



SG LIAISON OFFICERS MEETING 2013

CONCLUSIONS

Genuine Intercultural Dialogue and Mutual Learning

University of Rouen, France, 10-11 October 2013

SG Network Liaison Officers Meeting 2013 was focused on ***Genuine Intercultural Dialogue and Mutual Learning between European and African institutions of higher education***. The event took place between **10-11 October 2013** at the **University of Rouen, France**. We would like to thank Vice- President, **Prof. Christel Outreman, Sylvain Lamourette** and **Anne Dandeville** for their warm reception in Rouen and an excellent preparation of the meeting.

I. Collaboration with Africa

The programme provided for numerous opportunities to learn about current collaboration opportunities with Africa explored through a keynote speech delivered by Prof. Dymitr Ibrizimow from the University of Bayreuth, case studies from SGroup members, the University of Rouen presented by Azzedine Driouich and Prof. Laurent Demarchand, and from the Rovira I Virgili University given by Rebeca Tomás. The participants also exchanged experiences in the co-operation with diverse African regions and institution that have led to the following conclusions:

- SGroup members have strong interest in developing organised and structured collaboration with African within network.



- A work group will be set up with the aim to map out the expertise of members in African relations. The work group will be co-ordinated by Prof. Dymitr Ibriszimow from the University of Bayreuth. The expression of interest should be addressed to Prof. Ibriszimow at Dymitr.Ibriszimow@uni-bayreuth.de by **20th November**
- The identified collaboration opportunities will be translated into a project proposal for EU funding programmes in the forthcoming call for proposals.

II. New communication policy within SGroup Network

- At General Assembly 2013 in Bayreuth the decision to modify the name of the network was approved with the aim to distinguish the identity from the Santander Bank – Santander Universities (Universia). To emphasise a new corporate image of the association a new name **SGROUP European Universities' Network** will be used. A new logo as well as promotional and visibility tools have been created. The logo together with a standardise ppt and a flyer will be circulated to our members for your internal dissemination. We kindly ask you to replace the old logo at relevant sections of your institutions websites.
- SGroup Network has created a modern communication platform in order to consolidate the organisation expertise and to facilitate exchanges among various experts and target groups of SGROUP Network. The following functionalities have been made available:
 - **SGROUP Community** – all members of academic community from SGroup members can now register on our website to obtain information about our projects and activities and to exchange expertise. The Community is available to the whole academic community e.g. students, doctoral candidates, teaching staff, researchers, and administrative staff. Their profiles will be registered accordingly together with specific areas of expertise. We would like to ask Liaison Officers to inform your university community about the possibility to subscribe to the community. To register as a new user, please visit the website at www.sgroup.be and click on the login section. Please note that each user can upload their photos and add a short description that should enable easier search of relevant experts in our database.



- **WORK GROUPS** – currently a number of projects and activities are being implemented addressed to different target groups. In order to improve communication among the groups of interest, special space was created on SGroup’s platform. The work groups will enable the exchange of information and documents as well as the identification of collaborators in a given project. Please register first on the platform to be accepted to a WORK GROUP of your interest. This option is available to all academic community of your universities.
- **NEWS BULLTIN-** a new version of the bulletin has been made available that is addressed to SGroup members as well as external partners and collaborators. We would like to invite all SGroup members to provide information about your activities for broad dissemination through this SGroup News Bulletin released every 1st and 15th day of the month.

III. Current SG projects and activities in the academic year 2013/2014

Currently a number of projects and activities are being implemented simultaneously. Below you will find a compilation of information to provide with a brief of overview of objectives of each project and important deadlines that you may like to consider in your time schedules.

Project	Objectives	Scheduled Activities	Target groups	Important dates	Supporting tools
EU FUNDED PROJECTS					
ICon- INTER-CONTINENTAL ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMME	Provide a centralised platform to co-ordinate exchanges between SGroup members and partners in Europe and overseas	Mobility exchanges	students, researchers, academics and administrative staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4th November - Launch of the call for application for mobility from LA to Europe ● 1st December – launch of the call for applications for the 	Work Group Moderator: Barbara Costa bcosta@up.pt and Wioletta Wegorowska wioletta.wegorowska@sgroup.be



				mobility from Eastern Partnership to Europe	
EGRACONS	Create a web-based tool to facilitate grade conversion of exchange students in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online survey • Preparation of Grading Tables • Country reports • Development of grade conversion tool 	Administrative staff, teaching staff, Erasmus co-ordinators, IRO dealing with mobility, students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st December – deadline for responding the EGRACONS survey 	Co-ordinator: Valere Meus Valere.Meus@UGent.be www.egracons.eu
IMOTION	Creation of an online platform to display staff training weeks in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the platform • Pilot phase with SGroup members 	University staff, Erasmus Co-ordinators		Work Group Moderator: Jenny Gilbert jenny.gilbert@sgroup.be
ALFA PUENTES	Building Capacity of University Associations in fostering Latin American Regional Integration	Regional Workshops Bi-regional Conferences	High-level representatives from HEIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14-15 November Workshop on academic mobility, Montevideo, Uruguay • 2-4 December- Conference in Cartagena, Colombia 	Co-ordinators: Jenny Gilbert jenny.gilbert@sgroup.be and Wioletta Wegorowska wioletta.wegorowska@sgroup.be Online Community Newsletter www.alfapuentes.org
EM-iDEA	Bringing the Erasmus Mundus community together to Disseminate, Exchange and Act	Regional conferences Creation of the Association for the Promotion and Development of Joint International Programmes in higher education (ProDeJIP)	Erasmus Mundus Coordinators	Next conference will be in Latin America in spring 2014	http://www.em-concilium.eu/
INTERNAL PROJECTS					
African collaboration	To establish an active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping out 	Academic and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20th November – 	Work Group



	dialogue between SGroup and Africa universities	<p>fields of expertise and interest with Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up a project proposal for EU funding 	administrative staff	deadline for expression of interest to join the Work Group on African relations	Moderator: Prof. Dymitr Ibriszimow Dymitr.Ibriszimow@uni-bayreuth.de
Careers Office Collaboration	Consolidate and enhance collaboration of Career Offices at SGroup Network for increasing students' mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a work group on Careers Service Collaboration • Expression of interest • Providing feedback on activities and collaboration opportunities through a questionnaire 	Career office staff Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15th November – launch of the questionnaire aimed at identifying collaboration opportunities 	Work Group Moderator: Katarzyna Banaszak katarzyna.banaszak@amu.edu.pl
Revolutions	Enhancing integration between young researchers from SGroup member universities through the development of an international political research journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an international, online and open access academic journal R/evolutions: Global Trends & Regional Issues 	Researchers from the faculties of social sciences, political sciences and humanities in general	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 November - Call for paper's deadline for the Revolutions Journal International conference on Old and New forms of Dependency • 15 November - Call for paper's deadline for the Revolutions Journal 	Work Group Moderator: Tamara Filipiak aga.fil@amu.edu.pl



				<p>International conference on Old and New forms of Dependency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20-21 March 2014 – Conference in Poznan for young researchers. Supported financially by SGroup Network. <p>IMPORTANT: Representatives of SGroup members attending the conference can apply for special financial grant to cover the costs of travel or accommodation</p>	
<p>Study Abroad Programme</p>	<p>Organising Study Abroad Programmes between Sgroup members and partners overseas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of experience in organising study abroad programmes with the USA • Identification of the joint collaboration in promoting academic offers collectively to US partners • Workshop on the 	<p>Students, international relations officers, academic co-ordinators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2014 tbc- Workshop in Brussels on the organisation of study abroad programmes with US universities 	<p>Work Group Moderator: Rebeca Tomás rebeca.tomas@urv.cat</p>



		organisation of study abroad programmes			
Telecollaboration in International Programmes	Telecollaboration or Online Intercultural Exchange (OIE) engages groups of students in virtual intercultural interaction and exchange with partner classes in geographically distant locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference of the INTENT Project in Leon • SGroup Conference on the Telecollaboration in International Programmes 	Academics Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12–14 February International conference of the INTENT Project: University of León • 14th May 2014 – dedicated workshop for SGroup members on the telecollaboration opportunities, strategies and practices <p>IMPORTANT: Representatives of SGroup members attending the conference can apply for special financial grant to cover the costs of travel or accommodation</p>	Work Group Moderator: Robert O’Dowd robert.odowd@unileon.es and Michael Hauchecorne michael.hauchecorne@univ-lehavre.fr
Collaboration in Renewable Energy	Creation of an interest group in the renewable energy for furthering research opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of practices • Bidding for EU funding sources 	Researchers in the relevant fields of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coming up shortly 	Work Group Prof. Cristian Nichita nichita@univ-lehavre.fr
STEP Programme	Give students the opportunity to learn	Placements	Students IRO staff	Ongoing call for candidates and positions	Work Group Moderator: Jenny Gilbert



	how an IRO works on a daily basis and reinforce the existing links between the International Relations Office				jenny.gilbert@sgroup.be
BERKELEY Exchange Programme	Exchange Programme with the University of California, Berkeley for a summer or winter semester 2014 with a fee waiver for 8 students from SGroup members	Call for application for the academic year 2014	Students of Master's degrees and early years of doctoral studies	28th February 2014 – submission date of application to SGroup Secretariat	Co-ordinator: Jenny Gilbert jenny.gilbert@sgroup.be
SEED MONEY PROJECTS – internal SGROUP's funding scheme	A funding scheme for innovative projects put forward by SGroup member relevant the strategic objectives. 4-5 projects will be funded on annual basis up to 5000 Euros.	Collection of project proposals. Proposals will be evaluated by the Executive Committee. Results will be known in June 2014.	Students Doctoral candidates Researchers Administrative staff	1st February 2014 – launch of the call for application with a submission date on 15th April 2014	Co-ordinator: Wioletta Wegorowska wioletta.wegorowska@sgroup.be