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TEMPUS II extends student mobility to the Republics of the former Soviet Union

On 29 April 1993, the Council adopted the second phase of TEMPUS (a European programme of cooperation in higher education) for a period of four years (1994–98) starting on 1 July 1994.

As well as building on the work accomplished in TEMPUS I, TEMPUS II is extending the PHARE-funded inter-university cooperation programme which it set up three years ago with the Central and Eastern European countries to cover the Republics of the former Soviet Union. TEMPUS II will be implemented in these Republics within the framework of the Community's Programme of Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States of the former Soviet Union (TACIS).

Launched in 1990, TEMPUS is designed to raise standards and promote the development and restructuring of higher education systems in these countries.

Commissioner Antonio Ruberti, who is responsible for policy on research, education and training, welcomed this Council decision and stressed the importance of developing higher education in the process of economic and social reform under way in the countries of Eastern Europe. He said that "TEMPUS is playing a major part in this process by providing effective pragmatic solutions to the problems of restructuring and development of their higher education systems".

TEMPUS II will be implemented primarily by means of cooperation structures linking universities in these countries with universities in the Member States and in countries of the G-24 group. These Joint European Projects (JEPs), which are set up in sectors designated for priority by each recipient country, focus primarily on the development of teaching programmes, the production of scientific equipment and the modernisation of infrastructure at both departmental and institutional level. The mobility of teachers, administrative staff and students is another objective of these projects.