



Transatlantic Cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational Training

The EU-US Atlantis programme

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The programme at glance

- ✓ Agreements since 1995 with the US and Canada
- ✓ Concrete support to transatlantic partnerships of HE and VET institutions
- ✓ Promotion of multilateral joint study programmes
- ✓ Joint management and matching funding with US/Canada authorities
- ✓ Structured exchanges of students across the Atlantic
- ✓ Recognition of study abroad periods
- ✓ 1995-2005 Agreements:
 - ✓ EU/US: 13m€, 114 consortia, 700 institutions, over 4000 students exchanged
 - ✓ EU/CND: 7,8m€, 65 consortia, 350 institutions, over 2000 students exchanged



The new EU/US and EU/CAN cooperation agreements 2006-2013 – objectives (1)

- **To improve quality of human resources development**
 - ✓ Cooperation between equals
 - ✓ Innovation/Modernisation of curricula and teaching methods
 - ✓ More comparability, transparency and recognition
- **To make HE/VET institutions in Europe and in the US/Canada more attractive and competitive**



The new EU/US and EU/CAN cooperation agreements 2006-2013 – objectives (2)

- To equip exchange students with international and cross-cultural skills required by the increasingly global market place
- To promote mutual understanding between EU, US and CAN people
 - For Students, Faculty & Staff
 - Languages, Cultures, Institutions



The EU-US Atlantis programme

Three main actions:

- Transatlantic Degrees action
 - Excellence mobility projects
 - Policy oriented measures
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- EU Funding 2006-2013: +-45M€
 - Managed by the European Commission (Executive Agency for Education and Culture) and by FIPSE
 - **2007 call for proposals open! Deadline 31 May 2007**

Transatlantic Degrees

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- Support for consortia made of at least 2 EU institutions from two different Member States and 1 US institution
- Joint or dual/double degrees awarded at least by 1 EU and 1 US institutions
 - Dual/double degree: two separate officially recognised degrees issued by the two partner institutions.
 - Joint degree: a single degree certificate issued in the name of the two partner institutions.
- In both cases key is the common/integrated programme of study upon the successful completion of which the degree (double or joint) is awarded
- Undergraduate or Graduate level



Transatlantic Degrees – key components

- Joint study programme
- Student mobility
- Faculty mobility
- Language and cultural training



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Joint Study Programme

- Common programme of study jointly developed and/or approved by the partner institutions
- Overall duration as close as possible to that of the home inst. degree (typically max 4 years for a BAs and 2 years for a MAs)
- Full recognition by the home institution of courses and exams undertaken at partner institutions
- Shared admission standards
- Leading to award of a recognised joint or double degree



Student Mobility

- At least one full academic year on the other side of the Atlantic
- Plus a period of study in a second EU institution in a different country worth 20 ECTS (10 ECTS for the master level)
- Tuition and fees recommended to be due only to the home institution
- Agreement on award of academic credits earned abroad



Faculty Mobility

- Teaching or research assignments in the partner institutions on the other side of the Atlantic
- Project management and coordination activities
- Support for 1 to 8-week mobility



Language and Cultural training

- Use of two EU languages
- Courses not necessarily in the national language
- If courses are in English in a non-English speaking country then separate training on local language
- Cultural preparation and pre-departure briefings



Funding for Transatlantic Degrees

(2007 call for proposals)

- **Projects are selected and receive funding for four years**
- **Maximum overall funding of 408,000€ for the EU partner institutions of 4-year project**
- **Similar funding for the US institution(s) from FIPSE**



Funding for Transatlantic Degrees (2)

- ✓ EU Students' Mobility Grants
 - 12,000 € per EU student spending at least one full academic year in the US.
 - 288,000 € for a 4-year project.
 - 24 EU mobile students
- Faculty Mobility Grants
 - 1,000 € per week spent in the US plus a fixed amount of 1,000 € for travel, Min 1 week, max 8 weeks
 - 60,000 € for a 4-year projects
- ✓ Flat rate funding to the EU partner institutions
 - 60,000 € for a 4-year projects
 - Calculated as 7,500 € per institution per year
- **Equivalent funding/mobility figures from the US side**



Excellence Mobility Projects

- Erasmus-like student exchanges, typically one semester on the other side of the Atlantic
- Partnerships (min 2 EU and 2 US institutions) with a solid track-record in transatlantic cooperation and exchanges
- Full recognition of study abroad but no joint/double degrees
- Consortia operational from day 1, no preparatory year.
- Funding: for a 4-year project max 180.000€, flat rates for student mobility, faculty mobility and administrative support



Policy Oriented Measures

- Two-year duration, max 50.000€ funding
- Consortia of at least 2 EU and 2 US institutions
- Comparative studies, seminars, benchmarking
- Addressing horizontal issues, e.g. quality assurance, accreditation, recognition of degrees and periods of study, reform processes.
- Added value for Transatlantic cooperation in education and training and benefits beyond the partner institutions



EU-Canada call for proposals 2007 (deadline 31/5/2007)

- Erasmus-like consortia projects
- Short term student exchanges, typically one semester on the other side of the Atlantic
- Partnerships composed of min 2 EU and 2 Canadian institutions
- Full recognition of study abroad but no joint/double degrees
- Once selected, six-month preparatory period then student mobility
- Funding: for a 4-year project max 138.000€ of which 120.000€ for student mobility. Max 200.000 Can dollars from Canadian authorities

Conclusions

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- Transatlantic Joint/double degrees are ambitious but allow to build solid, long term links between European and American institutions.
- By collaborating on joint/double degrees European and American institutions gain competitive advantages and become more attractive to students from other parts of the world.
- The Bologna process rationalising degree structures in 46 European countries will facilitate recognition, mobility and development of joint/double degrees.
- EU is committed to long term cooperation with the US and with Canada in HE and VET, potential is huge, budget availability from the two sides is a challenge.

THANK YOU!

More info at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/eu-usa/index_en.html