

The ASEM Education Secretariat

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal intergovernmental discussion and cooperation forum since 1996. It brings together 16 Asian* states with the ASEAN Secretariat and the 27 EU member countries with the European Commission as well as Australia, New Zealand and Russia.

In Hanoi 2009, the ASEM Ministers for Education agreed "to establish a rotating ASEM Education Secretariat to ensure effective coordination and sustainable progress of the ASEM Education process".

From 2009 to 2013, the ASEM Education Secretariat is hosted by Germany, financially supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and established at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Bonn. The main tasks of this international unit are the following:

- To coordinate ASEM education activities
- To assist with preparations of ASEM ministerial meetings
- To provide information on education systems in both regions

Further information can be obtained at:
www.asem-education-secretariat.org

* Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

EU-Third Country Cooperation in Higher Education

The European Union has expanded its cooperation in higher education with countries outside the EU in the past years. Erasmus Mundus supports worldwide cooperation, whereas Tempus focuses on the neighbouring regions of the EU. Other programmes aim at cooperation with developing countries, e.g. in the African, Caribbean and Pacific region (ACP-EU programmes) and in Latin America (ALFA), and with industrialised countries in North America, Asia and Oceania. The EU-third country programmes were designed to foster collaboration on a global scale and to increase the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area worldwide. German institutions are participating very actively in these programmes; in Tempus and Erasmus Mundus they are involved in almost half of the ongoing projects.

DAAD acts as National Structure for Erasmus Mundus and a National Contact Point for Tempus and EU third-country higher education programmes. DAAD provides information and advice for German higher education institutions in the application and management of these projects. Partnerships with third-country higher education institutions, networking activities and joint initiatives are supported through the organisation of international conferences and seminars in Germany and in the partner countries.

Further information can be obtained at:
www.eu.daad.de



Editorial

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DAAD and the EU Programmes



**New horizons and perspectives:
mobility makes the difference**

DAAD and EU Programmes

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is a joint association of German institutions of higher education. Its main task is to support the international exchange of students and scholars. Providing scholarships for about 98,000 individuals per annum, DAAD is one of the world's largest non-governmental funding organisations.

On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBWF), DAAD has been acting as the National Agency for the ERASMUS programme in Germany since 1987. Since then, programmes, responsibilities as well as budgets in European and international higher education cooperation have multiplied.

This leaflet introduces the National Agency's five units and their roles.



The Bologna Process

With the Bologna Declaration, the European Ministers for Education decided to create a European Higher Education Area (EHEA) which was launched in 2010 with 47 countries. Major aims such as comparability of the European systems of higher education, increased attractiveness of the EHEA and common approaches to quality assurance have been reached. However, the implementation of some elements of the curriculum reforms like learning outcomes, qualifications frameworks and tools for recognition still need to be improved.

The DAAD (Bologna Process unit) organises international, national and regional events regarding Bologna topics (e.g. curriculum development, transnational mobility or ECTS implementation). At least one survey on student mobility is carried out each year. Publications include thematic textbooks (e.g. learning outcomes, international co-operation, recognition) and conference materials.

The Federal Ministry for Education and Research, the Ministries of the federal states, the Rectors' Conference and the students' associations are the most relevant partners. The Bologna Process unit works closely with all stakeholders of the Bologna Process (higher education institutions, employers, quality assurance agencies, etc.), both on a national and international level. A national team of Bologna experts has been established to support the implementation of these reforms and to offer information and counselling. These experts are involved in national and international events and organise seminars for their peer groups.

Further information can be obtained at:
<http://eu.daad.de/eu/bologna/>

The ERASMUS Programme

ERASMUS is the most prominent EU funding programme for student exchange in Europe. It comprises the 27 EU member states, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey and from 2011/12, Croatia and Switzerland.

As the National Agency for the ERASMUS programme in Germany, DAAD allocates about 50 million Euros to German institutions of higher education for student mobility under the umbrella of the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013).

Since the beginning of the LLP, more than 2 million students, among those 300,000 Germans, received financial support for their stays abroad. Funding is also available for (administrative) staff in higher education institutions and corporate enterprises as well as university teachers.

Apart from improving the students' personal skills, student mobility also contributes to the linguistic, professional and cultural understanding between European countries and their higher education sectors.

DAAD provides information and consulting for universities in executing the programme and increases public awareness through events and publications.

Intensive Programmes

Since the launch of the Lifelong Learning Programme, Intensive Programmes (IP) are administrated by the National Agencies. Intensive courses are short, structured study programmes which provide opportunities for students and teachers to work on innovative topics in multinational groups. Added value for Europe as well as multidisciplinary and the application of innovative methods of learning and teaching are of special importance in this context.

Local ERASMUS Initiatives

DAAD facilitates local ERASMUS student initiatives (LEIs) through funding by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. LEIs particularly engage in the assistance and su-

pervision of ERASMUS students, often by means of sharing (personal) experience in ERASMUS student mobility. Currently, the National Agency supports 75 LEIs.

Centralised Actions

In addition to the decentralised ERASMUS mobility measures, there are a number of actions conducted by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission in Brussels:

- Multilateral Projects
- Academic Networks
- Accompanying Measures

Another programme implemented by the Executive Agency is the Jean Monnet Programme which supports Jean Monnet courses and chairs in the field of European Integration Studies.

Europa macht Schule (ERASMUS meets Schools)

The programme 'Europa macht Schule' brings the idea of inter-European exchange to life, increases the knowledge of European cultures and provides hands-on experience to the topic "Europe".

The programme "ERASMUS meets Schools" invites ERASMUS students to come to local schools as representatives of their home countries ("mini ambassadors"). There, they present their home country by creating a project which reveals specific aspects of their culture. The project is realised in co-operation with pupils and a supervising teacher.

The association "Europa macht Schule e.V." founded the programme in 2006 and has successfully brought it to many different cities. Since 2009, the programme is financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and coordinated by DAAD.

Further information can be obtained at:
www.eu.daad.de