work for all; including older workers, unemployed and unemployed youngsters
- ICT as part of working and learning environment.
- Ensure that people take responsibility for their own learning.
- "Competency based" learning



4. We can read in a lot of documents that the European framework for VET is necessary. What do you think about it?

Not so many youngsters will be so mobile as is intended. However, for the status of VET, it is crucial that qualifications can be related to an European framework. And youngsters are often quite proud about this. The danger is that the European framework is going to be "translated" downwards to local, regional or national qualifications. This is not the right way of doing things. Qualifications should be developed and agreed upon on the regional level and then related to the European framework.

5. In most of the developed countries we are affording a structural problem. In a few years, a generation of workers will retire and maybe the new generation will not be able to replace the vacancies. Which could be the solutions?

Solutions include a dedicated and firm mix of:

1. Replacement strategies:

- a. Immigration
- b. Increase participation of people which are currently inactive in the labour market
unemployed youngsters, unemployed elderly, women
- c. Increase working hours and retirement at a later age
- d. Shorten the time that youngsters spend in initial (general) education (and use the freed money for Life Long Learning arrangements)

2. Innovation of industries, services and government (probably the most sustainable, but will take time)

3. Upgrade the role, status and operation of VET