

## EM-iDEA Newsletter - Edition 5 - October 2013

*With this newsletter, the EM-iDEA project team intends to inform anybody with an interest in the Erasmus Mundus programme on the project's recent and current activities.*

The last 6 months have been a particularly important period for the project, with the finalization of the project's internal activities, the last of the 6<sup>th</sup> European regional conferences in Bordeaux in July, and the first major steps in the **creation of the association**. The Conference was attended by some 120 participants.

Following on from the Conference at the University of Valencia in March, a draft of statutes and rules for the association along with an updated version of the executive summary were written. These were then posted on the EM-iDEA website and circulated prior to the Conference in Bordeaux.



Furthermore, a call was made in mid June for interested parties **to apply to join the association, or to submit a letter of intention** to join in the case of **institutions**. Individuals who submitted applications for full membership by the given deadline had the right **to vote on the modified statutes and rules** and on the **candidates put forward for membership of the Executive Committee** of the Association, including the role of **President**. The Bordeaux Conference took place on Friday

12<sup>th</sup> July, and the aforementioned voting took place during the Constituent General Assembly. The modified statutes and rules were **approved unanimously** by just fewer than 30 people, and the Executive Committee was elected by a similar margin, with **Boas Erez** voted in as the **inaugural President** of the association. For further information on this session, the **minutes are available** on the project website, [www.em-concilium.eu](http://www.em-concilium.eu).

With regard to the Conference itself, the focus was on the **future of Erasmus Mundus within the Erasmus+ programme**, and presentations were given by representatives of the French and German national contact points in the context of the first plenary session. **Mr Antoine Godbert**, Director of the French "Agence Europe Education Formation France", and **Dr Siegbert Wuttig**, Director of the



National Agency for EU Higher Education Cooperation within the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), gave their respective agencies points of view on the Erasmus+ programme. Both speakers expressed their agencies' **hopes and expectations for the new programme**, in particular through the introduction of the



new 'Strategic Partnerships' tool, which will support Institutions' Internationalization strategies. However they also both brought up **doubts and fears**, especially concerning the budget and the

implications of the many changes and new procedures on the administrative workload needed to run them.

Following a short break, the **Constituent General Assembly** of the association filled the second plenary session, with the **afternoon** dedicated to four **parallel sessions**, where participants had the opportunity to become more involved. One session was hosted by the French national contact point and proved very popular, with participants seizing the opportunity of a less formal 'workshop' style setting to obtain more in depth information on the transition to Erasmus+, while the three remaining sessions centred on generating ideas to be used in the different **task forces for the new association**.

The closing plenary brought the Conference to an end. It consisted of summaries of the previous parallel sessions, followed by a speech given by **Ms Marie Christine Vergiat, Member of the European Parliament** and also a **member of the Education and Culture Committee**. Ms Vergiat spoke about some of general problems facing Higher Education in Europe, giving some background and context to the transition to the new Education programme, before focusing more on the negotiations between the European Commission, Parliament and Council and sharing her thoughts on the results of these. She concluded by voicing her **support for the association**, given its aims of providing support for those working on joint international programmes, making use of the knowledge and expertise gained through the Erasmus Mundus experience, and more generally of promoting European Higher Education. She also opened the door to more **long-term support of the association**.



We would like to express our gratitude to both the invited Conference speakers and to all of the participants. As always, details on the Conference programme and links to all Conference presentations and the report on the afternoon parallel sessions can be found on the project website.

As mentioned in the last letter, a **delegation from the project** was present at the **EAIE Conference in Istanbul**, where a summary of the project's activities and outcomes to date was given, along with a presentation of the newly created association. This also led to proposals for future collaboration with the EAIE, which promise to be fruitful. More recently, **the association was introduced to a wide African audience** at the annual Conference of the **African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE)**, which was held from **2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> October in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**. ANIE Executive Director James Jowi took some time to speak about the association. Also as mentioned, a further intervention is planned in collaboration with the AUGM (The Montevideo Group Association of Universities) in **South America in early 2014**.

The coming months will continue to prove crucial, as the association begins to define various issues following on from its initial creation in July. In the short term, the **modified statutes and rules will be published very soon** and made available on the **EM-iDEA website**, with the **creation of task forces to follow**, whose mission will be to **further define the activities** of the association. Further ahead, an ordinary meeting of the **General Assembly** should take place in the second quarter of **2014**. As ever, we shall endeavour to keep all interested parties informed of these and other developments.

The EM-iDEA Project Team

International Association for the Promotion and Development of Joint  
International Programmes in Higher Education (ProDeJIP)

**Annex - List of Full Members**

NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY (OF THE ORGANISATION)
ANTIC, Prof. Dr. Dragan	University of Nis	Serbia
CAVACO, Ms. Isabel	University of the Algarve	Portugal
CHURRUCA MUGURUZA, Ms. Cristina	University of Deusto	Spain
DARYGTE BUROKIENE, Ms Audra	Mykolas Romeris University (Vilnius)	Lithuania
DECRAEMER, Prof. Dr. Wilfrida	Ghent University	Belgium
DWEIK, Prof. Hasan Salan	Al-Quds University (Jerusalem)	Palestinian Authority
EELDERINK, Ms Lyande	University of Twente	The Netherlands
EL SAADANY, Dr. Khaled	Alexandria University	Egypt
EREZ, Prof. Boas	Bordeaux 1 University	France
FRANCOIS, Ms. Alice	Montpellier SupAgro	France
GARRIDO, Ms. Almudena	University of Deusto	Spain
GOURBESVILLE, Dr. Philippe	University of Nice Sophia Antipolis	France
HENCKEL, Mr. Ole	Aarhus University	Denmark
JEAN JOSEPH, Ms. Gladys	AgroParisTech	France
MARTINEZ-TUR, Prof. Vicente	University of Valencia	Spain

MONGONDRY, Mr. Philippe	Groupe ESA (Ecole Supérieure d'Agriculture)	France
NIKOLIC, Prof. Dr. Zoran	University of Nis	Serbia
OSTROWSKI, Mr. Krzysztof	Pultusk Academy of Humanities	Poland
PALOMARES CANO, Mr. Xavier	University of Girona	Spain
PARSKE, Mr. Matthias	Humboldt University Berlin	Germany
PAULSDOTTIR, Ms Gudrun	Mälardalen University	Sweden
PEIRO, Prof. José María	University of Valencia	Spain
PILESJO, Dr. Petter	Lund University	Sweden
RAMOS, Mr. José	University of Valencia	Spain
REGA, Ms. Barbara	AgroParisTech	France
ROUSHDY, Ms Dina	TTIDA (Technology Transfer, Innovation & Development Association)	Egypt
SANCHEZ ESPINOSA, Ms. Adelina	University of Granada	Spain
SCHIAVON, Mr. Nick	University of Evora	Portugal
SCHREUDERS, Prof. Dr Wicher	Erasmus University Rotterdam	The Netherlands
SECONDAT, Mr. Gabriel	University de Franche-Comté	France
SKIDMORE, Dr. Andrew	ITC Faculty, University of Twente	The Netherlands
VAN OOST, Prof. Dr. Guido	Ghent University	Belgium
WARTENBURGER, Prof. Dr Isabell	University of Potsdam	Germany
WILDER-SMITH, Prof. Annelies	University of Heidelberg	Germany

WINKLER, Ms. Erika	University of Theatre and Film Arts	Hungary
ZIA ULHAQ, Dr. Muhammad	International Islamic University	Pakistan
ZOLVER, Dr. Marc	Ecole Central Paris	France