

June 1995

FACT SHEET ON PROPOSAL FOR EU/US AGREEMENT

Objectives

441. 2 (103)

The objectives of the Programme shall be to:

1. Promote mutual understanding between the peoples of the European Community and the United States of America including broader knowledge of their languages, cultures and institutions;
2. Improve the quality of human resource development in both the European Community and the United States of America;
3. Stimulate student-centred cooperation in higher and vocational education and training between the different regions in the European Community and in the United States of America;
4. Improve the quality of Transatlantic student mobility including the promotion of mutual understanding, recognition and thus the portability of academic credits;
5. Encourage the exchange of expertise in new developments in higher education and vocational education and training;
6. Promote partnerships among higher education and vocational education and training institutions, professional associations, public authorities, business and other associations as appropriate in both the European Community and the United States of America;
7. Introduce a European Community and a United States dimension to Transatlantic cooperation in higher education and vocational education and training;
8. Complement bilateral programmes between the Member States of the European Community and the United States of America as well as other European Community and United States programmes and initiatives in higher education and vocational education and training.

Principles

Cooperation under the proposed Agreement shall be guided by the following principles:

1. Full respect for the responsibilities of the Member States of the European Community and the states of the United States of America and the autonomy of the higher education institutions;
2. Mutual benefit from activities undertaken through the Agreement;
3. Effective provisions of seed-funding for a diverse range of innovative projects which build new structures and links and are sustainable over the longer term with minimal or no on-going support from the Parties;
4. Representation of the full geographic, cultural and social diversity of the European Community and the United States of America;
5. Selection of projects on a competitive basis, taking account of the foregoing principles.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

JOINT EC/US CONSORTIA PROJECTS

1. The Parties will provide support to higher education institutions and vocational education and training establishments which form joint EC/US consortia for the purpose of undertaking joint projects in the area of higher education and vocational education and training. The European Community will provide support for the use of the European Community consortia partners, the United States of America will provide support for United States consortia partners.
2. Each joint consortium must have an absolute minimum of three active partners on each side; these must include at least two partner higher education or training institutions on each side in different Member States of the European Community and different states of the United States of America. The third and subsequent partners may be other education and training institutions or other relevant organisations (e.g. businesses, NGOs, chambers of commerce, research institutes) in the same or other Member States or states of the United States of America. In exceptional circumstances, in the case of the United States of America, two of the institutional partners may be autonomous campuses of a large state university with a third institutional partner from another state of the United States of America. Each joint consortium must involve, with only rare exceptions, transatlantic student mobility, with a goal of parity in the flows in each direction. The Parties agree to help support the costs of this study abroad with modest mobility stipends.
3. The structural cooperative activities of a consortium will be supported by seed funding for a period not normally to exceed three years.
4. Appropriate authorities on each side will mutually agreed upon the eligible subject areas for joint EC/US consortia.

5. Activities eligible for support may include:

- development of organisational frameworks for student mobility, including work placements, which provide adequate language preparation and full academic recognition,
- structured exchanges of students, teachers, trainers and administrators in higher education institutions and vocational education and training establishments,
- joint development of innovative curricula including the development of teaching materials, methods and modules,
- short intensive programmes of at least three weeks duration,
- teaching assignments forming an integral part of the curriculum in a partner institutions,
- other innovative projects, including the use of new technologies and distance learning, which aim to improve the quality of transatlantic cooperation in higher education and vocational education and training and meet at least one of the objectives specified in Article 2 of this Agreement.

6. Each Party may provide financial support to students, academic or administrative staff of higher education and vocational and training establishments in its territory for the purpose of Transatlantic cooperation.

7. Administration of the joint projects shall be implemented by the competent officials of each Party. These tasks will comprise:

- deciding the rules and procedures for the presentation of proposals including the preparation of a Common set of Guidelines for applicants;
- establishing the timetable for publication of calls for proposals, submission and selection of proposals;
- providing information on the Programme and its implementation;
- appointing academic advisors and experts;
- recommending to the appropriate authorities of each Party which projects to finance;
- financial management;
- Programme monitoring.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

The Parties may undertake the following complementary activities:

1. Exchanges of information about vocational education and training and higher education including, where appropriate, conferences on issues of common interest;
2. Provision of Fulbright scholarships for the study of, and research and lecturing on, European Community affairs and EC/US relations;
3. Measures to facilitate the dissemination of information on the Programme, including making the results and achievements of joint consortia projects available for the use of a wider audience;
4. Provision of technical assistance to support the Programme.