

EuropeAid

The Commission steps up support for student exchanges between the EU and Iran, Iraq and Yemen

The European Commission decided to provide €3 million to finance the next edition of the successful mobility scheme "Erasmus Mundus" with Iran, Iraq and Yemen. Entering its fourth year, the Erasmus Mundus programme will allow for a minimum of 100 scholarships in the school year 2010-2011. These scholarships facilitate the mobility of undergraduate, master, doctorate and post-doctoral students from Iran, Iraq and Yemen; exchanges of academic staff are also made possible under the programme. This contribution to the Erasmus Mundus programme is funded through the Development Cooperation Instrument of the Commission.

Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner said *"Scholarship programmes foster a deeper understanding between our people, especially young people. This is a development programme 'par excellence' "*.

To prepare the 2010/2011 academic year, a Call for Proposals will already be launched at the end of 2009 with the aim of establishing consortia of universities from the EU and universities from Iran, Iraq and Yemen. These consortia will manage specific exchange programmes through which eligible students and staff can apply.

With this initiative, the European Union confirms its commitment to the importance of higher education for economic and social development. Higher education plays a crucial role in producing high quality workforce, in disseminating scientific discovery and advanced knowledge. In the context of today's global economy and an increasingly knowledge-based society, promoting international co-operation and mobility between higher education institutions in the EU and other countries is a win-win situation: it contributes to the mutual enrichment of nations and to a better understanding among peoples.

Erasmus Mundus promotes Europe as a centre of excellence in higher education and gives grants to third-country students and scholars to obtain a masters degree in Europe. It also supports co-operation between European and non-European universities and encourages the mobility of European students and scholars towards universities in third countries.

So far already 300 students from Iran, Iraq and Yemen have benefited from the Erasmus Programme.

More information can be found on the EMECW website:

<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/extcoop/call/index.htm>

The website of the general Erasmus Mundus programme can be consulted at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/index_en.html



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