

EM-iDEA Newsletter - Edition 3 - November 2012

The EM-iDEA project is run by Erasmus Mundus coordinators, for Erasmus Mundus coordinators. 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.

This newsletter follows the latest EM-iDEA project conference, held over a day and half on the 2nd and 3rd October 2012 at the University of Novi Sad in Serbia. The programme included a significant amount of content relevant to Erasmus Mundus and Tempus in Serbia and in the region at large. This aspect of the programme took the form of a Satellite Conference on the first half day, with the following day being devoted to presenting the internal progress made to date by the project.

The Rector of the University of **Novi Sad**, Professor Miroslav Veskovic, gave a general welcome to the



Conference as a whole and spoke of Novi Sad's considerable involvement in European/International cooperation and joint programmes. This set the scene for four presentations, with the first two giving an overview of Tempus, Erasmus Mundus and Joint Degrees in Serbia, and the others focusing on the Erasmus Mundus A1 project 'Astromundus' and the A2 project 'Basileus' respectively.

The four speakers then formed a panel, along with EM-iDEA coordinator Professor Boas Erez, to hold a question and answer session with the audience. This proved to be a lively, fruitful exercise, with advice given on different aspects of setting up joint programmes, analysis of the obstacles faced by Serbian Universities in setting up such programmes, and debate on the impact and importance of EM type programmes in Serbia and the problems faced by Serbian Universities to further Internationalise. In fact there was even a small group of students in attendance on this occasion, who it seemed had decided to take a pro-active approach to seeking further information on Erasmus Mundus programmes. A more detailed report on this debate and the presentations given by each of the speakers can be found on the EM-iDEA project site at www.em-concilium.eu/conferences.html.



The Main Conference the following day had a more internal slant, with two plenary sessions being devoted to presenting the results and outcomes to date of the project's 'Needs Analysis' and 'Survey of Available Tools and Services' activities. Before these, Professor Erez spoke under the title "Erasmus Mundus - A model to keep?" This topic followed on from the position paper on the EM brand name,

which was published by the project earlier in the year, and laid the way for discussion on what continues to be a hot topic in European Higher Education. A lot of focus was on the origins and subsequent development of Erasmus Mundus, and many felt that it doesn't make sense to change the name now that it has gained real global recognition and has come to be synonymous with programmes of quality and excellence.

The next two sessions were testament to the hard work put in and the cooperation between the project partners, which had been going on behind the scenes up until then. Professors José María Peiró and Vicente Martínez Tur of the University of Valencia described the various stages to date of the project's 'Needs Analysis' activity in their presentation. The initial input was provided by a workshop session at the EM-iDEA Conference at Ghent University in November last year. Since then there have been different surveys, described in the last Edition of the Newsletter, and a statistical analysis of the outcomes of these surveys was summarised during the presentation. The next session saw Francesco Girotti of the University of Bologna present the project's 'Survey of Available Services and Tools' activity, whose aim is to create an online library of services and tools which are available to joint programme and partnership coordinators. This library will be available to future members of the EM Concilium on the association website. More detailed summaries of both of these sessions, as well as the presentations used by the speakers, are available on the project website. In general, there was a noticeable coherence between these sessions, which showed the progress being made by the EM-iDEA project and how its activities will contribute towards the creation of the Concilium.

Since the last edition of this Newsletter in May, another regional Conference took place at the University of **Vilnius**, Lithuania, on 13th July 2012. There was a real variety and wide ranging interest in the programme. Plenary sessions were given by Professor Michael Blakemore, who spoke with expertise on Building Quality, Recognition and Global Impact in Erasmus Mundus, and Professor Kiyong Byun, who gave an Asian point of view on Erasmus Mundus and a first-hand account of the latest developments with Campus Asia. Between these, time was also allotted for a presentation of a new EMA initiative for collecting feedback from EM students. This was given by Miss Aimee Haley of the EMA. Three parallel workshops followed, the first of which looked at how the EM Community could best communicate with students, and was given by two representatives from the EMA. The second was entitled



'Recognition instruments for the dialogues between EM coordinators' and was led by Giovanni Finochietti of the EM Action 3 project 'BRIDGE'. The third was led by the Lithuanian EM national agency on the subject of Erasmus Mundus in the Baltic States, ensuring that there was a regional element to the Conference. The day ended with a final plenary session, which analysed potential shared values and principles for the Concilium. This gave rise to some further ideas for the future role of the association and provided an opportunity to reflect on the influence that the form taken by the new Erasmus for All programme will have. Presentations used by the plenary session and workshop speakers, and a report on the latter plenary session, are available on the EM-iDEA website, on the 'Conferences' page. As always, we take the opportunity to thank all Conference participants from both Novi Sad and Vilnius for their active participation and for their feedback.

Moving away from the Conferences, it is recalled that in the last newsletter there was a description of the aforementioned **position paper**, published by the project, on the Erasmus Mundus brand name. To give an update, in the end over 500 signatories gave their support to the text, which was sent to relevant deputies in the European Parliament and to members of the European Commission DG Education, Training, Culture and Youth.

In September, the project was presented to the Coordinators of newly selected Erasmus Mundus projects at the EACEA's annual Coordinator's Conference in Brussels. An application has also been sent to the EAIE to hold a session presenting the project's outcomes and the Concilium at next year's EAIE Conference in Istanbul, due to take place from 10th - 13th September 2013.

Last but not least, as announced recently via our mailing list, the dates for the next two European regional conferences have been confirmed: The 5th conference will take place on **8th March 2013** in **Valencia**, Spain and the 6th will be on the **12th July 2013** in **Bordeaux**, France. The programmes for these will be confirmed and published on the EM-iDEA website as soon as possible. Following the project's internal progress to date and the schedule for the coming months, these events will mark two vital stages in the creation of the Concilium, namely the presentation of a business plan for the Concilium (Valencia) and the presentation of the Concilium itself (Bordeaux).

Look out for the next edition of the Newsletter, coming very soon, and following on from the upcoming 'Needs Analysis' and 'Survey of Services and Tools' Activity reports.

The EM-iDEA Project Team