

Third CUIB-EUA MEETING

Building a Platform for Cooperation

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I.1 -Background CUIB-EUA - Asturias Declaration Priorities (2006)

- Supporting the development of human resources
- Promoting information sharing on reform process in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean
- Developing innovative inter-institutional research collaboration and partnerships
- Enhancing cooperation with business and enterprises
- Increasing the two-way mobility of students, researchers and academic staff
- Strengthening quality assurance
- Language learning

I. Background (2): EU-LAC Policy Framework

- The construction of the EU-LAC Higher Education and Research Area is an on-going process, as demonstrated by numerous ongoing bi-lateral collaborations between EU and LAC Higher Education Institutions.
- The CUIB-EUA cooperation can enhance the process by **reinforcing dialogue** between institutions of both areas and thus raising the profile of universities in policy dialogue and in society.

II. Objectives of the 3rd CUIB-EUA meeting

Taking forward the Asturias Declaration by

- Discussing possible actions to build regular dialogue between CUIB and EUA members.
- Concentrating on an exchange of focused on the topic of the Barcelona Conference “Governance of Universities: Enhancing Institutional Missions and Profiles”.

III. The role of universities in society and the European context

- Universities are key stakeholders in developing the knowledge society; in Europe and globally . They are the main providers of a highly skilled labour force prepared to undertake societal challenges and foster wealth creation.
- Europe's universities are engaged in an agenda aiming at encouraging 'modern' and 'open' institutions: 'modern' in terms of their autonomy in developing their higher education and research missions, and 'open' in their readiness to share knowledge and collaborate with external partners at regional, national and international levels.

III. The European context (2)

- Europe is developing both a European Higher Education and a European Research Area through emphasising processes of dialogue and cooperation between universities, and between universities and their various stakeholders, with a strong will to overcome national fragmentation.
- These dialogue processes take place both informally and formally, some of them are structured (e.g. Bologna Process, Erasmus scheme for student exchange, EU Framework Programmes for research);
- They are long and complex, and require the participation of all actors, but they produce results.

IV.1 - The European Higher Education Area

- **Higher education reform since 1999 through the Bologna process:**
 - a unique, voluntary, bottom-up modernisation process
 - to improve quality & achieve compatibility of qualifications
 - strong emphasis on improving the employability of graduates.

- **An example of results:** the newly created European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR)
 - to provide clear and objective information about trustworthy quality assurance agencies
 - to promote greater student mobility by increasing trust between higher education institutions.
 - a combined effort of the stakeholders (higher education institutions, students & quality agencies), mandated by the 46 Bologna Education Ministers.

IV.2 The European Research Area

- Research is an international activity that goes beyond national boundaries. The most successful university research strategies in Europe address both regional needs and 'global outreach' - a priority for the European Research Area & for EUA
- One important element will be to maximize opportunities for the career development of young researchers through mobility and exchange, and strong inter-institutional arrangements.
- **Example:** the EUA Council for Doctoral Education – just created as a framework for universities to exchange experience on developments in doctoral education in Europe & as a partner for cooperation with universities elsewhere

V. Next steps (1)

- Taking into account of
 - ✓ existing experience of LAC cooperation and experience at many levels: universities, enterprises, governments, NGOs, etc.
 - ✓ new EC funding opportunities for international cooperation (Erasmus Mundus, ALBAN III, FP7 Framework Programme, upcoming Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral Programmes, ...)
- EU and LAC Universities can mutually benefit from intensifying the exchange of experience in processes of university reform which will enable them to be a stronger voice, also collectively, in policy dialogue.

V. 2 - A concrete step forward in CUIB-EUA Cooperation - Proposal -

- EUA is willing to further develop opportunities for the sharing of views and exchange of experience with CUIB, to build trust and improve understanding on the basis of constructive dialogue for the benefit of all.

- EUA would like to invite CUIB members, and the universities they represent, to strengthen their participation in EUA activities, for example through:
 - ✓ Attending EUA Conferences
 - ✓ Submitting news in EUA Newsletter
 - ✓ Participation in other EUA activities of particular interest - We are open to your suggestions!