ERASMUS MUNDUS EXTERNAL COOPERATION WINDOW for India

Ref.: 141086-EM-1-2008-SE-ERAMUNDUS-ECW-L15

Lead Applicant: Lund University, Sweden

Partners:

2. Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg, Germany
3. Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
4. International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation, The Netherlands
5. Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
6. Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
7. Politecnico di Milano, Italy
8. University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
9. University of Deusto, Spain
10. University of Leuven, Belgium
11. University Pierre and Marie Curie, France
12. Vilnius University, Lithuania
13. Anand Agricultural University, India
14. Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India
15. Jadavpur University, India
16. Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, India
17. Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India
18. University of Delhi, India
19. University of Kerala, India
20. University of Pune, India

Associates:

- Alboan Foundation, Spain
- Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation, India
- The Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief, Sweden
- Sampark Journal of Global Understanding, India

Project objective:

This project involving twelve prestigious European and eight highly-regarded Indian universities aims at better understanding between the European Union and India, as well as mutual enrichment. The universities in this consortium will cooperate in striving to achieve this goal. The cooperation instrument is guided by the DCI regulations, the Development Millennium Goals, and regional needs expressed by the Government of India. The objective includes a mission to create a partnership for research and development that will strengthen ties between India and the EU. Topics that will be included in the education and research collaboration are agriculture, food processing, climate change, energy, environment, information and communication technology (ICT), biotechnology, and nanotechnology. These all reflect the regional needs of India. It is with this background in mind that the consortium was formed and its members selected. The aim is to strengthen academic cooperation between India and Europe at the academic level, and eventually in areas such as trade, politics, and international organisations. This will be done through a mobility scheme among participating institutions that will result in “brain-circulation”, instead of brain-drain. The ultimate goal is to establish long-lasting structures that will sustain themselves beyond the life of this particular scheme.

Main activities:

The consortium will establish mobility of 402 individuals from leading Indian and European universities and research institutes. The European partners are located in nine different countries distributed across Europe. They include one recent EU member (Lithuania), and one EEA country (Norway). The
other partners are located in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, and Sweden. Among the eight partners in India, five are located in large cities (Delhi, Kolkata, Kanpur, Mumbai, and Pune), while the rest are in smaller urban (Trivandrum) or rural areas (Loni, Anand).

Seventy five % of the participants will be students, researchers, and academic staff from India who will spend time at European universities. Special efforts will be made to attract individuals to the program from vulnerable populations, such as members of lower castes, indigenous tribes, refugees, and other disadvantaged groups. Gender equality in the recruitment is also a goal. Four associates have been included in the consortium in order to facilitate the recruitment of these groups. Although India’s economy has grown steadily over the past two decades, income inequality continues to rise. In addition, India contains the largest number of poor people in a single nation, along with has the highest rate of malnutrition among children below the age of three of any country in the world. Many rural and urban areas in India—particularly the cities—suffer from lack of water and polluted air. Approximately 260 million people (circa 27% of the total population) live below the poverty line, 70% of them in rural areas. Given these pressing issues, our application, although not discounting the importance of social science and the humanities, stresses rural development, agriculture, the environment, geosciences, energy, medicine, health, biotechnology, and other natural sciences. The mobility scheme has been designed to accommodate these needs.

The members of the consortium have taken an active part in preparing this proposal and have established a strong network in the process. A start-up conference will be held at an EU university as soon as the proposal has been approved in order to plan activities, make financial arrangements, and set uniform guidelines for the selection process. A Steering Committee will be chosen and a Management Group appointed to send out the first call for applications. A Selection Committee of three representatives from Europe, three from India, and one from the coordinating university (LU) will also be constituted. Responsibilities will be assigned by the Steering Committee at the plenary conference. Workshops on the Bologna process, ECTS, joint degrees, and other issues related to the mobility scheme will be scheduled. The Learning Agreement will be the foundation of all student mobility transactions to ensure mutual understanding and recognition of results. Academic quality control assurance modelled upon best practices of partners’ national systems will be an integral part of the project, with oversight to be provided by an academic quality assurance committee of LU and selected partner universities. The implementation of the mobility scheme will start in early 2009.

Mobility flow:

Number of Individual Mobility Activities foreseen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Mobility</th>
<th>Non-EU Country nationals</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-EU Country</td>
<td>Target Group 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorates</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-doctorates</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching staff</td>
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<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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<td>219</td>
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</tbody>
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Project duration: 45 months

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