

**6th EM-iDEA Conference,
Bordeaux, France, 12th July 2013**

**Summary of Parallel Session 1: “Practical aspects of the transition from
Erasmus Mundus to Erasmus +”**

Abstract: This session was led by Ms. Julie Bagalciague and Ms. Camille Cholet of the French National Erasmus Mundus Contact Point, the “Agence Europe Education Formation France”. The intention was for the sessions to be in complement to the first of the plenary sessions delivered in the morning, which gave the French and German national perspectives on the new Erasmus+ programme.

General summary: The sessions both involved a short presentation on the current Erasmus Mundus programme, followed by the same for the new Erasmus+ programme, with the obvious purpose of highlighting the differences in the programmes. (Please see below for the link to these presentations) The scope was quite global in terms of the actions covered, although obviously there was considerable focus on EM Action 1 and 2 programmes. There followed what was basically a question and answer session.

Generally the questions asked fell into three broad categories: Questions concerning financial arrangements for mobility involving specific geographical areas in the new programme; questions on the new JMDs (Joint Master Degrees), the JMD catalogue and course sustainability; and questions on the calendar for putting the new programme and financial framework into place, in particular for existing ongoing programmes.

With regard to funding for mobility involving specific geographical areas, there are 5 different funding instruments in total.

- It was pointed out that Russia would be covered under the Partnership Instrument (PI), which is aimed at industrialized and high income countries.
- South Africa will be covered under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), with the EU-South Africa ‘Strategic Partnership’ behind this.
- For the Western Balkans, the funding instrument will be the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). Clarification was also sought regarding the position of Serbia vis-à-vis mobility in general: it is not considered a “participating country”, but rather as a “European neighbourhood country”. The non-EU “participating countries” are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and Macedonia. Macedonia is indeed the only participating country in the Western Balkan region.

Answers to questions concerning JMDs (Joint Master Degrees) and the Erasmus+ JMD catalogue in the new programme.

- The intention is to select around 350 new JMDs in total, however less than 5% will be selected in the first year of the new programme.
- One cannot apply for both a new JMD and to the catalogue. This is logical, given that the catalogue is intended for existing courses which have undergone a review and is intended as

a guarantee of quality. As the presentation stated, JMDs may apply for inclusion in the catalogue on the third year of the grant agreement, with inclusion subject to a Quality Review.

- EMJDs with two or three intakes left will be funded in the same way as they are currently funded, up until they end.
- The notion of “jointness” in the JMD catalogue criteria refers not to any obligation to deliver joint degrees, but rather to the closeness of the JMD consortia
- The idea of sustainability in the Quality review goes beyond just quantitative financial aspects. It concerns in particular the employability of graduates after the courses, as well as the potential presence of non-academic partners in the consortia, and the resultant relevance of the courses in society.

Finally, there were questions with respect to the timetable for the new programme.

- Ongoing EMMC courses applying for the JMD catalogue can have a Quality Review during their fourth intake
- Concerning the funding timetable - there are going to be some delays regarding international “credit mobility” (does not apply to JMDs), and it is not yet clear for how long. However they will not be at the same time as intra-national mobility schemes.
- The JMD catalogue will be put in place in tandem with the start of the new programme in 2014.

Observations: The number of people in attendance for both sessions was generally high, although very unbalanced: for the first session, there were more than 50 participants, followed by around 15 - 20 for the second. This high number, particularly for the first session, made it difficult to proceed with the session as planned. However the sessions did prove a worthwhile occasion for the participants, who clearly had a lot of questions over the new programmes, and proved useful for some administrative coordinators who were new to even the Erasmus Mundus programme. The presence and participation of the Dutch and Belgian national contact point staff in the second session also proved particularly useful.

The presentations given on the existing Erasmus Mundus programme and on the new Erasmus+ programme can both be found at the following link:

http://prezi.com/3dblabbifyla/atelier-em-idea/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy