

Articles

ECIU General Meeting

Innovative Universities Revisited

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Aalborg University hosted the annual ECIU General Meeting on 25-26 May, which was the largest gathering ever of the Consortium. More than 70 participants from the eleven European member universities and two overseas associate partners participated.

The topic for the meeting was “Innovation Management” and the objective was to discuss the ways in which innovative universities are managed, and how this impacts on e.g. the strategic plans and business strategies of such universities.

The participants from the ECIU Leadership Development Programme presented their assignments at the outset of the meeting: The Role of Universities in a Regional Context, Review of Internal Decision-Making Processes and the Entrepreneurial University: Myth or Reality. The presentations were excellent and gave food for thought for all participants (there will be separate articles about each assignment in the next edition of the ECIU Newsletter).

The afternoon session contained a dynamic presentation by Ms Patricia Montañó, Director of Planning and Systems at the Vice-Presidency for International Affairs of Tecnológico de Monterrey, about the rationale behind the opening of various field offices world-wide. This had been to search for regions with high concentration of prestigious higher education institutions and research activity, to look for strategic partners with features that complement the Tecnológico’s, and to foster student and academic and staff mobility.

The meeting participants found it very helpful to hear about the very systematic and targeted process, through which the Tecnológico had set up field offices through-out the globe, and in particular its strategy for engaging with Eastern European institutions soon after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Everyone was left with the impression of an institution that is truly global both in its strategic considerations and in the actual implementation.

(Continued on page 3)

Please feel free to mail articles or other input for the next ECIU newsletter to:

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The next edition will be published in late September 2005. The deadline for submitting articles will be 10 September 2005.



Participants at the ECIU General Meeting

EQUAamat - Probably the World's greatest competition

By Constança Mendonça, and Professor António Batel, University of Aveiro

Mathematics Education Project

The Mathematics Education Project (PmatE) is a project directed to the dissemination of mathematics, organised by the University of Aveiro, Portugal. PmatE has kept the same goals since it was created in 1989, which are:

- to develop interest in mathematics generally the academic study of mathematics;
- to consolidate and increase knowledge in this domain;
- to analyse and evaluate (partially);
- to encourage health study habits (individually and in groups).



Thousands of school pupils attending the Math Festival at the University of Aveiro.

How the Mathematics Education Project was created

PmatE is a project that follows various directions at different levels of development. Its primary goal is to disseminate mathematics as an academic discipline. And as new ideas constantly appear, new projects are being brought to reality. PmatE is a service project with realistic ambitions for research and continuous innovation. The project seeks to develop an accessible work tool for students and teachers which may contribute to changing study habits and foster critical analysis of dominant paradigms in the teaching – learning system. PmatE has grown and expanded to all learning levels and is now present in all learning cycles.

EQUAamat

EQUAamat was created at the same time as PmatE and both were interrelated during the earlier years. EQUAamat is a Portuguese national competition targeted at students of 7th, 8th and 9th grades that involves answering, in the shortest time possible, questions at 20 degrees of difficulty. Each level involves four questions about mathematics related subjects taught in the 3rd cycle. The University of Aveiro was host of the 2005 EQUAamat.

The competition develops a taste for, and interest in mathematics, improves group work between teachers and students, helps to enhance study habits and increases specific knowledge. EQUAamat also strongly encourages team work among classes and schools.

In the competition's 15th Edition, EQUAamat 2005, four thousand students from some two hundred schools nationwide and the Portuguese School of Mozambique – Portuguese Language Centre participated. Approximately 140,721 practice tests were carried out between January and May 4th, the day of the Final. The 2005 winning team was Pedro Viera and Miguel Valido, from Escola Básica dos 2^{os} e 3^{os} Ciclos Soares dos Reis, Oporto. Both are 7th grade students and completed the questions in four minutes and fifteen seconds.

I challenge you to visit the website <http://pmate.ua.pt>. Can you finish in less time than they did? I can't!



Portuguese pupils at the EQUAamat 2005.



The winning team.



Rector Finn Kjaersdam

New Rector at Aalborg University

On 1 May 2005 Professor Finn Kjaersdam became the new Rector of Aalborg University, Denmark. Professor Kjaersdam is a familiar face to many, since he has participated in ECIU activities all the way back to ECIU's first days in 1996-97. Professor Kjaersdam has been the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Science for 16 years, prior to his appointment as Rector, and has been a staff member of the university since 1975. Professor Kjaersdam is the first rector at Aalborg University to be appointed under the new system, where university rectors are appointed following a formal application procedure, rather than collegial elections. One of the first tasks of the new Rektor will be to appoint Deans - another change from the old system, where Deans too were elected and not appointed.

In its appointment the Board of the University in its appointment stressed the fact that Professor Kjaersdam had shown strong visions for the university's future as a European top university; visions which will probably also be of interest to most of the other ECIU members.

General Meeting continued

Professor Mike Shattock, Visiting Professor, Institute of Education, University of London, then highlighted the challenges that are facing European universities in the context of The Lisbon Declaration, Bologna, and recent communications from the Commission about "The role of universities in the Europe of knowledge" and "Mobilising the brainpower in Europe".

Prof Shattock in particular focussed on the increased importance, which universities were seen to have in terms of regional development, which were recognised in the two Communications. However, several bottlenecks were identified as well, such as the insularity of many universities that were not working well enough with external stakeholders, overregulation which made swift reactions difficult, and under-funding. Some additional €150 Billion would be needed to match the US investment in their universities. For the entrepreneurial universities, the main challenge would—in line with Burton Clark's statements - be to diversify the funding base, since financially independent universities find it much easier to develop their own agenda. In order for the academic entrepreneur to flourish, and for the entrepreneurial universities to blossom, Prof Shattock further recommended a very short line of communication, and the ability to - when needed- quickly make important decisions.

The General Meeting was concluded with a dinner in the city centre of Aalborg, where all the participants of the ECIU Leadership Development Programme received certificates as documentation for their participation in the programme.

Prof Eberhard Becker as new ECIU Speaker

The ECIU Executive Board met on Friday 27 May and gave a particular welcome to the participants from Swinburne and Torino, who attended for the first time. A highlight of the day was the election of Prof Eberhard Becker, Rector of the University of Dortmund, as new Speaker for the ECIU, who subsequently on behalf of the Executive Board thanked Prof Andrew Hamnett for his very good work and leadership of the ECIU since taking up the role as ECIU Speaker in 2001.

The Executive Board members were furthermore pleased to note the progress within the core areas of the ECIU, and will meet again on 18 November at Warwick.

ECIU Leadership Development

- overview of assignments and participants

Entrepreneurial University: Myth or Reality?

By A N Gjerding, Aalborg, K J Scheunert, TUHH, S Cameron, Strathclyde, A Taylor, Strathclyde, and C P M Wilderom, Twente.

Role of Universities in a Regional Context

By K B Nielsen, Aalborg, A Jungen, Dortmund, W Ion, Strathclyde, J Martin, Strathclyde, and H van Egmond, Twente.

Review of Internal Decision Making

By B C Hornemann, Aalborg, K M Nielsen, Aalborg, C Bimberg, Dortmund, A Stich, Dortmund, I Hunter, Strathclyde, and J Evers, Twente.

Summaries or small articles about the assignments will be presented in the September edition of the ECIU Newsletter.

ECIU Joint Master Programmes

This article is produced by W B Najib who is currently a student within the Erasmus Mundus funded joint ECIU master programme in Materials Science at the University of Aveiro. All students within the first round of Erasmus Mundus programmes recently attended a seminar in Brussels to discuss forming an Erasmus Mundus alumni association and to discuss the experience of being part of an Erasmus Mundus programme.

*By Waqas Bin Najib (Pakistan)
University of Aveiro*

In 2004, the first 19 *Erasmus Mundus* Masters Courses and the first third-country scholarship grantees (140 students and 42 scholars) were selected and started for the academic year 2004/2005. On May the 13th was the first occasion for the students and scholars feedback review and an opportunity for them to discuss various issues regarding the courses, scholarship grants and to establish the foundations of the Alumni association of *Erasmus Mundus* students. It was the two day *Erasmus Mundus* Student Seminar arranged by the European Commission of Education in Brussels on May 13 – 14.

As reported in the November 2004 Newsletter, the **Joint European Master's Programme in Materials Science (EMMS)**, developed in the framework of the ECIU Graduate School, was selected for funding within *Erasmus Mundus*. All the scholarship grantees and one European student of the EMMS were invited to the seminar.

The seminar started with the introduction of the event by Mr. Gonzalez, who also chaired the seminar. An introduction to the *Erasmus Mundus* programme was given from its genesis and aims to the structure and various actions under the programme. The seminar was officially opened by Mr Figel' (the European Commissioner for Education and Culture), who spoke about the main lines of the European policy in the field of education. He addressed the participants of the seminar about the political and educational objectives of the Education Commission. As expected, he had to answer the questions from students on various issues from mobility to the future plans of the programme.

The second session after a coffee break began with the presentation of the students feedback collected earlier from the questionnaires about the programme. The feedback was presented by Ms. Aurora Iglesias, who was also the organizer of the seminar. The feedback covered various aspects regarding the mobility of the students, bureaucratic difficulties, living, academics and cultural integration. The main conclusion of the feedback for the third country students was tiring bureaucratic procedures attached to visas and mobility within partner universities.

The highlight of the second session though was the student presentations. Three student gave presentations on different topics. The first was by Frank Fagan from USA who is studying in a masters programme at University of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. The topic of his talk was the brain drain from a legal and economic perspective. The second presentation was from Xing Xia from China who is studying in a masters course in University of Kassel in Germany. Her presentation was about the cultural experience of studying in Europe. The third presentation was given by me on the topic of brain mobility, the perspective of developing countries, the case of EU, and the experience of the brain itself.



Seminar Participants from EMMS: Photographs by Ricardo Chavez (Mexico).

The proceedings of the day ended with a presentation from the coordinator of a masters course. The presentation was about the structural aspects of the master courses in relation to the *Erasmus Mundus* programme.

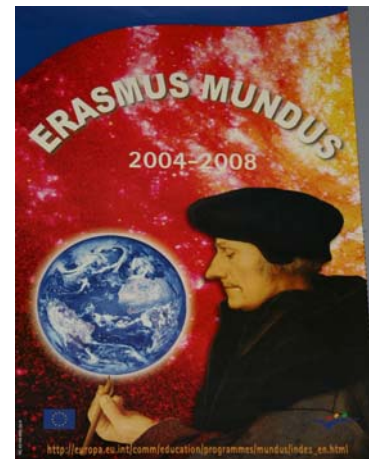
The Seminar not only provided an opportunity for all students to come together and exchange ideas, opinions and views on the programme and the future Alumni Association, but to know each other as well. The dinner with traditional European food was an enjoyable evening for the students where they met informally and discussions and a sort of party took them late into the night.

The second day of the seminar was reserved for discussion on the *Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association*. Many students shared their views on objectives, structure and the activities of the association. A roadmap was agreed upon to form a convening committee represented by two elected students from each course, representative from coordinators and a European Commission representative to establish the bylaws and operational structure of the association by the end of this year.

Waqas Bin Najib:

"I received my B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore in the year 2000. After one year of industrial experience in an automotive production facility, I joined University of Applied Sciences, Offenburg in Germany for Master's degree in 'Energy Conversion and Management', from where I graduated in 2003. I returned to Pakistan for teaching/research and I stayed there for one year.

I wanted to further my education background in 'Material Sciences' as it evolved to be the subject of my main interest, especially in the fields of materials development for renewable energy resources. In my search for the best place to study I just stumbled upon the particular course. EMMS offered a unique combination of creative structure, objectives and opportunities in a study programme. The opportunity to learn in a few top universities of Europe within a single framework of programme was really the main reason for opting for this course for my pre-doctoral studies."



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

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Within the cooperation between Twente and Aalborg regarding a joint programme in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Aalborg students made a field trip to Twente earlier this spring. The collaboration is based on the strong tradition in both universities regarding innovation and entrepreneurship, i.e. the creation of entrepreneurs, the offering of entrepreneurship programmes and support facilities. Each university also has some specific focus areas:

The NIKOS based programme on knowledge intensive entrepreneurship of the University of Twente focuses on multi-level multi-actor approaches (network) of entrepreneurial processes starting at the micro-level of setting up a new business (in existing and new firms) based upon relative new knowledge or technology. *Aalborg University* aims to integrate entre- and intrapreneurship. The university also focuses on organisations and institutions for facilitating entrepreneurship, as well as innovation systems. Both universities emphasise theory-practice integration, i.e. the starting point is in actual business problems combined with theoretical reflections. Twente combines courses with cases and small projects, while Aalborg has shorter courses and larger supervised students' projects.

By studying at both universities, the students will be able to create either a more broadly defined knowledge platform or a more specified platform for their future career. The two universities are working on establishing a Double Degree or, when the legal foundation is in place, a Joint Degree, i.e. the students obtain an exam certificate from both universities or one certificate issued in conjunction by the two universities.

Politecnico di Torino

Politecnico di Torino is a Technical University currently structured in 6 Schools (4 Engineering and 2 Architecture ones) and offers programmes at all levels according to the 3+2+3 scheme (the Bologna declaration has been implemented starting from the academic year 1999/00 for a number of majors and from 2000/01 for the remaining ones). The total number of enrolled students is approximately 26.000 (8.000 in the Architecture programmes and 18.000 in the Engineering ones). 800 Professors are currently employed by Politecnico di Torino and the technical and administrative staff reaches 750 units. The budget currently amounts to 100 Million Euros approximately. Several programmes are offered in campuses located all over the Piedmont Region (Alessandria, Aosta, Biella, Ivrea, Mondovì, Vercelli).

The international activity is structured in bilateral and multilateral agreements with universities, higher education institutes, research bodies located in the five continents. Politecnico di Torino has a relevant tradition of European co-operations in the field of Scientific and Technological Research. European community funding received for this kind of activity has moved from 500.000 Euros in 1990 up to 2.000.000 Euros in 1994.

The intensive international cooperation led often to the affiliation and to the membership of Politecnico di Torino to the major University Networks like CESAER, CLUSTER, TIME and recently ECIU.

In the last academic year 450 incoming exchange students have been hosted, 300 foreign students enrolled in the offered programmes and 100 foreign professors from all over the world visited our Schools, Departments or Central Administration offices. Around 10% of the whole student population benefits of a study-abroad period by the end of their programmes.

The highest degree of integration between Politecnico di Torino and some of the most excellent partner universities has been reached with the implementation of double and joint degree agreements. The scheme of these projects allows students from both universities to spend a study period abroad (typically the last 3 semesters of the curriculum) at the partner institution, experience a different academic system, be integrated in the most appropriate curriculum, get proficiency in a new language and attain two equivalent degrees from the two partner institutions (each of them recognises the workload completed by the student in the foreign University). Currently, around 40 double degree agreements have been signed taking advantage of the mutual recognition of the exchange students work in the frame of the Socrates/Erasmus programme. In the last years, a special attention has been given to new geographical areas like Latin America, Eastern Europe and Middle-East and several double or joint degree agreements have been signed or will be signed in the next future with Universities operating in those areas.



A UNESCO World Heritage Site on the campus of the Politecnico di Torino.

Please read more on: <http://www.polito.it/index.en.html>

Strathclyde students vote Strathclyde as No. 1 UK university

A survey by the research company Opinion Panel asked more than 10,000 first year UK students what they thought of their university. The students were asked to rate their university on a set of different parameters such as their university's approach to admissions, the location and campus facilities in general, and students were also asked to measure the impression they had of the university's academic reputation, the quality of courses and teaching, and their view on the university's position in the traditional League Table rankings.

Strathclyde's first year students seem to be the students in the UK who are happiest with their university on an overall score, and Strathclyde consequently received the top mark of the survey with more Top-20 mentions than any other institution across 10 categories, and being in the Top 10 in four of these scores.

Other universities in the Top 10 were: 2) University College London, 3) King's College London, 4) Oxford, 5) Cardiff, 6) Imperial College London, 7) Hull, 8) St Andrews, 9) Cambridge and 10) London School of Economics. Another UK ECIU member, Warwick, shares the 11th place with Bristol.

ConRuhr: The Ruhr universities have put their name on the globe in Midtown Manhattan

By Barbara Schneider / Abraham van Veen, University of Dortmund

The three neighbouring universities of Bochum, Dortmund and Duisburg-Essen have set up an academic exchange office in Manhattan to not only strengthen their presence in the United States and their network with American academic institutions, but also for enhancing student mobility. Based on a bid by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to provide office space in a building at the United Nation's Plaza the three universities formed the ConRuhr Consortium as an strategic alliance to enhance their activities in the US.



All three universities already have numerous contacts and partners in the US, with the University of Dortmund taking a pioneering role due to its excellent cooperation network and a thriving student exchange program that gives more than 50 Dortmund students the opportunity to study at an US institution and brings more than 40 American students to Dortmund each year.

The office started at the first of October 2005, being officially opened by the head of the department for higher education of Northrhine-Westphalia, Miss Kraft and the three rectors, with a discussion from the German building in New York with scholars from the own universities via videoconference.

The office is lead by Prof. Dr. Rolf Kinne, assisted by Dr. LeeAnn Renninger. Coordinator of the consortium is Abraham van Veen. The office serves as a contact for American students, scholars and scientists. It is designed to add to the international dimension to the Ruhr Universities and also functions as a platform for members of the Ruhr Universities to establish contacts and networks. There is a strong connection to the ECIU as Barbara Schneider, the Dortmund Local Coordinator, is also responsible for the contacts to the US at Dortmund University.



The website www.con-ruhr.org offers an overview of the services provided by the office - you are welcome to both take a look at the website and to drop by the New York Office. Contact data are:

Academic Exchange Office ConRuhr, USA
 871 United Nations Plaza
 New York, NY 10017
 Phone: ++1 212-758-3384
 Fax: ++1 212-758-1629
 Email: office@con-ruhr.org

ECIU Student Mobility

The ECIU has over the years worked on different models for facilitating exchange among students. One such model has been the combination of studies abroad with an internship in a company or research laboratory. However, it has been felt that more work is still needed to be done in terms of securing basic Socrates Erasmus exchanges and in ensuring that as many ECIU members as possible set up bilateral Socrates agreements.

Consequently there will be a meeting of the ECIU Student Mobility Group in Dortmund in early September, prior to the EAIE Conference in Krakow, where the aim is to discuss how best to facilitate regular student mobility within the ECIU and how, if possible, to overcome problems regarding imbalance of exchanges, the challenges posed by differences in fee levels and in procedures for actually setting up exchange agreements.

Ms Barbara Schneider, International Office at Dortmund, is the new convenor of the Student Mobility group.

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Universität Dortmund, Germany

www.uni-dortmund.de

Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg, Germany

www.tu-harburg.de

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www.liu.se

University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom

www.strath.ac.uk

Politecnico di Torino, Italy

www.polito.it

Universiteit Twente, The Netherlands

www.utwente.nl

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www.warwick.ac.uk

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The European Gathering 2005

The Innovative Routes to Learning Unit at the University of Strathclyde has invited the ECIU member institutions, and other European partners, to attend the European Gathering in parallel with the seventh Summer Academy @ Strathclyde with around 1000 participants.

The European Gathering allows staff interested in running similar programmes at their home institutions to get acquainted with the powerful and highly motivational learning programme that has been created at Strathclyde. Director Christine Percival and colleagues have developed a unique Mentor-driven Challenge Curriculum with several variants to ease the difficulties pupils experience in transition from Primary to Secondary School and to integrate study support programmes which complement school experience.

The aim of the Summer Academy is to give pupils a positive learning experience, which will help them do well in school and open their eyes to the opportunity of pursuing Further and Higher Education.

Inspired by the success of the Strathclyde programme, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona is running a similar summer academy "Campus Ítaca", and there will be an interactive session where the Spanish and Scottish participants will meet in cyberspace for a joint challenge.

ECIU Activities

A number of project meetings or seminars have or will take place over the coming months:

- ECIU Innovation Research: kick-off meeting on 20 June, Twente
- Virtual Planning Committee meeting, ECIU Leadership Development Programme, Summer months
- European Gathering, Summer Academy @ Strathclyde, 13-16 July
- ECIU Student Mobility meeting, 11-13 September
- Bologna Seminar, September
- ECIU PR meeting, October/November
- ECIU Benchmark Steering Committee meeting, 17 November
- ECIU Executive Board meeting, 18 November

Please read more about the ECIU and these activities on the website: www.eciu.org