



SGROUP
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES'
NETWORK



Think Tanks for Latin America and China Meeting 6 – 7 June 2018, University of Porto

Summary

6th June 2018	2
1. Latin America.....	2
1.1. Status and Discussion of the future of the ICon Programme.....	2
1.2. Agreement with FAUBAI	3
1.3. SGroup Experts for Cooperation with Latin America	4
1.4. Funding from EU.....	4
1.5. Student fairs in LA	4
2. China.....	5
2.1. ENRICH China	5
2.2. Business Etiquette in China	5
2.3. Programme of Activities - China.....	6
2.3.1. Beijing Forum 2018	6
2.3.2. SGroup Summer School in Shanghai 2018	6
3. Think Tank Meeting in Trieste, October 2018.....	7
7th June 2018	7
4. Cooperation between Europe and Latin America.....	7
5. Workshop: How to write successful Erasmus+ proposals.....	7
6. Webinar – Summer School.....	8
Annex I: List of Participants	9



SGROUP
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES'
NETWORK



6th June 2018

1. Latin America

Bárbara Claeys, Ghent University, and Bárbara Costa, University of Porto.

Refer to the presentation "TTLA_ June18" enclosed.

1.1. Status and Discussion of the future of the ICon Programme

Bárbara Costa reviewed the main objectives of the ICon Programme and the status of submissions. Only four applications were submitted, resulting in three scholarships assigned. The low number of applications surprised the SGroup Executive Committee, which budgeted five scholarships for the academic year 2017-2018. Therefore, the discussion focused on the reasons why members did not join the programme, the main problems with dissemination and what must be done in order to encourage more applications and increase the interest in the project.

How was the dissemination / selection process among the member Universities?

- Babes-Bolyai University was a successful case. Anca Kiss explained that three professors applied, and then an internal committee choose among the candidates, considering their experience and field of research, but also the topics that better fit the perspective of the University
- The University of Minho encountered various restrictions with regard to their tough internal regulations. However, problems seem to be solved now. Beatriz Araújo pointed out that the University receives some other grants which may seem more appealing. Furthermore, the selection of candidates revealed to be a quite complex process, since the criteria would have to be specified internally, as those released by SGroup were too general.
- Barbara Claeys explained that Ghent University provided 10 internal grants for mobility with Latin America, and the competition for acquiring them was very intense among professors. She believed that the number of ICon scholarships available would be much lower than the number of applications received. Therefore, and as she was part of ICon's organizing committee, she chose not to disseminate the programme that much within the University.
- Arnim Heinemann referred that there were no applications from the University of Bayreuth because they provide many scholarships. He believes that supporting programs end up "cannibalizing" each other.
- At the University of Valladolid, the high expectations raised by the ICon programme represent the biggest problem. Marian Calvo explained that it was difficult to communicate the initiative, especially because potential participants would be

discouraged from applying, believing they would not be able to get the scholarship among so many applications.

- At the University of Porto, the first two applications received were weak, so the International Relations Office choose to open a second call, in order to reach documents with a higher quality. Furthermore, one of the topics in the application form whose answers were more incomplete was the description of the benefits that the mobility would bring to SGroup.
- Edme Dominguez, from the University of Gothenburg, didn't know about the ICon grants, and explained that there is also a relevant competition from other scholarships.

How can accession problems be solved?

- Build a strong "ICon community" among ICon participants. Build a brand that, in a near future, will be extended to other regions.
- Disseminate short presentations from the professors who attended the first edition of the ICon programme.
- Restrict the application procedure to a specific group of candidates. For example, the call can be opened only for new professors, senior professors, or by area of research- Because if the call is to general, nobody believes that they will have a chance.

1.2. Agreement with FAUBAI

Bárbara Costa explained the importance of the FAUBAI (the largest association of IROs from Brazilian HEIs) conference, which currently allows networking and discussion of international projects that goes far beyond Brazilian institutions, extending on a global scale. Both Bárbara Costa and Barbara Clayes have participated in FAUBAI conferences for a few years, taking the opportunity to meet new partners and establishing synergies. In 2018, they presented a session, on behalf of SGroup, about international relations strategy, which they considered very productive.

In 2019, the FAUBAI conference will take place in Belem, state of Pará, from April 13 to 17, and it would be very positive if SGroup could be, once again, represented in the event. Therefore, the participation of members is crucial, both in brainstorming ideas and to be present at the stand.

Barbara Clayes explained that SGroup intends to disclose an updated document in the intranet area, where the most important fairs and conferences will be listed, in order to make members aware of relevant events. It would also be important to add one page focusing of student fairs, where members could register their participation. Thus, it would be possible to share booths among member universities, benefiting from collective knowledge and experiences and stimulating true cooperation.



SGROUP
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES'
NETWORK



1.3. SGroup Experts for Cooperation with Latin America

SGroup already provides a list with internal experts in Latin America, which is available to members on the website intranet area; however, it must be improved. There should be two contact points: one inside of the Think Tank, and another external – but the data protection regulation must be taken seriously into account. There should be a focus on expanding the list, including a broader geographic representation and a regional focus.

1.4. Funding from EU

Barbara Clayes presented an overview on funding opportunities from EU that can be implemented in Latin America, focusing on the Erasmus+ call of 2019 (which is expected to be launched in October 2018) and the priorities to be addressed.

The political situation in Brazil can represent a barrier to internationalization; although the PrInt programme predicts the financing of 40 projects. In past calls, the eligibility criteria was kept in secret for a long time and, when revealed it was quite hard to understand, and it was not clear and written only in Portuguese.

She encouraged members to insist with students and young researchers to ask the Brazilian government for scholarships, as they are usually provided. She also presented a list of funding opportunities in LA, as they are always new calls available.

Rebeca Tomás, from the Rovira I Virgili University, shared her experience with the *Conacyt* programme with Mexico. She explained that establishing the agreement required lots of work and there were many hindrances in the implementation process, although they got it after all.

1.5. Student fairs in LA

Bárbara Costa shared the experience of the University of Porto in attending students' fairs in Latin America. She explained it has been really useful, since they adapt their international procedures and approaches according after getting to know the target audience better. As an example, she referred that the University has changed the application dates for Brazilian students, considering the necessary time for them to get their VISAs. They also involve alumnae students to participate in their events and to provide their feedback first hand.

The growing interest of Latin American students on the University of Porto has been reflected in the University outcomes over the past few years.



2. China

2.1. ENRICH China

Vasco Barros, Portuguese Society of Innovation.

Refer to the presentation "ENRICHChina_TTC_June18" enclosed.

Vasco Barros presented the ENRICH – European Network of Research and Innovation Centres and Hubs project, focusing on the China centre. He made an overview of the ENRICH services portfolio, including a list of visits, trainings and webinars already developed.

Inge Mangelschots wanted to understand how ENRICH can be useful for the China platform of Ghent University. Vasco Barros believes the main services that can be provided include consultancy and counselling, but each case must be studied individually, so that the next steps to be taken can be defined, in order to achieve specific goals.

Bárbara Costa asked about the prices. Vasco explained the ENRICH project doesn't work on tabled prices, because they have to study the specific requests of each client. As this is an EU-funded project, partners are already being paid, but the services are charged so that an image of the sustainability begins to be built. There are, however, some services that are still free of charges, like some webinars. Others are not completely free, but travel and subsistence expenses are covered by the project or by local governments.

2.2. Business Etiquette in China

Elizabeth Deacon, University College London.

Elizabeth Deacon began her skype conference by presenting herself and her academic and professional path, mostly related with institution exchanges and cultural etiquette in China, being now the senior partnership manager in East Asia of the University College London. Then, she listed the elements she believes are important to be approach in the workshop of the Think Tank meeting in Trieste, to be held on the 16th October. They are as follows:

- Initial quiz to measure participants' knowledge on China;
- Cross-cultural communication (avoid problems by implementing a clear communication in a business environment);
- Historical background of China;
- Etiquette (in businesses, meetings, academic contacts...);
- Chinese concepts;
- Chinese superstitions;
- Gits;
- Dining;
- Conversation topics (what to discuss and what to avoid);



SGROUP
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES'
NETWORK



- Internationalization.

2.3. Programme of Activities - China

Arnim Heinemann, University of Bayreuth, and Philipp Dengel, Bavarian Platform in China.

Refer to the presentation "TTC_ June18" enclosed.

Arnim Heinemann presented an overview of the SGroup plan of activities in the context of the Think Tank for China, including the Think Tank Meetings (in Porto, June 6 and 7, and Trieste, October 15 and 16), the Summer School in Shanghai and the attendance to past events and conferences.

2.3.1. Beijing Forum 2018

Regarding the Beijing Forum 2018, Phillip Dengel focused on one of the papers presented, "China's Growing Political Influence in Europe", warning for Europe's negligence on China's increasing influence, in particular in which regards higher education institutions. It is a provocative paper he believes all members should read, not because he agreed with all the conclusions but because it raises important and current themes to be explored in the context of the Think Tank for China. It triggers the awareness for a sensitive topic, by redefining boundaries and exploiting new ways of cooperation.

2.3.2. SGroup Summer School in Shanghai 2018

Arnim Heinemann presented the last updates regarding the SGroup Summer school in Shanghai: it will happen between the 3rd of August and the 1st of September, with 20 students from 5 universities and an organizing committee that includes SGroup members, student assistants from BayChina and staff from Shanghai International Studies University. Until the 31st of June all students will finish their payments, and during July the administrative procedures will be completed.

The final programme was presented, including new guest speakers and excursions. There are still some details do be adjust and it is continuously subject to change. Philip pointed out the importance of the "WeChat" group, which has been the main platform used for direct communication between students and the organizing committee.

Arnim Heinemann focused also on the budget, explaining the costs that led to the participation fee of 1600€, including accommodation, social programme and language courses.



SGROUP
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES'
NETWORK



3. Think Tank Meeting in Trieste, October 2018

Participants brainstormed about the most important topics to be discussed in the following SGroup Think Tank meeting, which will happen in Trieste on the 15th and 16th October 2018. The first day will mainly focus on internal business, while the second one will include external speakers. Elizabeth Deacon would probably be accepted as one of the guests on the 16th.

Participants were asked to fill an online questionnaire where they could present their suggestions about new topics to be included, as well as new proposals for guest speakers.

The Think Tank Academy was also mentioned in the discussion, since the results of the survey disclosed by Hans Abelius will be presented, according to members' needs and proposals.

7th June 2018

4. Cooperation between Europe and Latin America

Nicolas Maillard, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul.

*Refer to the presentation "**Cooperation-EU-LA_TTLA_June18**" enclosed.*

The skype conference by Nicolas Maillard focused on the cooperation between Europe and Latin America in the Brazilian perspective, specifically in three main points: actors (including networks, national agencies and universities), actions (student mobility, research and cooperation) and tools (mainly Erasmus+, CAPES and UNCESCO CRES 2018). The political and economical context in Brazil may affect the existing options, although the experience from Europe remains essential for Brazilian institutions.

5. Workshop: How to write successful Erasmus+ proposals

Ana Reis, University of Porto, and Delfien Cloet, Ghent University.

*Refer to the presentation "**Workshop_TT_June18**".*

The workshop of the last day of the Think Tank meeting covered the following topics:

- Erasmus+ and its international dimension;
- Pros' and cons' of projects proposals;
- Project writing: 4 stages – the basics;
- Project writing: focus on ICM and CBHE.

Since, because of the changes in the agenda, it was not possible to do the practical exercise on the 7th June, the guidelines were distributed among participants and sent by email.



SGROUP
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES'
NETWORK



6. Webinar – Summer School

Arnim Heinemann, Philip Dengel and Mariana Sousa presented students the latest changes in the programme of the Summer School in Shanghai, through a webinar. 14 participants attended the online meeting, which also included a Q&A period to clarify remaining logistic doubts.

Annex I: List of Participants

Name	Position	Institution	Field of Expertise	Email
Anca Kiss	International Officer	Babes-Bolyai University	Latin America	anca.kiss@ubbcluj.ro
Angel Urquizu Cavalle	Professor/Head Department of Financial Law	Rovira i Virgili University	Business/international trading	angel.urquizu@urv.cat
Anne-Laure Villeminot	International Officer	University of Liège	Erasmus+ projects	anne-laure.villeminot@uliege.be
Antonio Nomdedeu Rull	Associated Professor / Director	Rovira i Virgili University / Center for Hispanic Studies	Spanish as a Foreign Language	antonio.nomdedeu@urv.cat
Arnim Heinemann	Director of the International Office	University of Bayreuth / SGroup EC	China	Arnim.Heinemann@uni-bayreuth.de
Barbara Claeys	International Relations Officer	Ghent University	Latin America	barbara.claeys@ugent.be
Bárbara Costa	Director of the International Relations Office	University of Porto / SGroup EC	Latin America	bcosta@reit.up.pt
Beatriz Araújo	Director of the International Office	University of Minho	International Relations management	beatriz@sri.uminho.pt
Delfien Cloet	International Relations Office	Ghent University	EU education projects (Tempus, Capacity Building, Jean Monnet, credit mobility)	delfien.cloet@ugent.be
Edme Dominguez R	Associate professor, head of Area Studies at the School of Global Studies	University of Gothenburg	Latin America	edme.dominguez@gu.se
Inge Mangelschots	Coordinator China Platform, IRO	Ghent University	China	inge.mangelschots@ugent.be
Joanna Mrowiec-Denkowska	Head of International Mobility Office	Silesian University of Technology (SUT)	International mobility	joanna.mrowiec-denkowska@polsl.pl
João Pedro Pêgo	Erasmus Local Coordinator FEUP	University of Porto	Civil Engineering	jppego@fe.up.pt
Marian Calvo	International officer	University of Valladolid	European projects	mariaangeles.calvo@uva.es
Mariana Sousa	Executive Secretary	SGroup	Projects	mariana.sousa@sgroup.be
Martine Currie	International Relations Officer, Partnerships in Asia	University of Le Havre Normandie	International networks /Cooperation with Asia	martine.currie@univ-lehavre.fr
Natália Antunes	International Relations Office - Projects	University of Minho	Projects	proje@sri.uminho.pt
Philipp Dengel	Manager	Baychina / University of Bayreuth	China	Philipp.Dengel@uni-bayreuth.de
Rebeca Tomás	International Relations officer	Rovira i Virgili University	International relations	rebeca.tomas@urv.cat
Rosário Trindade	Leader	University of Porto (Faculty of Engineering)	International cooperation	mrt@fe.up.pt
Sergio Romeo Malanda	Director of Non European Mobility and International Relations	University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Mobility Programs with Latin America and Asia	dmovint@ulpgc.es