



SG News Bulletin

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JOINT WORKSHOP ON COLLABORATION WITH SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN WORKSHOP - CONCLUSIONS

The **Joint Workshop on the Collaboration with Sub-Saharan Africa** organised on 4 June 2013 gathered almost 60 participants from Higher Education institutions from across Europe and speakers from Africa represented by Obadiah Mailafia from ACP Secretariat, Prof. Felix Kaputu, visiting professor at Ghent University, and Dr. Christoff Pauw from the Stellenbosch University in South Africa. The event provided for an excellent opportunity to learn about EU-African relations from the perspective of the European Union, to exchange good practices of collaboration in research and education, to identify key partners and stakeholders, and more important to conclude with the indication of conditions for building strong and sustainable relations with African partners.



We would like to address special thanks to speakers from SG member universities, **Daniela Magrini and Prof. Silvia Macchi** from the **Sapienza University of Rome**, **Prof. Albert Roca** from the **Rovira i Virgili University**, **Prof. Rui Vieira Castro** from the **University of Minho**, and **Barbara Costa** from the **University of Porto** for sharing their views and lessons learned that have contributed to the success of this event. We would like to thank the University of Kent for hosting this meeting at its premises in Brussels.

Please find links to the [Conclusions](#) and [Presentations](#) here.

LIAISON OFFICERS MEETING 2013 IN ROUEN

We are pleased to launch a registration to the annual meeting of Liaison Officers to be held at the University of Rouen between 10-11 October 2013. The theme of the year's event is **Genuine Intercultural Dialogue and Mutual Learning between Europe and Africa**.



Read more about the event and find the tentative programme and Registration Form [on the SG website](#).

SG SUMMER SCHOOL 2013 FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES - REGISTRATION OPEN

The SG Network in collaboration with the University of Cantabria is pleased to invite doctoral candidates and PhD holders from our member universities to participate in the Summer School on **Applied Research: From University to Industry** to be held between 1-6 September 2013. The event is next in a series of activities designed for young researchers to develop their professional skills and to advance their career paths.



The School will provide participants the opportunity to learn about **research planning, protecting research findings, entrepreneurship and leading edge research in the private sector**. To do so, the Santander Group European Universities' Network and the Vice-Rectorate and the Doctoral School of the University of Cantabria have set-up this comprehensive course with local and international experts in the field. This thorough academic Agenda is complemented by cultural and social activities that will take place in Cantabria, a region rich in natural beauty and heritage, in the North of Spain, next to the Cantabrian Sea.

The early bird registration deadline for the SG Summer School on **Applied Science: from University to Industry** to be held in Santander between 1-6 September falls on 7 July 2013. We invite candidates from all SG members [to visit our website](#).

WORLD'S BANK LAUNCHES AFRICAN CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (ACE)

The World Bank expects to kick off a new US\$430 million Africa "Centres of Excellence" initiative next month, aimed at strengthening capacity in universities in West and Central Africa.



The project will promote regional specialisation among participating universities and strengthen their ability to deliver quality training and research. The project targets strengthening seven to 10 higher education institutions in West and Central Africa, where 10 to 15 centers of excellence will be selected to focus on training and applied research in areas of relevance to Africa's development such as water, infrastructure, hospitality industries, banking, and information and communication technology.

Qualifying universities and centers will be supported to bolster postgraduate programmes, attract top researchers and produce more research, improve curricula with input from experts, and offer specialised courses for industry professionals. Existing facilities will be upgraded and better resourced and equipped. Please refer to [the following link](#) for more information.

COST - EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

COST invites researchers throughout Europe to submit proposals for **research networks** and use this unique opportunity to exchange knowledge and to embark on new European perspectives. A continuous Open Call for Proposals is used to attract the best proposals for new COST Actions.



The support will cover the costs of networking activities such as meetings (e.g. travel, subsistence, local organiser support), conferences, workshops, short-term scientific exchanges, training schools, publications and dissemination activities. COST does not fund the research itself.

For more information and deadlines please visit [COST official website](#).

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

ERASMUS MUNDUS VECCEU FINAL MEETING IN ECUADOR - UNIVERSITY OF VALLADOLID

Between **27 - 30 May 2013** the Final Meeting of the **EM VECCEU Project** took place at the “Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabí”, in Manta (Ecuador).



The VECCEU Project has run for 4 years (2009 – 2013) during which the mobility of 142 scholarship holders has taken place at all levels: undergraduate, master, doctorate, post-doctorate and administrative staff in both directions: 15% of scholarship holders from EU performed studies at the Latin American partner universities and 85% of scholarship holders from Latin America studied at the European ones.

The project partners met in Manta to evaluate the results and the outcomes of the project, as well as to work in its sustainability and the future actions. Apart from the fulfilled individual mobilities, the project has had a significant institutional impact in terms of having established a sustainable relationship between the partner universities by the development of bilateral agreements, joint research projects, cotutelles and strong academic networks.

The first part of the meeting also counted on the presence of the representatives of SENECYT, the President of the Council of Higher Education of Ecuador, and the representatives of the International Relations Committee of Ecuadorian Universities, who attended a Workshop on Internationalization imparted by Mar Fernández, VECCEU Coordinator.