



ECW13

Policy Framework, Bologna Awareness and Quality Assurance

Policy Framework

A larger policy framework for EMECW India is the EU – India Joint Action Plan: Global Partners for Global Challenges. Both the action plan and the EMECW India agreement were signed at the EU India Summit in Marseille on September 29, 2008. The Joint Action Plan specifically mentions the EMECW India as an instrument to “increase exchanges of students and academics, *inter alia*, by offering master and doctoral-level scholarships and a wide range of opportunities for academic cooperation”. Another important policy document is the Joint Declaration on Education signed by the European Commission and the Ministry for Human Resource Development on November 12, 2008, on the very same day that the newly launched EMECW India opened its first call for applications. The Joint Declaration on Education again emphasizes the conjoint will to increase academic mobility and develop links between higher education institutions. It identifies a number of challenges to the cooperation, and calls for a policy dialogue on issues such as reform agendas, inclusive education for disadvantaged groups, quality assurance, academic recognition and transfer of learning outcomes etc. All are challenges which the EMECW India partnership has to address on an everyday basis in order to pave the way for academic mobility and institutional cooperation.

Bologna Awareness

The Bologna process is an ongoing reform which has been crucial to the integration and quality assurance of European higher education. Spreading knowledge about the Bologna process is one of the goals of the External Cooperation Window India. Through faculty

exchange academic staff at Indian member universities can study how the Bologna reform is being implemented by European universities. The program's Bologna workshops offer in-depth knowledge about the reform process. Courses constructed on the Bologna model will be set up by two Indian member universities. Here the partnership will function as a resource network. We expect to be able to draw important lessons from these "test case" courses.

Quality Assurance

In order to ensure a high standard of academic quality, the program is carefully monitored and evaluated by a group of Academic Advisors in 5 key areas:

- The fair recognition of studies and consistent systems for the translation between EU and Indian marks.
- The equal, fair and transparent treatment of grantees (tools are Learning and Transfer of Merits Agreements and surveys).
- The best practices within the partnership (in terms of curriculum development, consistent evaluation systems, visibility strategy, etc.).
- The project's spin-off effects and the action plan for the long term sustainability of the project (mainly by strengthening long term institutional cooperation in the prioritized thematic fields).
- Information activities and the project's internal Bologna process.