

## **2000-716-CAN**

### **The Theory and Practice of Public Management and Policy Analysis in Canada and the EC: Fostering Social Cohesion in an Era of Globalisation**

*This project brings together nine institutions of higher education in a partnership with public authorities and professional associations, in both the EC and Canada, to promote multilateral transatlantic mobility and co-operation in education and training of future policy-makers. The ultimate goal is to foster social cohesion through new public management and policy strategies.*

Aimed at undergraduate and graduate students with an academic interest in a wide range of public policy initiatives intended to promote social cohesion, this programme defines the development of shared values and equal opportunities based on a sense of trust and reciprocity among all members of a community. Two public policy areas related to social cohesion that are particularly strong in the partner institutions are social policy (health care, employment, social security) and regional/local development. However, the project will also focus on other areas, such as sustainable development and technological innovation that are relevant to the theme of social cohesion.

There are three main activities within the planned consortium: transatlantic mobility for mobile students, intensive programmes for less mobile students and distance learning and creation of a consortium website.

Public managers and policy makers in Canada and the EC are facing increasingly complex and similar developments due to the pressures of market globalisation, continuing mobility, changing demographics, economic restructuring and the rapid spread of new information technologies. These combined pressures have the potential to fragment and polarise communities along economic, cultural and social lines on both sides of the Atlantic. It understates the case to assert that Europeans and Canadians benefit greatly by learning from each other's experiences and approaches with regard to these emerging public issues. Several teams of experts in Europe and Canada are already engaged in collaborative research on policy responses to key pressure points under such themes as "social cohesion in a globalising era" or "recasting the welfare state." The challenge for this consortium is not so much to duplicate existing research collaboration as to facilitate transatlantic student mobility that will support the mutual understanding of, and shared experience with, these new developments among public managers and policy makers of the future.

#### **Projected Outcomes**

The project will make an original contribution on at least two counts. Building on existing bilateral linkages, it will create a solid foundation of multilateral partnerships between different types of higher education, research and training institutions. The project links public policy and public administration programmes, schools of management, faculties of social policy and a business school, transcending outdated disciplinary boundaries, bringing to bear the insights of political science, management, administration, economics, sociology and law.

Over the three years, we expect to foster transatlantic mobility for at least 40 European and 32 Canadian students. Exchange students will spend one semester across the Atlantic receiving cultural and linguistic preparation, taking courses and engaging in supervised research. In addition, we will organise two short intensive programmes for students (especially graduate students contemplating a teaching career) who are less mobile. These activities will be complemented by the joint development of innovative curricula and teaching materials and the use of new technologies and distance learning for students who do not have the opportunity to study abroad. In addition to the five European universities and the four Canadian universities, public and para-public agencies on each side will participate as partners in the project, providing internships and training opportunities to exchange students at each university. We will also recruit partners from the private sector as the project develops.

### **The Partners**

The host institutions have agreed to assure supervision enabling the student to combine coursework with direction/assistance in their research; supervision is more than purely academic. Each of the universities is located in a relatively small city, offering a wide variety of university-based organised activities. Each partner institution will make an effort to insure that all visiting students who are not already familiar with the host country's official language will receive training in the language and culture of the host country both before and after their departure. Visiting students will enjoy full academic recognition of the study period abroad, whether in the form of coursework or practical work placement.

Member institutions will also undertake to provide in-kind resources and, directly or indirectly, funds to allow for continued transatlantic student mobility beyond the initial three years of the project.

PROJECT NUMBER 2000-716-CAN  
PROJECT TITLE **The Theory and Practice of Public Management and Policy Analysis in Canada and the EC: Fostering Social Cohesion in an Era of Globalisation**

KEYWORDS Comparative policy analysis, transatlantic mobility for students, intensive programmes for less mobile students, distance learning

NUMBER OF STUDENTS Mobile (one semester): 72  
(intensive): 9

STARTING DATE 21 December, 2000  
DURATION 3 years

TOTAL COST Europe: 217.600 euro  
EC Contribution: 108.600 euro  
Canada: \$198.000 CDN

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