

NEWS

EUA FUNDING FORUM

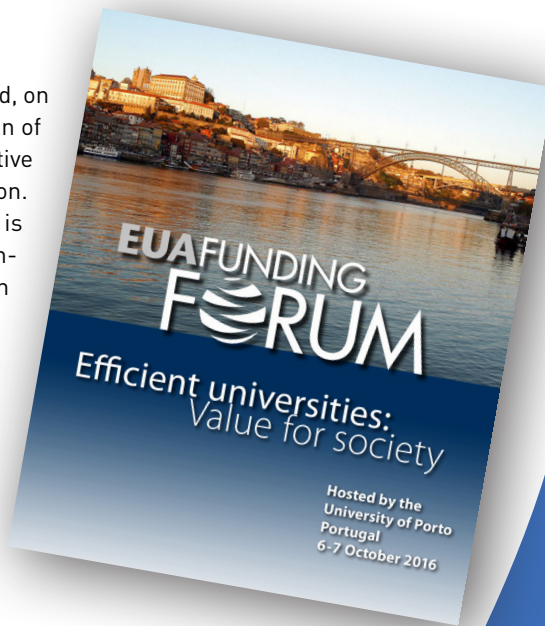
The University of Porto organized and hosted, on October the 6th and 7th 2016, the 3rd edition of the biennial forum of the most representative association of European Higher Education. The European University Association (EUA) is composed of over 800 Higher Education Institutions from 47 countries of the European continent.

Nearly two hundred rectors, administrators and policy makers from 35 European countries participated in the EUA Funding Forum. The main purpose of this initiative was to discuss the latest trends, opportunities and challenges in the financing of Higher Education on the European continent.

The debate began with the presentation of the report of the EUA Public Finance Observatory to analyze the evolution of university funding systems in 24 European countries.

In addition to the data on national funding, the first results of the consultation of the EUA members on the Horizon 2020 and Erasmus + Community programs were also debated.

Recently, we can verify the relevance of the university sector presenting and quantifying their contribution to society, both socially and economically, and also that university officials meeting in Porto concluded that funding entities should identify the inefficiencies of their programs and increase the funds available. It was also highlighted the need for universities to develop coherent funding strategies and to apply only with their stronger and most likely approvable project.



EDITORIAL

The BABEL project was and is a project targeted at success. The ideology behind it, this of the mobility to European Union countries of students coming from other parts of the world, has revolutionized the way of facing higher education. The subjacent asset to this unparalleled experience does not allow us to consider any further the educational parameters as something characteristic of a determined society and of a specific country. The exchange of students and staff allowed the expansion of the cosmopolitan and global spirit that was initiated almost thirty years ago to very different peoples and cultures. The university world was changed forever. Students, teachers and also technical staff members got used to go out of their comfort zone and their study and learning habits, and to face challenges that until recently were perceived to be unthinkable. These challenges put them in the verge of other knowledge, other competences and performances.

If we believe that all this is positive, if we believe in a global era with no return, then we can affirm, without any doubt, that this and other similar projects foster "interculturalism" and the understanding of the other, thus contributing to the real borderless society, where the difference is an advantage, where the opposition is a source of wisdom.



UATF

Universidad Autónoma Tomas Frías



The Universidad Autónoma Tomas Frías is a Bolivian public university located in Potosí. Officially created by supreme decree in 1892, its main ancestor was the Free Faculty of Law formerly depending on the Cancelariato of Chuquisaca. In 1937 UATF formally obtained the autonomy with Dr. Alberto Saavedra Nogales being the first autonomist rector.

The name chosen for this university is dedicated to Dr. Tomas Frías Ametller, an important intellectual and politician hailing from the region where UATF is situated, Potosí.

As an Autonomous University, it follows and applies the following principles: economic and administrative autocracy, academic autocracy, equal co-administration academics-students, internal democracy, ideological pluralism, freedom of teaching and effective democratization of Higher Education.

UATF is one of the 15 Universities recognized by the Executive Committee of Bolivian Universities, the maximum authority in the field of higher education in Bolivia.

The university has 12 faculties with 42 schools: Faculty of Arts; Faculty of Agricultural and Animal Sciences; Faculty of Economics, Finance and Administration; Faculty of Pure Sciences; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; Faculty of Law; Faculty of Engineering; Faculty of Geology; Faculty of Mining Engineering; Faculty of Technology; Faculty of Health Sciences; Faculty of Medicine.



The University of Porto and the Brazilian students

The University of Porto participated, early this year, on the Student Fair, the largest international education fair in Latin America.

This international representation included visits to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, and the U.Porto (the Portuguese University most sought after by Higher Education Students) has taken this opportunity to disseminate its training offer to thousands of Brazilian students.

The event took off on February 27 and 28, in São Paulo, with more than 130 institutions representing 21 countries. In total, on the four days of the event, around 30 thousand applicants visited the Student Fair.

The Faculty of Architecture of U. Porto was also represented in this initiative, integrating the U.Porto's stand, and the Faculty of Engineering participated in the event with its own stand.

At U.Porto, the total number of Brazilian students by 2015 was of 8,733. Only between the academic years 2010/2011 to 2014/2015, the University received 5,390, of which 3,475 were Mobility students, 1,857 of full degree and 58 of Open Training Course, and the number of Brazilian students has been growing. Taking advantage of its presence in Brazil, U.Porto has strengthened ties with universities with which it has been developing various cooperation projects. Among them, the University of São Paulo, one of the largest educational institutions in Brazil, and with which one U.Porto has been developing an International Cooperation Program, as well as the Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO) and the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ).

This approach promoted by the U.Porto together with the Brazilian universities with whom it promotes cooperation agreements allowed the share of good practices, in order to promote more significant effectiveness in the development and management of different programs.



SGROUP AND FAUBAI JOINT PRESENTATION IN TRONDHEIM, NORWAY



FAUBAI

In the 9th BABEL Newsletter (October 2016), we had the honor of publicizing the renewal of the Cooperation Agreement between the Brazilian Association for International Education (FAUBAI) and The European Universities' Network (SGroup), signed in Fortaleza, Brazil on 16 April 2016.

Now it is time to tell you about the FAUBAI participation in the SGroup Liaison Officers' Meeting and General Assembly 2016 at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology – NTNU, from 01 to 03 December, in Trondheim. During the meeting, we had the first joint activity of the newly created Think Tank for Latin America, which consisted of a workshop led by Vitor Amaral and Barbara Claeys, respectively FAUBAI and SGroup contact persons.

The Think Tank have agreed on preparing guidelines for the ICon Programme, identifying experts from both regions (EU and LA), creating a virtual working space, working to enhance the visibility of both FAUBAI (www.faubai.org.br) and SGroup (www.sgroup.be), and stimulating the submission of project proposals involving the two networks or their member HEI's.

That was just another step towards what we firmly believe will be a fruitful collaboration not only for the two networks but also for the EU-LA academic relations in general.

Vitor Amaral and Barbara Claeys can be reached at barbara.claeys@ugent.be and vitoramaral@reitoria.ufrj.br.

A toast to our collaboration, with *aq-uavit* and *cachaça*, of course.



TESTIMONIAL

From the beginning, I came to this Mobility period aiming at studying, travelling and getting to know different people and, if possible, to exercise a different language (although the Host Institution's country – Portugal- shares the same language with the Home Institution – Brazil). Regarding my studies, I succeeded in all the Unit Courses, with average grades above 14. Nevertheless I can't help but thinking that maybe either the new context seldom associated with the exit of the academic logic that I'm used to, or the climate between October and March that favours the resting state, I struggled with exploring and investing in my studies in the same way that I did back in my Home Institution.

Regarding my journeys, during my mobility period, I managed to go to 5 countries and visit countless museums, historical modernist and post-modernist monuments, squares, churches, amongst other historical marks.

Academically speaking, as well as the journeys and sharing a house with other students, i was able to get to know a lot of people and to improve my English language knowledge.

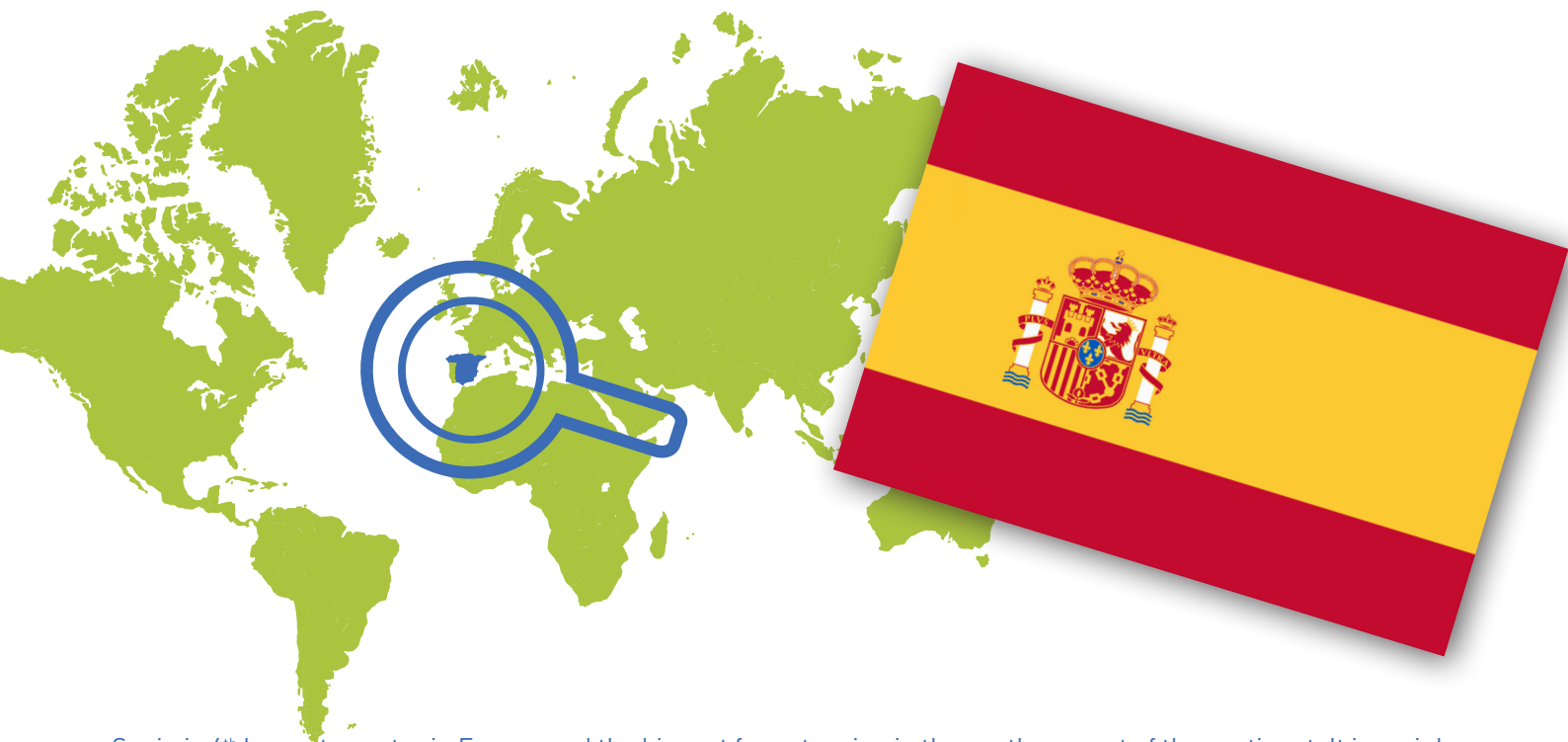
Exercising my social competences, exploring new professional and personal perspectives, developing a more autonomous logic, as well as (re)discovering of my own self are some of the outcomes of this mobility experience.

I am sure that I will miss teachers and other professionals, meaningful and committed to my professional and personal growth, nevertheless they provided me with their contacts, so that we can stay in touch even at a distance. I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all of the International Cooperation team, that was always supportive and quick in their answers and in clarifying doubts.



Jamille Oliveira

COUNTRY IN FOCUS: SPAIN



Spain is 4th largest country in Europe and the biggest for extension in the southern part of the continent. It is mainly located in the Iberian Peninsula, which shares with Portugal, Gibraltar and Andorra.

Besides the mainland, its territory includes two archipelagos - Balearic and Canary Islands - respectively located in the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean and two autonomous cities - Ceuta and Melilla - located in the northern coast of Africa. Many other Spanish islands are situated near the Moroccan coast. Due to the localization of Ceuta and Melilla, it is the only European country to have borders with an African country (Morocco).

Being Spain a Latin country, its culture is deeply permeated by Roman heritage. Spanish life-style is indeed the outcome of many influences brought throughout the history by foreign invaders over the main classic basis. Also the geographical position and the Mediterranean climate played a crucial role in shaping the current Spanish identity.

Spain can boast a great number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, being the third country in the world with a total of 44. In addition it is the European country which has the greatest number of Intangible cultural heritage, or "Human treasures": 14, according to the UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

FAST FACT

OFFICIAL NAME: Kingdom of Spain

FORM OF GOVERNMENT:

Unitary parliamentary
constitutional monarchy

CAPITAL: Madrid

POPULATION: 46.423.064

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: Spanish (co-official
languages: Basque, Catalan, Galician)

MONEY: Euro

AREA: 505.990 km²
(2195,364 square miles)

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