

Title of Partnership

IMRD – Partnership for Exposure to Rural Development Approaches in China

Masters Course running the Partnership

International MSc in Rural Development

Duration : 3 years

Summary description

1.Objectives

To create a research based network of excellence for education in rural development between IMRD Consortium and Chinese institutes for rural development studies with following specific goals:

- increasing the interaction between the organising institutions of the IMRD and centres of excellence in China working on rural development
- Sharing knowledge on rural development approaches and experiences from Europe and China in order to test and analyse how common theoretical principles on rural development need to be adapted to regional circumstances
- Through interaction with the partner institutions diffuse the knowledge about the European model of Rural Development
- Increasing the knowledge on specific characteristics and needs of sustainable rural development in China and to increase the teaching capacities to respond to these needs
- increasing the interaction between EU and China with respect to research, practices and policies of rural development
- increasing the outreach of the IMRD by using the Chinese partner institutions as reference points for interested non-EU students

2.Duration: The duration of the partnership is three years, including academic year 2005-2006, academic year 2006-2007, and academic year 2007-2008

3.List of partners

The 3 partners in this network are selected based on following criteria: outstanding and recognised institutes for teaching and research on rural development problems in their part of the world, having established links with IMRD institutes, being considered as a reference centre for rural development in China and beyond and having a course and research programme that provides added value for EU students and scholars. By having partner institutes from different regions and disciplines in China, we want to expose students and scholars of the network to the knowledge about and insight in the specific rural development problems of China in these different institutions.

Partner	Action	Country	Province
1)	Rural Development Institute of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences	China	Beijing
2)	Nanjing Agricultural University	China	Jiangsu
3)	Shan Dong Agricultural University	China	Shan Dong

4. Activities and role of third country institutions:

Given our objective to exchange experiences on specific rural development problems between EU countries and China, the activities aim to increase the exposure and exchange on rural development issues in different parts of these regions by:

- Yearly organisation of a seminar on rural development with presentations from scholars and students from both IMRD institutes as from partner institutes.
- Exchange of students and scholars for educational and research activities
- Exchange of theoretical and practical knowledge on rural development practices within the network

The specific role of the third country partner institutes will be:

- To actively participate in the exchange and diffusion of knowledge on rural development issues and in the improvement of IMRD teaching programmes and practices
- Hosting and inclusion of EU IMRD students and scholars in their educational programme

- Collaboration and supervision within research activities of EU students and scholars

5. Outgoing mobility scheme students:

a. Selection criteria for students: EU nationality, language skills, relevant research topic for dissertation (research proposal), motivation for exchange, academic performance;

b. Number of outgoing students per year: in total maximum 20 students per year, in principle 3 to 5 students per consortium partner (Ghent University, Humboldt University, Agrocampus Rennes, Cordoba University, University of Wageningen, Nitra University and Pisa university);

c. Duration of stay: the students stay in principle 3 months;

d. If the student follows courses, the student will be accredited ECTS upon passing exams according regulations from hosting institute; if the student conducts research for his/her dissertation, the student will produce a research progress report approved by his/her supervisor from the hosting institute. All academic activities of EU students in third country institutes will be fully recognised for his IMRD Master curriculum.

e. Language of instruction for students: The IMRD languages are English, French, German or Spanish. The exchange to the Chinese institutes can only be done in English

Outgoing mobility scheme scholars:

a. Selection criteria for scholars: EU national, relevant research topic or educational contribution; motivation for exchange; potential contribution to further development of partnership and/or research and education related to rural development;

b. Number of outgoing scholars per year: in total 3 scholars per year;

c. Duration of stay: the scholar will stay a maximum of 3 months

d. Work carried out by scholar: scholar will conduct research, contribute to the education in the field of rural development at the hosting institute and explore potential further research/education collaboration

e. Language of work for scholars: English

Beneficiary

Universiteit GENT
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Co-ordinator

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European Partners

- 1) Humboldt University of Berlin (DE)
- 2) Universidad de Cordoba (ES)
- 3) Institut national d'enseignement supérieur et de recherche agronomique et agroalimentaire de Rennes (FR)
- 4) Università degli Studi di Pisa (IT)
- 5) Wageningen Universiteit (NL)
- 6) Slovenská Poľnohospodárska

Third-Country Partner Institutions

- 1) Rural Development Institute of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (China)
- 2) Nanjing Nongye Daxue (China)
- 3) Shan dong Agricultural University (China)

Grant

348.000 € (45.000 € partnership + 303.000 € scholarships)