

Bridging Higher Education between Europe and Latin America

For the last ten years the SG Network has put much focus on co-operation with Latin America, as the co-ordinator of the ***AlBan Programme***, the EU initiative of high level scholarships for Latin America. Over 3000 students from 18 countries were offered the opportunity to study up to 2010 for a Master or Doctorate degree in more than 300 European universities of their choice.

Building on this important co-operation experience, the SG Network together with four other Latin American networks participates in the recently selected project, under Component III of the EU ALFA III Programme, to implement the ***Alfa Observatory***. This project aims at disseminating best practices identified in all ALFA editions, creating synergies among projects of this third phase, and ensuring systematic collection, centralisation and distribution of all ALFA III results. With a main office in Europe, at the University of Porto in Portugal, and four antennas in Latin America, website, hotline and e-help desk will offer constant support to all project co-ordinators.

These are two challenging examples of “Connecting Continents” through Higher Education, which foster regional integration towards an EU-LA common area of Higher Education. Aims, experiences and results of these projects will be detailed and thoroughly analysed in the proposed session to the audience of the EAIE event.

Key words:

Co-operation with developing countries, development of qualified human resources, best practices dissemination, Common Area in Higher Education Latin America and Europe.