

FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

A very warm welcome to the first edition of the Erasmus Mundus project Euroinka newsletter. We intend to use this as a vehicle for communicating news and progress of our project and as a way to exchange ideas and experiences between all the partners and beneficiaries of Euroinka.

Over the last decades, the economies of Latin America (LA) countries have made concerted efforts to raise to the challenges of an increasingly globalised and knowledge-based society. I think it is fair to say that these responses have been relatively successful, but more needs to be done to improve the quality Education/Training because enhancements in this area will be crucial if the region is to create social equality and maintain sustainable economic development in LA.

When three years ago we submitted, our first Euroinka application, our first aim and intention was and still is to contribute to these improvements and help alleviate and rectify the LA shortcomings in Education and Training. I guess proof of that conviction is shown by our persevering in applying for this type of grants: As you probably remember, here at Manchester Metropolitan University we have endured

some disappointments with our Erasmus Mundus (EM) applications and it took us 3 years to succeed, the grant was awarded in June 2014.

Although EU institutions have historically constituted exemplar referents for the development of LA teachers, and researchers, in my view, they have been less involved in developing links with LA. Traditionally and for historical and cultural reasons, Spain and Portugal have forged links with LA institutions. Euroinka represents a new, important and needed endeavour that will open new opportunities for those EU countries that are not traditionally associated with LA: our consortium includes countries from East and Northern Europe: Hungary, Finland and Sweden; we believe that this will open new opportunities for cooperation for them.

The first cohort of 75 Euroinka mobilities is well under progress now and we just have opened our second call for applicants. We anticipate that the Euroinka UG, Masters, PhD and Post-Doctoral grantees when after their study they will return to their home countries with enriched knowledge and experience, will definitively contribute to the development of education in the areas covered by this project. We will continue to encourage Euroinka grantees to act as leading agents within each institution so that they can in turn disseminate their acquired skills.

I would like to thank all partners for their contribution to the activities of the project in this its first full operational year. In particular, I would like to thank the team from University of Vigo (Eva, Ana, Rebeca) and University of Valencia (Begoña) for sharing generously and unselfishly their vast experiences in managing similar EM projects with me and with the Euroinka coordination team.

Also, my warm thanks to Daniela (UDEM-Mexico) who enthusiastically responded to my request to coordinate and edit this newsletter; my thanks also to Marife (MMU-Euroinka manager) and all the Euroinka grantees from the first cohort who have contributed with very interesting articles sharing their experiences with all of us.

Enjoy the newsletter and happy reading!

Pedro Vasconi and Euroinka

As you probably know, Pedro Vasconi worked for UNESP, Brazil in their international team. Pedro was involved with Euroinka from its initial stages that is the application, submission and finally in the implementation. Pedro worked as Euroinka external advisor during the first crucial year from August- 2014 to August-2015.

In 2014 Pedro left UNESP to study a Master in: 'Historia del Arte Contemporáneo y Cultura Visual' run by the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and Museo Reina Sofia. Despite working in EM projects in Brazil, he himself never got a grant to study! And, as far as I know, he has self-financed his masters in a subject that it is very close to his heart.

I just want to thank Pedro for his contribution to our project (he designed the Euroinka lovely logo amongst other important tasks) and I wish him every success in his professional career.

If you want to be in touch with him, you can contact him at:

www.pedrovasconi.moonfruit.com

Profesor Alberto Paucar-Caceres

BSc (Hons); MBA;
MA; MPhil; PhD



¡DESDE EL ESCRITORIO DEL COORDINADOR!

Nuestra cordial bienvenida a la primera edición del boletín del proyecto Euroinka Erasmus Mundus. La intención es utilizarlo como vehículo de comunicación de noticias y avances del proyecto, y como medio de intercambio de ideas y experiencias entre todos los socios y beneficiarios de Euroinka.

A lo largo de las últimas décadas, las economías de los países de América Latina han realizado denodados esfuerzos para estar a la altura de los retos planteados por una sociedad cada vez más globalizada y basada en el conocimiento. Es justo decir que los resultados han sido bastante significativos, aunque aún queda mucho por hacer en la mejora de la calidad de la educación y la formación, ya que el avance en estas áreas será decisivo para promover la igualdad social y el mantenimiento de un desarrollo económico sostenible en Latinoamérica.

Cuando hace tres años solicitamos por primera vez el proyecto Euroinka, el fin e intención principal era, y todavía es, contribuir a estas mejoras, y ayudar a aliviar y remediar las carencias de Latinoamérica en materias de educación y formación. Buena muestra de esa convicción ha sido nuestra perseverancia en solicitar repetidamente este tipo

de ayudas: ustedes como seguramente recordaran que nosotros en Manchester Metropolitan University sufrimos varias decepciones con nuestras solicitudes de Erasmus Mundus (EM), ya que nos ha costado tres años el conseguir la financiación, que finalmente fue obtenida en junio de 2014.

A pesar de que las instituciones de la Unión Europea se han demostrado históricamente como referentes ejemplares para el desarrollo de profesores e investigadores latinoamericanos, podríamos decir que se han involucrado en menor medida en el desarrollo de vínculos estables con Latinoamérica. Tradicionalmente y por razones históricas y culturales, España y Portugal han establecido relaciones con instituciones de Latinoamérica. EuroInka representa un nuevo, importante y necesario esfuerzo que abrirá nuevas oportunidades para los países de la UE que no están tradicionalmente relacionados con Latinoamérica: nuestro consorcio incluye países del norte y de centro-Europa: Finlandia, Suecia, y Hungría. Tenemos la convicción de que esto significará la apertura de nuevas oportunidades de cooperación para estos países.

La primera convocatoria de Euroinka, en la que fueron seleccionados 75 participantes, ya se encuentra bien avanzada, y acaba de abrirse recientemente la segunda convocatoria. Esperamos que los estudiantes becados de grado, masters, doctorados y post-doctorados, cuando retornen a sus países de origen con el conocimiento y la experiencia obtenidos durante sus estancias, contribuirán de manera decisiva al desarrollo de la educación en las áreas cubiertas por este proyecto. Seguimos animando a los beneficiarios Euroinka a que se constituyan en auténticos líderes dentro de sus instituciones, y aporten a las mismas las habilidades que han adquirido en el mismo.

Agradecemos desde aquí a todos los socios por su contribución a las actividades del proyecto en este su primer año de funcionamiento completo. En particular, damos las gracias al equipo de la Universidad de Vigo (Eva, Ana, Rebeca) y a la Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (Begoña) por compartir generosa y desinteresadamente, conmigo y con el equipo de coordinación Euroinka, su vasto conocimiento en gestión de proyectos EM similares.

También mi más sincero agradecimiento a Daniela (UDEM-México), que respondió con entusiasmo a mi solicitud de coordinar y editar este boletín; mi agradecimiento también a Marifé (gestora de Euroinka en MMU) y a todos los becarios Euroinka de la primera convocatoria, que han compartido sus experiencias con todos nosotros con artículos tan interesantes.

Que disfruten del boletín, y ¡feliz lectura!

Profesor Alberto Paucar-Caceres

BSc (Hons); MBA;
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THE SECOND CALL

IS NOW OPEN!

Don't miss the opportunity to apply!
The deadline for submission is February 7th, 2016.

TARGET GROUP

BENEFICIARIES

Target group 1

Should be enrolled, associated or working (fulltime) in one of the partner institutions of the EUROINKA project, at the time of application.

Target group 2

Nationals of the LA or EU Countries that have obtained an academic degree or equivalent from an institution of the LA or EU Countries, or that are currently enrolled in a LA or EU institution which is not partner in the project (associate institutions or others).

Target group 3

Nationals of the LA Countries that are under particularly vulnerable situations, for social, economic and political reasons.

ELIGIBLE TYPES OF MOBILITY

All Levels

Masters Mobility
Full Masters
Post-doctorates
Staff

Undergraduate Mobility
Masters Mobility
Full Masters

BENEFITS

- Selected applicants will be awarded with a monthly allowance:
 - Undergraduates and Masters: 1000 EUR
 - Post-Docs: 1800 EUR
 - Staff members: 2500 EUR
- A two-way flight ticket plus full health, accident, and travel insurance for the duration of the mobility.
- Students doing a mobility will pay tuition fees to their home institution as tuition is waived in the host university.

Scholarships are available for both EU and LA candidates. Please consult the project's website for detailed information and guidelines.

www.euroinka.eu



THE FIRST COHORT OF GRANTS

EuroInka's first call for applications was launched in December 12, 2014 and closed on March 6, 2015. A total of 500 applications were received from all target groups and for all types of mobility.

Beneficiaries represent 15 nationalities:



Heloisa Tenello Bretas

Home institution: Universidade Estadual Paulista UNESP, Brazil
Host institution: Uppsala University, Sweden
Type of Mobility: Undergraduate mobility

MEET some of our first BENEFICIARIES

Hello! I am Heloisa

and I am currently in Uppsala, Sweden. So far, it has been an awesome experience. When you consider becoming an exchange student, a lot of things may come to your mind. Different places, with different language, people, food, climate, culture, and also, being far from your family and friends. All those things might seem a little bit frightening, and trust me, you will miss home and your loved ones. But every single moment of the great journey that is to be an exchange student is worth it; both the academic knowledge and the life experience change you. You will understand a little bit more about the world, you may learn a new language, you will make friends from far places and have a lot of fun with your differences.

So, to make this experience even better, choose courses that you actually want to do. Even if they are not so related with your program, because the more interested you are, the easier it is going to be. In Brazil I study Law, but in here I decided to take a Peace and Conflict Studies course, which has being an adventure and has opened my mind to new views of the world. Fear not what is to come, and embrace it with an open heart, that's all you need! Thanks Euroinka for the financial support in this journey!



Péter Vékás

Home institution: Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary
Host institution: Universidad Nacional de San Luis, Argentina
Type of Mobility: Academic staff

I have received the scholarship

for academic staff for the academic year 2015/2016, and my mobility will take place in March 2016, so unfortunately, I cannot write a report of my mobility experience yet. I am a lecturer & researcher of Corvinus University of Budapest (BCE), Hungary and a research fellow of MTA-BCE "Lendület" Strategic Interactions Research Group, and I will be hosted by Universidad Nacional de San Luis (UNSL), Argentina. I have never been to Latin America, and I am very much looking forward to my mobility experience in Argentina. My teaching and research activities focus on statistics, insurance and pension systems. My advice for future applicants is to contact several possible host universities well in advance so that they may find the university that suits them best. I did contact several Latin American universities before submitting my application, and finally I found UNSL, where I can cooperate with like-minded lecturers and researchers. I think it is also very important that future applicants from Europe to Latin America should refresh their Spanish once they receive the scholarship, as the language of the mobility program is mostly Spanish in LA institutions. My Spanish is quite fluent but I have forgotten quite a lot recently, so I am going to have several private Spanish classes before my mobility, and I strongly advise other applicants to do so. I advise future applicants that their mobility proposal should be in line with the official objectives of the program, otherwise even a very good proposal may not be sufficient to obtain a scholarship. I wish good luck to future applicants and participants in the program.

Beatriz Millón

Home institution: Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain
Host institution: Universidad de Monterrey, Mexico
Type of Mobility: Master mobility

After two months of **enjoying the Euroinka fellowship**, I can ensure that the experience has been fascinating. Being able to experience different cultures, people, new places, food...It is all a very enriching process. I have no doubt that it's going to be an exceptional period in my studies where I can afford a multitude of experiences. I would like to highlight the support and flexibility provided by my host university, they have been very helpful in the process of personal and academic adjustment. As a master student, I'm able to get into other areas of knowledge different to those studied in my academic life, enlarging my vision. I have studied the degree of Fine Arts and a Master of Artistic Production and now I'm doing a Master in Education, so every class is a new source of discovery.



Lucía Zuppa

Home institution: Universidad Nacional de San Luis, Argentina
Host institution: Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom

When I first arrived in Manchester,

I was a bit scared about what I was going to find. I hadn't had a lot of time to read about the city, its people or lifestyles, and everything was more or less unknown to me. After all, Manchester is not a city you frequently find in English textbooks. Coming from a very small city, I knew that living in Manchester was going to be a challenge. At the same time, I felt very excited to start this new adventure in my life and I was confident I had made the right choice when applying for the Euroinka scholarship. I took me only one weekend to find my way into the city and make friends. Manchester is such a lively city and very welcoming for international students. I am now grateful to be here and to have this amazing opportunity to further my career at Manchester Metropolitan University.

I'm enjoying my course a lot and also the fact that I can be a full time postgraduate student. My professors and classmates are wonderful and very helpful. There is a friendly relaxed atmosphere in every class, and all students get to participate a lot. I have many classmates from different parts of the world and even some local students have an international background too, so it is very interesting to share the experiences, interests, learning styles, and previous knowledge we all bring into the classroom. The professors are always open to students' questions and encourage lively discussions that make us all think critically about the topics we study and reflect upon our own context at the same time. We also participate in study skills workshops that help us to prepare for each assessment we have, and even if these are not mandatory, most of us attend these sessions because they are very useful. We learn to read and write critically, to make oral presentations, use research tools, and design research projects, among other things. Beyond the classroom, we hold regular meetings with the professors where we have the opportunity to share how we feel about the course, what goes well and what can be improved. Besides, the University has plenty of resources and services to help you to access materials, to develop your interests, either academic or non-academic, and to make you feel at home. All these together make the perfect context to pursue my academic goals and make the most of my experience at MMU.

All in all, my experience so far has been great and most importantly very enriching. I am excited about being a student at Manchester Metropolitan University and living in this amazing city. I try to see all my experiences here as learning opportunities to grow not only professionally but also on a personal level. I look forward to what is to come.



LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE PROFILE

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JOSE MARÍA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

“Identidad y Excelencia para el Trabajo Productivo y el Desarrollo”

José María National University (UNAJMA) is located in southern Peru, in the province of Andahuaylas-Apurímac. Our University was created by Law 28372 on November first of 2004 with three schools: Agro industrial Engineering, Systems Engineering and Business Administration. Our University name is inspired by the illustrious writer of our country, Don José María Arguedas.

UNAJMA celebrates eleven years of foundation and nine years of operation. It is building a quality university project, preparing and educating professionals of academic and scientific excellence, a humanistic profile and a focus on research; looking to be consistent with the national and international reality and extending their service to the community.

Since 2014 our university has begun an ambitious project of internationalization with the participation of administrative and academic staff. This has become a continuous and comprehensive process within the university through which we extend our horizons of action abroad and constantly improve our quality standards. In this context UNAJMA joined the Euroinka project, which comprises 20 prestigious universities in Europe and Latin America, and also joined the International University Network of Agro industrial Engineering, which will allow us to expand and strengthen the capacities of international cooperation in higher education.

In addition to the national level UNAJMA has made significant merits as:

- Winners in the XIII National Invention Contest organized by CONCYTEC with the utility model entitled "hydro equipment essential oils of native plants in conditions of supersaturation" presented by the Professors: MSc. David Choque Quispe and Ing. Fredy Taipe Pardo.
- Winners in the national "Research Circles" organized by SCIENTIFIC INC and CONCYTEC 2014 with Project contest: "Research and innovation of advanced materials for industrial and biomedical nanomaterials and composites" presented in conjunction with San Marcos National University, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and the Peruvian University Cayetano Heredia.
- First place in the Eighth National Graduate Thesis Prize Masters and PhD, obtained by Dr. Manuel Fernandez Athó- Professor of the UNAJMA.

Despite of being relatively young and still in process of organization, our University considers research as the central task of its academic labor and as a fundamental mechanism for the creation of knowledge and therefore science and technology, which are still in process in our region.

Dr. Florencio Flores Ccanto, *President of the Organizing Committee*

UNIVERSITY OF PORTO

EUROPEAN INSTITUTION PROFILE

With origins dating back to the XVIII century, the University of Porto is currently one of the most prestigious Higher Education Institutions of Europe.

Close to 32.000 students, 2.400 teachers and researchers along with 1.600 administrative staff attend its 15 schools and 60 scientific research units, spread across 3 university campuses located in the city of Porto.

With 14 faculties and a Business school, the University of Porto provides an exceptional variety of courses, covering the whole range of study areas and all levels of higher education. The quality of its teaching staff (81% of which PhDs) ensures a high quality of training that makes the University of Porto the most sought-after University in Portugal and the chosen university for candidates with highest grades.

Around 3.700 international students, from 111 different countries, attend the University of Porto each year. Half of them arrive through international cooperation agreements and the other half are students that choose attending a full-time programme at the University of Porto. The University of Porto is the biggest producer of Science in Portugal, responsible for 23% of the Portuguese articles indexed each year in the ISI Web of Science.

In fact, the University of Porto has some of the most productive and internationally renowned Portuguese R&D centers. Over half of its research units were classified as “Excellent” or “Very Good” by the latest international. The innovation produced at the University of Porto has also led to the development of several new technologies and businesses. The University has 128 active patents and the University’s Science and Technology (UPTEC) serves as incubator for more than one hundred startup companies, responsible for creating more than 900 new jobs in the region.

These are some of the reasons for the University of Porto being the Portuguese institution with the best scores in all the major international rankings for higher education and scientific research, which ranked the University of Porto as one of the 350 best universities in the world.

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