Modernising Higher Education

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Tempus Programme
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Website: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus

Questions about the Programme
General information on the Programme can be found at:
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus

General queries concerning the Programme should be made to:
EACEA-Tempus-Info@ec.europa.eu

Contacts in the EU Member States and Partner Countries
The network of National Contact Points in each of the EU Member States and National Tempus Offices in the partner countries can provide information about the Programme and advise on how to apply.
The Tempus Programme 2007-2013
Tempus is the EU-funded programme that supports the modernisation of higher education in the EU’s neighbouring countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. Tempus is part of the EU’s ‘Neighbourhood’, ‘Enlargement’ and ‘Development’ policies, which aim to promote prosperity, stability and security in these regions. The Programme contributes to cooperation in higher education between the European Union and the partner countries. Tempus promotes the voluntary convergence of higher education systems in these countries with EU developments in higher education.

How Does Tempus Help to Achieve This?
Tempus finances three types of Actions:

1. Joint Projects
Joint Projects are specifically for individual higher education institutions and fund multilateral partnerships between EU and partner country institutions. Joint Projects can:
   • develop, modernise and disseminate new curricula, teaching methods and teaching materials;
   • enhance quality assurance mechanisms in these institutions;
   • modernise the governance and management of higher education institutions;
   • strengthen the role of higher education institutions in society and enhance their contribution to the development of lifelong learning;
   • reinforce the ‘knowledge triangle’ of ‘education-research-innovation’ in universities;
   • encourage links with the labour market and the creation of business start-ups.

2. Structural Measures
Structural Measures contribute to the development and reform of higher education systems in Tempus partner countries, to enhance their quality and relevance to the world of work and society at large, and promote further convergence with EU developments in the area of higher education. They can focus on issues linked to the reform of governance in higher education institutions (qualification systems, quality assurance mechanisms, autonomy of institutions,…), or foster links between higher education, the world of work and other sectors of education.

They can include studies and research, the organisation of national, regional and thematic conferences and seminars, the provision of training, policy advice and the dissemination of information.

3. Accompanying Measures
Tempus also finances ‘Accompanying Measures’. Unlike ‘Joint Projects’ and ‘Structural Measures’, these are funded through Calls for Tender or Framework Contracts. They comprise of dissemination and information activities (such as thematic conferences, studies and activities which aim to identify and highlight good practice or consultation of stakeholders, for example). ‘Accompanying Measures’ are also used to fund the National Tempus Offices and the activities of the group of ‘Higher Education Reform Experts’ in the Tempus partner countries.

How to Get Involved in Tempus
Tempus is open to higher education institutions and authorities, as well as all organisations and businesses which work directly in the area of higher education. Each Call for proposals provides all the necessary information on the application criteria for each of the Programme’s Actions (such as the institutions and activities that are eligible for funding). Applications should be made centrally to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, following the instructions and deadlines given in the Call. The co-ordinating/applicant institution submits the application on behalf of the consortium of participating organizations/institutions, which must be located in Tempus Programme countries.

Individuals cannot apply directly to the Programme for funding – only the institutions themselves. However, projects can incorporate small scale mobility activities of short duration for students, academic staff, researchers, university administrators and people from businesses.

Tempus Promotes Reform and Modernisation in Higher Education
Higher Education institutions must face the challenges which globalisation thrusts upon them. Reforms are necessary to achieve their full potential and help promote greater economic growth and employment, through the creation of a ‘knowledge-based society’. The European Commission supports reforms in higher education systems to make them more coherent, flexible and more responsive to these needs. The European Commission is encouraging reform in three areas:
   • curriculum reform
   • improving governance of higher education institutions
   • fostering greater links between higher education and society at large

Tempus and the Bologna Process
The Bologna Process aims to create the ‘European Higher Education Area’ to provide citizens with choices from a wide and transparent range of high quality courses, with smoother recognition procedures. Three priorities were defined to reach these ambitious goals: the establishment of comparable degree systems, a European dimension to quality assurance systems, and the recognition of degrees and study periods abroad.

The Bologna Process has set in motion a series of reforms necessary to make higher education systems more compatible and comparable, more competitive and more attractive to citizens and has become a reference point for many Tempus partner countries.

For more information on the Bologna Process: http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc1200_en.htm

Who Manages the Programme?
The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) is responsible for the management/implementation of all Tempus Actions and acts under powers delegated by the European Commission. The formal responsibility for supervising the activities of the Tempus Programme lies with two departments of the European Commission, Europaid Co-Operation Office and Directorate-General for Enlargement, since both allocate funds directly to the Executive Agency to manage the Programme. In line with their mandate, Directorate-General for External Relations contributes to the strategic orientations of the Programme and Directorate-General for Education and Culture brings in its sectoral expertise and facilitates linkages with the EU’s internal higher education reform policies.