



## EDITORIAL

### Enhancing the academic staff mobility

The last decade has been marked by a large number of contacts and agreements between HEIs from all regions of the world. This movement is part of the internationalization effort that is found in the universities' agenda.

However, a major part of these agreements has not passed beyond the paper, having no results. Its signature has been understood by the universities as a stimulus to the establishment of new relations or as a courtesy gesture by the Rectors.

The reservations regarding the signature of these agreements have therefore increased, and many universities only accept agreements that are based by action plans and that establish the commitments of the parties regarding funding. An exception to this framework has been the agreements for mobility and exchange of students, which continue to earn interest from universities. Indeed, the signature of such agreements gives furthermore an answer to their desire of providing their students an opportunity to have an experience abroad.

In recent times the interest of HEIs in conferring a bigger dimension and importance to the mobility of professors, researchers and administrative staff has grown higher. Not because student mobility had been losing importance, but because mobility flows involving professors, researchers and administrative staff have been allowing the establishment of new partnerships and bonds, with repercussion on the creation of joint education and research projects and sharing of experiences in academic and administrative areas.

The focus on the reinforcement of institutional relations seems to go though this, and increasingly, through staff mobility, which has been valued as one of the most effective tools for the creation and consolidation of partnerships. The main concerns are namely the mutual recognition of programmes, the development and participation in joint education and research programmes or the sharing of experiences in projects' management and organization.

Thus, the focus on staff mobility should receive, from our part, a greater attention in the future.

**António Marques**  
**EBW Project's Coordinator**

## NEWS

### The next Newsletter...

Since the beginning of the year 2010 that the EBW consortium has been publishing a monthly Newsletter, through which it disseminates the latest news regarding the implementation of the project, as well as the feedbacks of some of the scholarship holders who have finished or are undertaking their mobility periods. Also small presentations of the partner institutions are included each time.

Throughout all these editions several "EBWs" wanted to share with us their experiences, as they considered this as being one of the best opportunities of their lives.

As the project is running in full swing, it is now time to make a small break in the publication of these Newsletters. The following months will represent the last steps in the implementation of the mobility flows of many students and researchers. At the end of their mobility periods, we are sure they will want to share with us and with you the most remarkable experiences of such an unforgettable period of their lives, both at academic and personal levels.

Being so, our Newsletter will come back at the end of September, with all the latest news and also new feedbacks of our "EBWs".

The whole EBW team is always available for you through the usual contacts.

See you in September!



## EBW BEHIND THE SCENE



Lund is a wonderful city on the south of Sweden, relatively far from Stockholm, but only 1 hour by train from Denmark's capital, Copenhagen.

The most special thing around here is that the city has about 110 thousand inhabitants, from which 40 thousand are students from the Lund University. It is basically a city inside the University and not the other way around, as we are used to in Brazil. That makes that the city has a social life completely targeted on the students. Another interesting aspect is that it is a "small" city (when compared to other capitals as São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro), warm and able to gather at the same time the tradition of old buildings (the city was founded around the year 990) and a completely modern and high-tech one, as everything in Sweden.

The Swedish people are known for being a very restrained people, but they are all very polite and nice.

As to the language, don't worry: the Swedish people speak English very fluently! In one word: an incredible experience.



**Name: João Paulo Balloni**

**Undergraduate student**

**Home university:  
University of São Paulo (Brazil)**

**Host university:  
Lund University (Sweden)**

**"It is basically a city inside the University and not the other way around, as we are used to in Brazil."**



**Name: Camila Bettim Borges**

**Undergraduate student**

**Home university:  
Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil)**

**Host university:  
University of Porto (Portugal)**

Having the chance of living six months (and now, in my case, almost one year) in a country which is cultural, socio and economically different from my own, far from family, friends and everything that meant something to me is a permanent challenge for someone who decides to go across the world.

Fortunately, since I've arrived in Porto I was very well welcomed by the whole team of the University of Porto (especially by Luísa Capitão, Ana Reis and the team) and by the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences. In the integration bounds, I've met many people, made lots of friends, I understood by myself the meaning of "cultural differences"; I've lived (in the widest meaning of the word) the city of Porto, I was delighted with the history of the Portuguese people and fall in love with their epic fado.

During this time I've been in Porto and in contact with the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, I was able to broaden my view on the world concerning various aspects. I believe that this reflection and critical thought are the biggest advantage that this mobility period could bring to a university student. Being able to look at the reality and the world with different eyes and make of it a possibility for changing and evolution.

Thank you very much EBW, University of Porto, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and Faculty of Education for the opportunity and trust.

**"Having the chance of living six months (and now, in my case, almost one year) in a country which is cultural, socio and economically different from my own, far from family, friends and everything that meant something to me is a permanent challenge for someone who decides to go across the world."**

## EBW BEHIND THE SCENES

At UFRGS, the EBW Project counts with the collaboration of a solid team constituted by five members. Professor Liane Hentschke is the Secretary of UFRGS International Relations and Maria Inês Nardi is administrative adviser and responsible for agreements. Lizângela Guerra is responsible for IN and OUT international mobility together with Fabiano Cardozo de Aguiar, who deals mainly with exchange with Latin American, Portuguese and Spanish institutions. Tanira Rodrigues Soares is financial advisor and events manager.

### **How would you classify the receptivity and impact of the EBW Project in the academic community of your University?**

The receptivity level among the UFRGS students was high and it was to be seen in the significant number of submitted applications as well as the strong demand for information and clarification of doubts regarding the project during the dissemination stage. EBW brought a new dimension to mobility in UFRGS, because it included undergraduate and doctorate students as well as professors and it offered excellent scholarship opportunities to undertake a mobility period in acknowledged institutions in Europe which had no cooperation with UFRGS. The main challenge is still the difficulty in attracting European students to our institution that, despite being located in one Brazilian region that is less known abroad, was considered to be the 2nd best Higher Education Institution in Brazil by the National Research Institute of the Ministry of Education.

### **With which of the Brazilian partner institutions did your University already have established cooperation before the implementation of this project?**

UFRGS had already a deep cooperation with the University of Porto (first agreement was signed in 1993) and with the Grenoble Institute of Technology (through the Grenoble-Brazil Programme and the joint degree programme, which involves both institutions). UFRGS has also signed recently, in October 2009, a cooperation agreement with the Technical University of Valencia.

### **Do you consider that the activities developed within the scope of the project have contributed to deepen the already existing cooperation with the partner HEIs in Brazil?**

Yes, the contact with the partner institutions was intensified through the project and the cooperation with the institutions was strengthened. That happened not only due

to the mobility of students and academic staff, but also due to the technical meetings organized by the consortium's coordination, which help to bring closer the responsible persons for international cooperation in partner universities.

### **In what way do you consider this project has contributed to the establishment of new links of cooperation?**

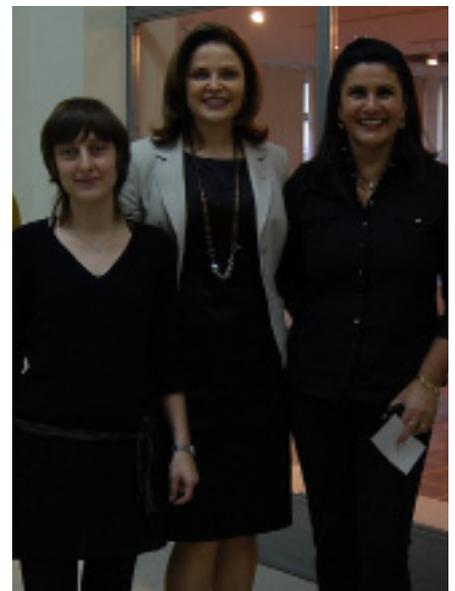
The cooperation range became wider. New partnerships were established and the visibility of European institutions at UFRGS and vice-versa was higher. The project allowed new mobility options and they attracted the students' interest to destinations that were previously unknown. Some students are already looking for the possibility of undertaking a period of studies as free movers in institutions that are part of the consortium, but that still have no formal agreement with UFRGS.

### **Do you consider that this project could be the base for the development of joint supervision of doctoral thesis (sandwich PhD mobility with duration of 10 months or more)?**

Certainly. Co-tutelle is possible through specific agreements for each case. Furthermore, academic staff mobility opens perspectives to the creation of a double or multiple degree also at undergraduate level, by means of the direct contacts established among researchers from the home and host institutions.

### **To what extent has the implementation of the activities within the scope of this project contributed to the better organization of the internal structures of the international office of your institution?**

The contact with the partner institutions allows the exchange of experiences between the responsible persons for mobility at the International Offices, what enriches the dynamic of our activities. The project's coordination is also an example to our service, as its organization is based upon well-defined and transparent actions.



Lizângela Guerra, Professora Liane Hentschke and Maria Inês Nardi in a welcoming session for foreign students at UFRGS

### **What significant changes do you consider to be crucial for the higher success of the project?**

Although these depend on other instances, I believe that the project would be positively incremented if it considers other scientific areas. Another important issue concerns the fulfillment of places: as the figures show, the demand for PhD scholarships offered by the project is relatively small. Being so, I believe that the increase in the number of scholarships for undergraduate students and the consequent decrease of those for postgraduates could put an end to the remaining scholarships and bring to the better recovery of the funding granted to mobility.

### **Do you consider it would be possible to continue the implementation of some cooperation activities with partner institutions of the consortium even without the financing granted by the Erasmus Mundus Programme? What specific activities?**

Yes, at institutional level, especially through the signature of new bilateral agreements between the partner HEIs within the framework of research and education. I believe that undergraduate mobility also strengthens the bounds between institutions. Current scholarship holders establish contacts that, in the future, may direct them to joint researches, thus promoting the strengthening of cooperation between institutions.

# KNOWING BETTER...

Ghent University (Belgium)



Founded in 1817 as a Latin-speaking State University by William I, King of the Netherlands, Ghent University is a relatively young university. After its independence in 1830, the Belgian State was in charge of the administration of Ghent University; French was the new official academic language. In 1930 Ghent University became the first Dutch-speaking university in Belgium.

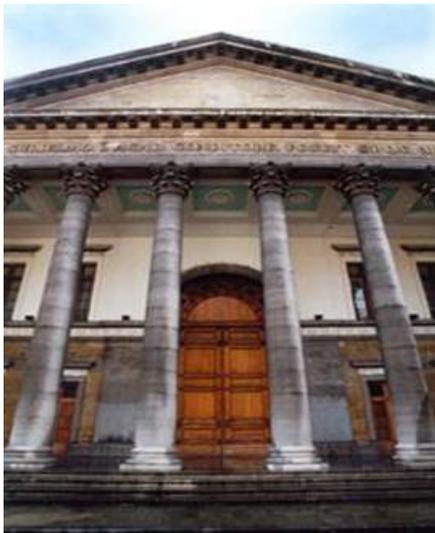
Today, after decades of uninterrupted growth, Ghent University is one of the leading institutions of higher education and research in the Low Countries. Ghent University is an open, committed and pluralistic university with a broad international perspective.

Located in Flanders, the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium and the cultural and economical heart of Europe, it is an active partner in national and international educational, scientific and industrial cooperation.



The University has around 32.000 students in its 11 faculties and around 7.100 staff members.

Each year more and more international students choose Ghent University for their study. Around about 3.000 foreign students, including exchange students, studied at UGent during 2008 - 1.800 originating from countries of the European Union, 1.200 from non-EU countries.



## Contact details of the International Office:

Tel +32 (0)9 264 70 03

Fax +32 (0)9 264 31 31

IRO@UGent.be SecretariaatAIB@UGent.be

## INSTITUTIONS OF EBW

Federal University of Amazonas  
Federal University of Minas Gerais  
Federal University of Mato Grosso  
Federal University of Pará  
Federal University of Pernambuco  
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro  
Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul  
Federal University of Santa Catarina  
University of São Paulo  
State University of Campinas

Ghent University  
Grenoble Institute of Technology  
Technical University Dresden  
Budapest University of Technology and Economics  
Technical University Valencia  
Technical University Catalunya  
University of Deusto  
University of Lund  
Technical University Eindhoven  
University of Porto  
University Joseph Fourier – Grenoble 1,  
Santander Group European Universities Network  
Forum of the Brazilian Universities  
Assessories to International Matters  
National Association of Leaders of Federal Institutions of Higher Education

## CONTACT DETAILS:

**Co-ordinating institution:**  
University of Porto, Portugal

**Contact email:** [ebw@reit.up.pt](mailto:ebw@reit.up.pt)

**Website:** <http://ebw.up.pt>