

## The Internationalisation of Higher Education: an on-line training course for Erasmus Mundus Administrators (INTER-HED)

**Duration:** 2 years and 11 months

### Summary description:

Nowadays, the themes revolving around the internationalisation of higher education systems are at the heart of the political debate in many countries and the Erasmus Mundus programme occupies a relevant place in such debate. A constantly growing number of institutions take part in the Erasmus Mundus Programme (Action 1, 2 and 3); in this context, beside the solution of emerging problems, it is necessary to enact a shared management of joint courses and of international mobility in a super-national view, i.e. which takes into account current national regulations and the different features of each national Higher Education System, partners work together with. The crucial point is that it is not sufficient to provide information on this field, since there is a strong necessity of training: the need of competence is not fulfilled by information only, because it does not allow transferring of competences. This demand for training on Higher Education and the recognition of qualifications has been confirmed also by the results emerged from the questionnaires sent to the EM NSs, in the framework of the 1st part of the BRIDGE project - Best Recognition Instruments for the Dialogue between Global Experts, funded in the framework of Action 3 for NSs of the Erasmus Mundus Programme (2010). In the management of such programmes, the existing tools and good practices, which have already been identified at international level, must be necessarily used. The goal of the present project is to create a training course focusing on the internationalisation of the Higher Education Systems. The course will be targeted at administrative staff working in Higher Education Institutions, who are in charge of the management the Erasmus Mundus courses/projects and to the staff of the Erasmus Mundus National Structures.

From our experience as Erasmus Mundus National Structures, as far as the implementation of joint programmes is concerned, the following aspects have emerged as the most in need of receiving further support:

- **Structure of the different Higher Education Systems:** general features of each system, current terminology, the main differences between institutions, awarded qualifications, etc.;
- **Joint management of programmes:** course accreditation and recognition, award of joint qualifications, joint management of students, establishment of strong partnerships, promotion of joint courses, etc.;
- **Recognition of qualifications:** the various recognition procedures adopted, national regulations, recognition and quality assurance, recognition and employability, etc.;

Since the course is targeted at the administrative departments and is aimed at providing professional guidance, it will be administered on-line and will analyse real cases, with reference to the different models of Higher Education and to the different management methods of joint courses. Each course unit will foresee practical exercises. The course is going to be divided into three modules, each one made up of 6 teaching units:

- MODULE 1 - HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS;
- MODULE 2 - JOINT PROGRAMMES AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS;
- MODULE 3 - JOINT PROGRAMMES AND RECOGNITION PROCEDURES.

In addition to the three modules, the course will terminate with a final face-to-face session, conceived to apply the acquired knowledge and skills, to the creation of an international consortium/network of high quality in the field of HED (i.e Erasmus Mundus).

Among the goals of the INTER-HED project, there is the creation of a second edition of the course, which is not aimed exclusively at reaching a coherent structure of the contents, but also at assessing the efficacy and the effectiveness of the course itself, in order to improve its contents and structure, accordingly. A further objective of the course is to encourage networking among participants and to create an actual net of relationships between the representatives of the

administrative staff, who are going to take part in the course.

Finally, the course contents are going to be published on-line as open educational resources (OER), to be consulted, evaluated and to be used as self-learning tools by the administrative staff working at any Higher Education Institution.

The **main activities** put in place in order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives are:

- With regard to the course contents: a selection of the materials already produced and currently available;
- Organisation of the course contents and creation of teaching units for each module;
- Organisation of the on-line course and promotion in order to target and select participants;
- Management of the two on-line editions of the course;
- Evaluation of the course contents, to the purpose of achieving a higher effectiveness in the second edition;
- Dissemination of course contents as open educational resources.

The **desired results** of the INTER-HED project is to create a training course targeted at the administrative staff who are interested in managing international programmes and projects and in collecting information about the Higher Education Systems and internationalisation policies, with focus on Erasmus Mundus. The contents of the course will be published on-line and will be made available for everyone, applying Creative Commons Licenses for copyrighted material. The two on-line editions of the course will last 9 months each and will end with a face-to-face day: during the final day participants will be given the certificate of attendance to the training course.

**Website:** <http://www.erasmusmundus.it>

### **Partners:**

Erasmus Mundus National Contact Point (Associazione CIMEA), Italy (Co-ordinator)  
Ministry of the French Community of Belgium, Directorate General for non-compulsory education and scientific research, Belgium  
Higher Education Authority, Ireland  
Education Exchanges Support Foundation, Lithuania  
Malta Qualifications Council, Malta  
Directorate General for Higher Education, Portugal

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