

Erasmus Mundus – Integration of Neighbouring Eastern Regions through Cooperation in Higher Education (EMINENCE)

I. The EMINENCE project and Erasmus Mundus programme

The EMINENCE project is funded by the European Commission in the framework of Erasmus Mundus programme. The Erasmus Mundus programme aims to enhance the quality of higher education and promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through mobility and academic cooperation. The EMINENCE project operates within so called Action2: Partnerships with Third Country higher education institutions and scholarships for mobility, which gives support to:

- higher education institutions that wish to set-up inter-institutional cooperation partnerships between universities from Europe and targeted Third-Countries;
- individual students, researchers and university staff who wish to spend a study / research / teaching period in one of the universities included in partnerships.

The targeted Third-Countries in EMINENCE project are Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia (these Eastern neighbouring countries belong to the initiative called Eastern Partnership - EaP, benefiting also in other actions within and beyond higher education in the scope of the European Union's external relations).

The EMINENCE consortium is composed of the following partners and associates from EU and EaP countries:

	Name of organisation	Country
Coordinating Institution	Adam Mickiewicz University	POLAND
Joint-Coordinating Institution	Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University	UKRAINE
Partner 1	University of Montpellier 2	FRANCE
Partner 2	University of Porto	PORTUGAL
Partner 3	Technical University of Torino	ITALY
Partner 4	Malmö University	SWEDEN
Partner 5	Baranovichi State University	BELARUS
Partner 6	Mogilev State A. Kuleshov University	BELARUS
Partner 7	Institution of Education "Polessky State University"	BELARUS
Partner 8	Vitebsk State University named after P.M. Masherov	BELARUS
Partner 9	Sumy State University	UKRAINE
Partner 10	Trade Co-operative University of Moldova	MOLDOVA
Partner 11	State University of Medicine and Pharmacy	MOLDOVA
Partner 12	Vanadzor State Pedagogical Institute	ARMENIA
Partner 13	Yerevan „Northern” University	ARMENIA
Partner 14	Shota Meskhia State Teaching University of Zugdidi	GEORGIA
Partner 15	Sokhumi State University	GEORGIA
Partner 16	Grigol Robakidze University	GEORGIA
Partner 17	Azerbaijan Teachers Institute	AZERBAIJAN
Partner 18	Azerbaijan Technical University	AZERBAIJAN
Associate 1	Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus	BELARUS
Associate 2	Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sport of Ukraine	UKRAINE
Associate 3	Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova	MOLDOVA
Associate 4	Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Armenia	ARMENIA
Associate 5	Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan	AZERBAIJAN
Associate 6	Charity Humanitarian Centre "Abkhazeti"	GEORGIA
Associate 7	Helsinki Citizens' Assembly - Georgian National Committee/The South Caucasus Institute	GEORGIA
Associate 8	Association for Democracy in Belarus	BELARUS
Associate 9	Santander Group of Universities	BELGIUM

II. Main characteristics of EMINENCE project

The objectives of EMINENCE Partnership are:

- to develop abroad the qualifications of most motivated and talented students and staff and give them international experience, increasing this way their employability at labour market;
- to promote mobility of Eastern Partnership countries' students from vulnerable groups in order to obtain qualifications and experience in the EU partner universities;
- to contribute towards the development of human resources and the international co-operation capacity

of higher education institutions in Eastern neighbouring countries through individual mobility, which should not bring only individual benefits but also effect home university and society as a whole;

- to enhance visibility of EU higher education in Eastern neighbouring countries in general and to facilitate integration into the European Higher Education Area and Bologna process of involved HEIs in this region in particular (in accordance with EU external policy objectives namely with the goals of Platform IV people-to-people cooperation of the Eastern Partnership and the goals of the European Neighbourhood Policy);
- to create and strengthen lasting links and collaborations between participating HEIs from EU and Eastern neighbouring countries' that will result in actions and activities after the funding period;
- to contribute to the mutual enrichment of both EU and Eastern neighbouring countries' societies by exchange of people, culture, knowledge and ideas.

The idea and the acronym of the EMINENCE partnership brings a message that this project targets at "eminence", understood as distinction, renown, reputation and importance of future project beneficiaries– students and scholars educated abroad who on their return home will contribute to the development of Eastern Partnership countries and societies aspiring to reach European standards.

III. Scholarship programme and applicants' eligibility criteria

Duration of project and number of scholarships offered

The project is granted for 4 years and will offer 175 scholarships for students (undergraduate, master, doctoral and post-doctoral) and for staff (academic and administrative) to be awarded for both sides' candidates. The region of Eastern Partnership is included in EU Neighbourhood Policy and therefore the mobility of grantees in the EMINENCE project is foreseen in both directions (from EaP countries and from EU eligible countries).

Applicants' eligibility criteria

The project will accept applications from representatives of three target groups. A target group (TG) is a group of students/scholars having the same characteristics regarding the institution/country of origin and/or personal situation:

- 1) Nationals of one of the eligible EU or Third Countries who are registered/enrolled in one of the partner universities at the time of submitting their application to the partnership: TG1;
- 2) Nationals of one of the eligible Third Countries who are not from universities included in EMINENCE consortium- students need either to be registered in a HEI (not included in the partnership) of the targeted third-country or to have obtained a university degree or equivalent from a HEI of these third-countries : TG2;
- 3) Nationals of one of the eligible Third Countries who are in particularly vulnerable situations, for social and political reasons: TG3. For example refugees or asylum beneficiaries with a certified refugee status (usually certified by relevant card or certificate, e.g. by UNHCR, ministry or other authority): TG 3. A proof of the Target Group 3 status must be submitted together with the application.

Eligibility criteria for different types/levels of mobility are identified as follows:

A. Levels of students' mobility and entry criteria:

Bachelor/ Undergraduate (BA) - a first cycle higher education programme, for which applications will be accepted as an exchange student (TG1) or for a full degree (TG 3). Applicants must:

- have obtained a secondary school diploma according to the regulations of the host university (TG3), or
- be currently registered in a BA course in a HEI within the partnership (TG1). TG 1 BA students must have successfully completed at least one year of studies in their home.

Master (MA) - a second cycle higher education programme that follows a first degree or equivalent level of learning and that leads to a Masters degree offered by a higher education institution and recognised as such by the relevant authorities of the country where the master degree is delivered. For studies at Master level applications will be accepted as an exchange student (TG1) or for a full degree (TG 2 and 3). Applicants must:

- be currently registered in a Masters course in a HEI within the partnership (TG1) or
- have obtained a Bachelor or other undergraduate university degree (TG2, TG3).

Doctoral programme (PhD)– a third cycle research-related programme of higher education study and research that follows a higher education degree and leads to a fully recognised doctorate degree, offered by higher education

institutions. For studies at doctoral level applications will be accepted as an exchange PhD student (TG1/TG2) or for a full PhD degree (TG 3). Applicants must:

- be currently registered in a doctoral course in a HEI within the partnership (TG1), or
- have obtained a Master or other graduate university degree or equivalent (TG3),

Post-doctoral Programme (Post-doc) – higher education study or research that follows a doctoral degree and is offered by a higher education institution or a research organisation established in accordance with national legislation and practice. Applicants for post-doc scholarship must have obtained a doctorate degree.

B. Staff mobility

Staff applications are possible only within TG1. Applicants will be accepted on the basis of trilateral agreements. Staff will perform a specific work programme agreed among the home and host universities and the individual. Activity can include teaching, research, training or following specialized courses. Applicants must work as academic or administrative staff at a university within the partnership.

Among other criteria of eligibility of candidates the following 2 are of great importance:

- candidates must have sufficient knowledge of the language of the courses they intend to study abroad or of one of the languages currently spoken in the hosting countries,
- candidates must have not resided nor have carried out their main activity (studies, work, etc) for more than a total of 12 months over the last five years in any of the European countries at the time of submitting their application to the partnership (this rule does not apply to TG3 candidates),
- candidates must not have already benefited from a scholarship for the same type of mobility under any other Erasmus Mundus Action 2 project.

Distribution of scholarships and calls for applications

The following table shows the intended distribution of scholarships as per type of mobility/level of study, nationality and target group:

Type of	From EU partners		From EaP countries						Total grants per level
	TG1		TG1		TG2		TG3		
	Number of grants	Duration in months	Number of grants	Duration in months	Number of grants	Duration in months	Number of grants	Duration in months	
Bachelors	10	10	30	10	0	0	12	36	52
Masters	0	10	15	10	17	22	9	24	41
Doctorates	5	10	8	10	18	22	4	36	35
Post-staff	5	6	7	6	0	0	0	0	12
staff	5	1	30	1	0	0	0	0	35
Total grants per TG	25		90		35		25		175

The scholarships will be granted within 3 cohorts and 3 call for applications to be opened on annual basis. The first call for applications will be opened in November 2012 for at least of 45 days at project main website:

<http://www.mundus.amu.edu.pl/EMINENCE>

Applications must be submitted online through the application tool provided on the website.

Scholarships amounts

The scholarships include:

- A monthly allowance - subsistence
- Insurance costs: up to 75€per month
- Travel costs: up to amount resulting from the distance between home and host country universities (between 250 and 1 500 €)
- Tuition fees for students of up to 3000€per year

Scholarship subsistence amount depends on level of mobility:

	Monthly Allowance
Undergraduate	1,000 Euro per month
Master	1,000 Euro per month
Doctorate	1,500 Euro per month
Post-Doctorate	1,800 Euro per month
Staff	2,500 Euro per month

Scholarship allowance will be paid to grantees on the monthly basis and on the ground of assessment of their academic performance and fulfilment of formal requirements. Travel cost (including visa fees), insurance and participation costs will be covered by coordinating institution from the EU grant, funded by the European Commission. The partnership will provide grantees with a high quality individual insurance coverage on health, travel, accident for the duration of the mobility period. Host universities will waive all tuition fees and grantees at any level will not be requested to pay any fees to the host universities.

IV. Scholarships for Target Group 3

The EMINENCE project pays special attention to opening education opportunities for candidates in vulnerable situation, emerging from social and/or political reasons. The input of associates and measures to identify such candidates and make them familiar with EMINENCE offer are targeted to give possibility to individuals from vulnerable groups to obtain qualifications and experience in the EU partner universities. There are 25 scholarships for individuals within TG 3 for whom the partnership will offer full BA, MA and Phd degrees, to be awarded after completion of studies in one of EU partners. TG 3 scholarships will be offered to students who are nationals of Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, if they present relevant documents justifying their qualification to Target Group 3 and if they fulfil entry criteria for each study level. The following specific conditions are identified as belonging to vulnerable groups:

1. Candidates having a refugee status (international or according to the national legislation of one of the European recipient countries);
2. Candidates being asylum beneficiaries (international or according to the national legislation of one of the European recipient countries);
3. Candidates who can prove that they have been the object of unjustified expulsion from university on racial, ethnic, religious, political, gender or sexual inclination;
4. Candidates belonging to an indigenous population targeted by a specific national policy or IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons).

Important: Disadvantaged conditions such as economic status or physical disabilities are not conditions for belonging to TG3. They are taken into consideration as cross-cutting issues under all target groups.

Opportunities for TG 3 grantees:

Candidates for Bachelor/ Undergraduate programmes, classified as TG 3, can receive a grant consisting of 36 000 Euro + travel cost and insurance, for the purpose of 3 years full BA studies at one of EU partner universities of EMINENCE consortium. They must present secondary school certificate entitling them to start university studies.

Candidates for Master studies, classified as TG 3, can receive a grant consisting of 24 000 Euro + travel cost and insurance, covering 2 years full MA studies at one of EU partner universities of EMINENCE consortium. They must present BA or equivalent diploma/ study records entitling them to start university studies at Master level.

Candidates for PhD studies, classified as TG 3, can receive a grant consisting of 36 000 Euro + travel cost and insurance. They must present MA diploma, other graduate university degree or equivalent diploma entitling them to studies at doctoral level at one of EU partner universities of EMINENCE consortium.

Useful links:

Erasmus Mundus Action 2 program web site:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/programme/action2_en.php

EMINENCE Frequently Asked Questions Section:

<http://www.mundus.amu.edu.pl/EMINENCE/index.php?faq.13>

Contacts:

Each partners are requested to give contact data to person/s (e.g. local EMINENCE coordinator) to which applicants and all other interested bodies/ individuals can address their requests