

Activities and Services

Newsletter – COLUMBUS ASSOCIATION

March 2014



News

Assembly of Columbus' member universities, Río de Janeiro, July 29th, 2014. Save the date! The member universities will participate at the annual meeting of universities, where decisions on the Association's orientation policy, strategy and actions will be taken. At this occasion the Governing Board will be renewed for the period 2014-2016. This is an excellent opportunity to meet colleagues from Latin-American, Spanish and Portuguese universities (more than 1200 rectors participated in the two previous editions). *The member universities will soon receive the meeting's program and practical information.*

Erasmus + and Horizon 2020

The understanding of the new mechanisms and rules of new EU programs 2014-2020, is a key factor for a successful participation in them. The Secretariat has recently participated in European Commission's info-sessions and made contact with the officials in charge, in order to be able to share with its members timely and accurate information. Two online and face-to-face info-sessions have been already carried-out.

Next activity: E-session for Latin-American member universities on the new ways of participating in Erasmus + International Mobility and on the services offered by Columbus. [More information](#)



Web-based training programs

Web-based action-training programs: E-courses, e-workshops and, as usual, the successful U-benchmarking club, to support the development and professionalization of institutional management. *Free for members.*

- **Workshop on attraction and recruitment of international students.** Facilitator: Maite Viudes, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain). Scheduled for May 2014
- **Workshop on internationalization of research.** Facilitator: Jesús Sebastián, Higher Council for Scientific Research (Spain). Scheduled for June 2014.
- **Benchmarking in Interdisciplinary Research.** Facilitators: Carlos Teixeira Graeff, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) and Hebe Vessuri, former board member of the United Nations University. Registration open. Scheduled for April 2014.
- **Workshop on curricula and internationalization at home.** Facilitators: Jos Beelen, University of Applied Sciences in Amsterdam and Mary Ortueta, Autonomous Organisation (Netherlands), María Ortueta, Autonomous Agency for European Educational Programmes (Spain). 2nd edition scheduled for September 2014.

[Before each activity, members will receive a specific note with the thematic content, registration instructions and sessions' schedule.](#)

Activities and permanent services

UniScan: Instrument that assess the current research potential of an institution, of its researchers and of its academic units that allows to identify approaches to increase its competitiveness in obtain external research funds, both national and international. *Free for members.* [More information](#)

Internships in Brussels for representatives of member universities. Organized in collaboration with Moverim Consultancy, this is a full immersion on European Commission's functioning, through participation on info-sessions and interviews, as well as on training by Moverim. [More information](#)

Narrowcasting: dissemination of funding opportunities and support for international development projects. Through searching for opportunities, analysing calls and evaluating the feasibility of the projects and partner seeking, Columbus supports members' teams responsible for European projects.

Columbus Partners: Consulting based on a wide network of experts in Europe and Latin America, it also relies on members' universities experience. CP offers professional advice in areas of interest for international organizations, governmental agencies, universities and related institutions. [More information](#)

Projects under development

Sustainable universities: action-training project, coordinated by Columbus and University of Goteborg (Sweden). The first phase was completed on December 2013. Participating universities shared their strengths in relation to sustainable development in two areas: Campus management and academic activities. In the second phase, starting in March 2014, the universities will work on these two axes. The expected results are ISO 14001 certified processes and academic collaboration in teaching programs and research projects with greater impact on environmental sustainability. [More information](#)



ERICAI - Enhancing Relevant International Cooperation between Academia and Industry.

This project, focused on food technology and its relation to human health, is coordinated by Columbus, the University of Rovira i Virgili (Spain) and the University of Aveiro (Portugal), with the participation of 15 European and Latin-American member universities ([see list](#)). The project started in December 2013 and will continue during 2014 through several stages, such as: reciprocal knowledge of participating universities' strengths in the food area, design and

implementation of a survey to the productive sector. This thematic network will develop activities in the field of training, continuing education and research, in collaboration with companies and with external funding. [More information](#)

Alfa Guía Project

Columbus is currently developing an Institutional Guide for improving students' retention, which will be shared with all Alfa Guía and Columbus members. More information about the project

Please visit the Web-site for more news about Columbus and its members:

Current Affairs – News/Events

http://www.columbus-web.com/eventos_noticias.php