



**ALISIOS**  
ACADEMIC LINKS  
AND STRATEGIES  
FOR THE  
INTERNATIONALISATION  
OF THE  
HE SECTOR

# ALISIOS WORKSHOP REPORTS

APRIL 2014

## Report of the ALISIOS Workshop I

*Brazil-Europe higher education cooperation:  
Lessons and opportunities from Science without  
Borders and beyond*



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# ALISIOS

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WORKSHOP I

The first Workshop of the ALISIOS project, entitled “Brazil-Europe higher education cooperation: Lessons and opportunities from Science without Borders and beyond”, took place at the University of Saint-Louis in Brussels on 29 and 30 January 2014. The workshop was organised by the European University Association (EUA) as a pre-event of the EUA’s Council of Rectors’ Meeting.

The main **objectives** of the Workshop were:

- Present and discuss current political strategies for HE internationalisation in Brazil and Europe;
- Discuss the articulation between these strategies and the programmes that support their implementation (Science without Borders, Erasmus +, Horizon 2020 and other programmes);
- Identify common priorities between Brazil and Europe in this field, such as partnership, two-way mobility/structured mobility and research collaboration;
- Discuss means for better aligning and enhancing political investment and institutional implementation when it comes to the internationalisation strategies, with special reference to Europe and Brazil;
- Discuss and identify areas where national agencies in Europe, governments and institutions may work more closely together when it comes to partnership with Brazil (with special reference to Science without Borders).

The first day was organised in **three sessions**:

- session 1 – “Higher Education Internationalisation – Contextualising EU-Brazilian partnership”;
- session 2 – “From policy to programmes: Implementation of national and regional internationalisation strategies”;
- session 3 – “Aligning and enhancing political investment and institutional priorities: the case of Brazil”

**Session 1** - “Higher Education Internationalisation – Contextualising EU-Brazilian partnership” was chaired by António Rendas, President of the Portuguese Rectors' Conference (CRUP), Portugal, and introduced the major themes via two keynotes, one from a European and one from a Brazilian perspective

Carla Salvaterra, Vice-Rector of the University of Bologna, Italy, and Elizabeth Colucci, Programme Manager at EUA, Belgium, presented “Introduction to ALISIOS: Strategic European Internationalisation and the role of Brazil”, putting the project into the wider context of the internationalisation of European Higher Education.



**Elizabeth Colucci** pointed out that internationalisation of HE in Europe is shifting from a focus on Europe (mobility, Bologna process and resulting structural reforms) to a focus in the wider world (global focus), as a result of increased international interdependencies in societal issues, globalisation of the job market, growth of mobile students, the emergence of an international education market, and the appearance of large scholarship programmes.

This shift to a global focus has been supported by programmes such as Erasmus Mundus, ALFA, Edu-Link, Asia-Link and policy strategies such as the European Higher Education in the World (2013)<sup>1</sup>. The current context implies a stronger and holistic development of institutional strategies, long term and equitable partnerships and national and regional support for policy dialogues that can remove the legislative obstacles and support flexible programmes and two-way mobility.

**Carla Salvaterra** introduced the ALISIOS project in this context. The project focuses on Brazil as a unique opportunity for international cooperation in period of 2011-2016 and for rethinking the European approach to the new trends in global Higher Education. The Science without Borders programme triggered the need to go beyond bilateral arrangements that shaped existing cooperation between Europe and Brazil. It brought in challenges that raised the need of collaboration between the EU Member States and opened the potential for knowledge sharing and best practices development. ALISIOS aims at using this experience to draw important conclusions for European cooperation with other emerging countries and regions.

**Targino de Araújo Filho**, rector of the Universidade Federal de São Carlos (Federal University of Sao Carlos) and President for International Affairs of the Associação Nacional dos Dirigentes das Instituições Federais de Ensino Superior (ANDIFES – National Association of the Federal HE Institutions) described the role of internationalisation in the development of Brazil's knowledge society, putting SwB into the wider Brazilian context of Higher Education. The Brazilian plan for Education (2011-2020) defines the goal of 11,5 million enrolments in HE by 2020: the double of the enrolments registered in 2010. Growth from 2003 to 2012 has been remarkable in several dimensions including enrolment in public universities and especially in Federal Universities where student numbers increased 92%. Still, in 2012, the public sector accounted for just 27% of the enrolled students.

In this context SwB is seen as a very welcome development by Brazilian universities, which were able to implement over 40,000 mobility grants in strategic areas of Engineering, Computer Science, Biological Sciences, Health Sciences and Exact Sciences. The impact can be inferred from the case study of the University of S. Carlos: undergraduate mobility totalled 70 students

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/international-cooperation/world-education\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/international-cooperation/world-education_en.htm)

outside SwB and 433 students through SwB. This dramatic increase triggered a new institutional culture and identified new difficulties and challenges.

Among the difficulties and challenges brought by SwB the following were enumerated: involving other areas outside the ones prioritized for SwB, fostering Faculty and Staff mobility, effectively attracting visiting researchers to Brazil, staff qualification in international relations management and project management, and more broadly, fostering an internationalisation culture within the institutions. Language issues became central stressing the need for better language centres and increased foreign language proficiency in students and staff. Also the recognition of study abroad is still problematic, requiring more international curricula, more joint programmes and more internationalisation of faculty. The argument was made for a debate that goes beyond SwB and its implementation, in order to define internationalisation strategies both at the institutional and the national levels in a sustainable and fruitful way. This implies interagency planning aiming at a policy to leverage these isolated initiatives and build exchange programmes embedded in joint research projects and academic partnerships, based on the identification of strategic priority areas.

**Session 2** was chaired by Renée Zicman, Consultant in Internationalisation of Higher Education/ Special Advisor of the Presidency of FAUBAI, Brazil and it focused primarily on the development and implementation of national and regional internationalisation strategies for higher education and research. It outlined the major funding programmes that have been designed to support these strategies, such as the Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 in Europe, as well as Science without Borders in Brazil.

The first two speakers: **Jordi Curell**, Director of the Directorate General Education and Culture, European Commission, Belgium, and **Sieglinde Gruber**, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission, Belgium representing the European Commission made reference to policy priorities and programmes for cooperation specifically with Brazil, and explained how they fit into the general internationalisation and external relations objectives of the EU.

The third speaker: **Liane Hentschke**, Director for International Cooperation of CNPq, Brazil, discussed the objectives for Science without Borders, to what extent the programme is meeting those objectives and how it will develop going forward. Mention was also made to partnership with Europe and the role of CNPq and Europe in meeting the objectives of SwB.

Then, three different student representatives commented on how EU and Brazilian higher education/ research cooperation and exchange programmes have been designed to meet the needs and interest of students.



**Fernando Galan** of the European Students Union (ESU), reminded that SwB also made evident some problems and issues regarding the student experience: cultural adaptation, visa problems and recognition are some of them. **Izabela Oliveira**, KU Leuven/ Hasselt University, described her very positive experience while making a call for more grants for master students (SwB only provides grant to undergraduate, PhD and Post-Doc mobilities). Finally **Carlos Eduardo Bites Romanini**, KU Leuven, gave the perspective of a PhD student about the opportunities that the programme introduced while stressing the value of internships in international contexts over attendance of more traditional courses.

**Session 3** was chaired by **Michael Gaebel**, Head of Higher Education Policy Unit at EUA, Belgium and it functioned as a panel session with four short presentations addressing the issues of aligning and enhancing political investment and institutional priorities in Brazil, by Sergio Gargioni, President of the *Conselho Nacional das Fundações Estaduais de Amparo à Pesquisa* (CONFAP – Association of State Research Funding Agencies) and President of the *Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de Santa Catarina* (FAPESC – Santa Catarina State Research Funding Agency), Brazil, Rossana Silva, Executive Director of the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities (CGBU), Brazil, Helena Nazaré, President of the EUA, Belgium, Raf Davos, Advisor for Higher Education, Cabinet for the Minister of Higher Education, Flemish Community, Belgium.

**Sérgio Gargioni** explained the importance of the state research funding agencies in the Brazilian context. These agencies are responsible for 800 million euros in funding. CONFAP tries to influence policies and to act as a complement to federal funding opportunities, focusing more on knowledge transfer and innovation.

**Rossana Silva** presented the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities (GCUB), a network of 69 internationally oriented universities that cuts across the different typologies of higher education institutions in Brazil (Federal, State, Community and Confessional institutions). The GCUB has been responsible for a certain number of successful large mobility programmes, such as the international undergraduate programme PLI (Programa de Licenciaturas Internacionais), a double degree programme in teacher training involving 1320 students from 49 Brazilian universities and partnerships in Portugal and France, a scholarship programme with the Organization of American States involving 300 grants at master and doctoral level in Latin America, the Bramex (Brazil-Mexico) student exchange programme, involving 52 universities and over 250 students. These and other examples from the GCUB network show that mobility and internationalisation opportunities are expanding and being created bottom up by higher education institutions.



**Raf Davos** outlined the internationalisation targets and strategies of the Flemish Ministry of Higher Education, stating that mobility is not considered as a goal per se, but a means to the real aim of developing international and multi-cultural experiences in the students. Brazil is one of the priority countries for the Flemish Ministry and 1 million euros were made available to universities in Flanders to foster international cooperation.

The **second day** of the Workshop started with a summary of day one discussions and an introduction to break-out groups A and B, by Joaquim Carvalho, ALISIOS Project Coordinator, University of Coimbra..

**Break-out group A** - "Brazil – Europe mobility: objectives, obstacles and tools" was chaired by **Tania Lima**, Programme Manager at Universities UK, United Kingdom, and it had two speakers involved in the management of mobility between Brazil and Europe and vice-versa, presenting case studies: **Olivier Chiche-Portiche**, Director of Promotion Department at Campus France, France, and **Reneé Zicman**, Consultant in Internationalisation of Higher Education/ Special Advisor of the Presidency of FAUBAI, Brazil.

This break-out group focussed more specifically on good practice in Brazil-Europe mobility (of students) both within the context of Science without Borders and other programmes. It examined challenges (with regards to issues such as funding, language of instruction, recognition of degrees, balanced mobility, connection of student mobility with institutional partnerships, nexus of learning mobility and research, role of staff mobility) and provided case studies of how these issues have been tackled, both at the bachelor and masters levels and for mobility of various durations.

**Pedro Barrias**, Technical Adviser of the Foundation of Portuguese Universities, Portugal, summarised main the conclusions of this break-out group:

#### *Opportunities for Brazilian Universities*

SwB was seen as an opportunity to:

- develop internationalization strategies;
- create services related with internationalization;
- change universities in order to be more open to international mobility schemes
- create joint and double degree programmes with European universities
- facilitate and promote more mobility (that already exists) in research programmes
- change the profile of mobility students and institutions (it was very much concentrated in wealthy students and in few universities) brought new players
- structured mobility (vs individual mobility)



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## *General Obstacles*

- administrative difficulties (created by the lack of experience in managing international programmes)
- still few international students are going to Brazil

## *Obstacles for outgoing Brazilian students*

- credit transfer: the recognition it's not easy even between Brazilian universities.
- fulfil the contract: even when the universities coordinators sign a learning agreement it's not guaranteed that the student will have recognition of the period studying abroad
- diploma recognition (expensive and bureaucratic process that can take years)
- few support provided to outgoing students
- lack of foreign languages skills
- absence of a calendar with regular calls in SwB

## *Foreign incoming students coming to Brazil*

- obstacle: few undergraduate programmes taught in English in Brazil
- opportunity: create and offer more courses of Portuguese for foreigners

**Break-out group B** – “Brazil-Europe research cooperation” was chaired by **Sieglinde Gruber**, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission, Belgium, and it had two speakers involved in the management and dissemination of research policies and activities presenting case studies: **Moacyr Martucci**, Coordinator of the Institute Brazil-Europe of the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil and **Paulo Lopes**, Country Representative of EURAXESS, Brazil.

This break-out group focussed on some of the present programmes and good practices in developing Brazil-Europe research cooperation. They addressed issues such as funding, recruitment, Master and PhDs (and generally how learning mobility can relate to research cooperation), cooperation and competition, partnerships, staff mobility, capacity building, language and cultural issues and other potential obstacles.

**Giovanna Filippini**, Head of the International Relations Unit of the University of Bologna, Italy, summarized the main conclusions of this break-out group:

## **Discussion topics**

### *Gap between different strategic levels*



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- how to link strategic themes and priorities set by Brazilian Federal Government, European Commission and Member States to regional policies, institutional strategies and research group interests?

### *Funding instruments*

- how to match Brazilian and European funds?
- how to assure necessary funds to Brazilian research groups taking part in Horizon 2020 partnerships?
- need to involve both FAPs and the Federal Government in Brazil

### *Mobility conditions*

- implement Two-way mobility
- implement Post doc and non-academic researcher scholarships

### *How to link with industry (incubators, start-ups, SMEs)?*

- entrepreneurial approach/profile
- trans-disciplinary vision
- links between research and teaching (curriculum development)
- SwB can represent an opportunity to bridge some of the gaps (strategic levels, exchange of information, starting point to develop cooperation in research)

### *Issues to be further explored:*

- find modalities to bridge the gap between different strategic levels
- find modalities to assure funding to bilateral research cooperation and to identify the level of maximum impact
- two-way mobility
- links to industry through incubators, Science and technology Parks, SMEs policies
- links between research and teaching cooperation
- exploration of all the opportunities offered by SwB

The Workshop ended with a panel session entitled “Enhancing European collaboration towards cooperation with non-European countries: Science without Borders as a springboard”. This session was chaired by **Martina Schulze**, Head of Division of DAAD, Germany, and it counted on the contributions of four speakers: **Carla Salvaterra**, Vice-Rector of the University of Bologna, Italy, **Kitty Balog**, Hungarian Rectors’ Conference, Hungary, **Afonso Galvão**, Rector of the Catholic University of Brasilia/Council of Brazilian Rectors (CRUB), Brazil and **Marie Levens**, Organisation of the American States (OEA), United States of America.



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These panel presentations focussed on how to enhance internal European cooperation with regards to global partner countries and regions and prospects for future Brazil-EU university cooperation. The chair provided a short introduction outlining once again the objectives of the ALISIOS project, and listing some of the very concrete issues that national European agencies and associations have agreed to work on together with regards to improving higher education and research exchange with Brazil. Then, European (Italy and Hungary) and American (USA) speakers were asked to give a short introduction to their own organisations and what they are doing bi-laterally with Brazil and collectively within Europe and what they would plan to do to improve this cooperation.

The presentations of the sessions are available in the ALISIOS website at <http://www.alisios-project.eu/outputs/ws1/>