TEMPUS & ERASMUS MUNDUS - OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

An Eastern Partnership Conference

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Workshop Report on Students and Staff mobility

Veni, Vidi, Vici
Format of the Workshop

The Workshop timing:

• 5 minutes introduction by the Chair
• 20 minutes PP presentation on mobility issues by the Facilitator
• 45 minutes discussion on mobility issues
• 5 minutes conclusions by the Rapporteur
Content of the Workshop

PowerPoint presentation on Students and Staff Mobility

- Institutional commitment
- Relevance for individuals and institutions
- Academic recognition
- Enhancement of institutional cooperation throughout staff mobility
- Crucial elements to be taken into account: logistics, information, selection, scholarships, insurance, services, accommodation, etc.
- EU students’ mobility tools [ERASMUS – ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)]: Course catalogue, Application Form, Learning Agreement, Transcript of Records, etc.
TOPICS DISCUSSED

• Impact and benefits of international mobility in higher education
• Key principles of international mobility in higher education
• How managing mobility can help build capacities
• Institutional commitment
• The role or problem of TRUST in mobility
• Staff mobility and enhancement of institutional cooperation
TOPICS DISCUSSED

• Academic recognition between EU and non-EU partners. Structures/organisations that can provide advice on recognition
• Mobility-Internationalisation-Quality
• Types of mobility
• About “non-mobile” students and staff
• Mobility and “brain-drain”
• Intercultural learning, etc.
Other important topics

• Services to students/staff in the mobility process
  - Logistic services before departure and on arrival
  - Academic services
• The role of international departments in the organisation of mobility, etc.
• Visa issues
Identification of problems

• National educational systems in EU and Eastern Partnership countries lack unified standards, which is a serious impediment to mobility
• Recognition of degrees and qualifications across borders is still a big problem; higher level actors commitment is required
• Subjects differ in universities involved in mobility actions
• Selection mechanisms should be transparent and avoid nepotism
Identification of problems

• Eastern Europe higher education institutions use ECTS, still there is difference in the calculation of credits for various cycles (Bachelor’s, Master’s)
• Approach to credit accumulation is different
• Staff (teaching /administrative) is not really open to mobility
• Knowledge of languages is often an impediment, especially for staff mobility
Solutions suggested

• Increased attention to recognition issues
• More focus on quality issues
• Universities need to trust each other
• Uncooperative teachers need to be convinced to recognize periods of study abroad
• Scholarships should be attractive for individuals
• Share experience about mobility abroad, etc.
Recommendations

• Promotion of European Union dimension in Eastern Partnership countries’ higher education
• Think about the attractiveness of higher education of Eastern Partnership countries
• Increase the role of institutions and academic communities in society
• EM Partnerships should think about an instrument that will motivate students return to their home universities
Recommendations

- Development of double/joint degree programmes is a way to avoid “brain-drain”
- Cooperation agreements to be signed among the partner universities for future activities
- Participation of staff in mobility actions should contribute to institutional development
- Use social networks to create “after mobility” positive feedbacks
- Attention to be paid to cultural background of individuals on mobility
Conclusions

Erasmus Mundus and Tempus are very important programmes for the

• development of higher education in Eastern Partnership countries
• modernisation of national higher education systems
• promotion of institutional cooperation between EU and Eastern Partnership countries
• enhancement of the quality of higher education in the EU and Eastern Partnership countries
• development of human resources and international cooperation capacity of Higher education institutions in Eastern Partnership countries
• promotion of the dialogue and understanding between people and cultures
Conclusions

**Erasmus Mundus scholarships** are very important contribution to mobility development, as

• Mobility promotes knowledge sharing and international cooperation
• Mobility diversifies students, researchers and academic staff skills and improve career opportunities
• Mobility of staff and researchers is benefic for capacity building of universities
• Mobility increases the process of cooperation between institutions, strengthen civil society in Eastern Partnership countries, etc.
Conclusions

• Mobility benefits both institutions and individuals
• Mobility prepares young people to live and work in an increasingly multicultural world
• Mobility enhances professional and business opportunities in global economy
• Young people need trustworthy information in order to plan their education
• Complex approach of Governments to education and youth policies is crucial for future generations
Student and staff mobility

Thank you very much for your attention!