



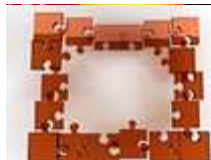
Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE

Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update

13.08.10



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... Belgian presidency

Erasmus Mundus Course Programmes

At the universities of Ghent and Leuven, eight brand-new course programmes obtained the renowned Erasmus Mundus approval. Since 2004 the European Union has endeavoured to obtain greater international recognition for European higher education through the Erasmus Mundus Programme. The Erasmus Mundus Programme fits in with the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Erasmus Mundus provides a unique package where students can read courses at three universities in different countries. In most cases these will be EU Member States, but a number of non-European universities are also involved in the programme.

Students who pass the very strict selection will not only get the chance to attend courses taught by the top professors in the field, they will also have the opportunity to get acquainted and interact with other students from around the world. In addition they will also receive major support from the European Commission.

...Commission

Report on the European Agenda for Culture

COM 411 (2010) REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the impact of the European Parliament and Council Decisions modifying the legal bases of the European Programmes in the areas of Lifelong Learning, Culture, Youth and Citizenship.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0411:FIN:EN:PDF>

On 16 December 2008, the European Parliament and the Council adopted four decisions amending the legal bases of the programmes in the area of lifelong learning, culture, youth



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and citizenship. These decisions affected the Lifelong Learning Programme, the Culture Programme, the Youth in Action Programme, the Europe for Citizens Programme and the Erasmus Mundus post-graduate scholarships and programmes. The report examines the effects of these decisions.

For all programmes, the time taken for the selection process from the submission deadline to the adoption of the grant award-decision and the notification of the beneficiaries has been considerably shortened.

Regarding the impact of the decisions on the management of the programmes and the grants awarded to beneficiaries, the substantial shortening of the delays has increased the efficiency of the programmes by enabling the applicants to be informed on the selection decisions further in advance, with positive effects on the sustainability of the partnerships implementing the projects, and therefore on the quality of the projects themselves. For all programmes, the new procedure has enabled the increased effectiveness of project management.

The report concludes that the new information procedure meets the principle of simplicity and proximity that must guide the implementation of the programmes in the interest of European citizens. In that light, the Commission is committed to continue increasing the efficiency of the management of its programmes by shortening the process leading to the selection decisions, in particular by reducing as much as possible the time taken for the evaluation of applications.

Languages in the internationalisation of European SMEs

A new Commission study on the internationalisation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), now available on line, shows how languages can be relevant in the internationalisation of European SMEs. The study identifies barriers and advantages of internationalisation and proposes policy recommendations.

The study concludes that through importing, enterprises can learn how to work with international clients, other cultures and languages. The interesting fact about the results is that policy usually focuses on supporting export. Previous import experiences, however, appear to be very useful when it comes to export opportunities; the next step to exporting is then easier to make.

Final report of the study: Internationalisation of European SMEs

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/files/support_measures/internationalisation/internationalisation_sme_final_en.pdf