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ERASMUS MUNDUS
EXTERNAL COOPERATION
WINDOW LOT 13 INDIA

Research, Innovation and
International Relations

Concept Note

Meeting on EU-India Cooperation in Higher Education: Challenges, Best Practices and Policy Implications

Ongoing EU-India collaborations in higher education are affronted by numerous challenges which have to be dealt with at multiple levels and most importantly, the levels of policy and implementing agencies. A recent overall policy framework is the EU – India Joint Action Plan: Global Partners for Global Challenges. The Action Plan emphasizes joint collaboration on equal terms. 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. The Joint Declaration on Education expresses a 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 EU-India collaborations in higher education have to address on an everyday basis in order to pave the way for academic mobility and institutional cooperation.

The Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window Lot 13 India feels that the practical experiences of implementing agencies and especially, their best practices in the field of EU-India collaboration will be helpful for finding ways forward, and developing the existing policy framework. Therefore, we will invite policy makers and implementing agencies to a round table debate on *EU-Indian Cooperation in Higher Education: Challenges, Best Practices and Policy Implications*:

- Quality and equity in EU-India joint programs and collaborations. Quality assurance mechanisms and the participation of stakeholders. Systems for equal, fair and transparent treatment of mobile individuals.
- Recognition of studies abroad – increasing competence and employability. Tools for fair recognition of studies abroad and consistent systems for the translation between EU and Indian marks.
- Dialogue on reform agendas – frameworks for testing out the Bologna tools in Indian higher education institutions.

On the previous day, November 30, the EMECW13 partnership has held its first Applied Bologna workshop at Delhi University. The workshop marks a first step towards testing out the Bologna model at a few Indian partner universities.

Venue: The India Habitat Center
Time: December 1, 10:30 – 12:30