



EU Higher Education Policy Dialogues

First meeting EHEA Advisory Group, Paris, 12 January 2016

Marlène Bartès

European Commission

Directorate-General for Education & Culture



On-going policy dialogues

Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training: AL, BA, MK, ME, RS, XK - EAC/NEAR since 2012

Eastern Partnership Platform 4 'Contacts between people': AM, AZ, BY, GE, MD, UA - EAC/EEAS/NEAR since 2009

Dialogue with Southern Mediterranean Countries on Higher Education Policies and Programmes:
DZ, EG, IL, JO, LE, LY, MO, PS, TN - EAC since 2012

EU-Central Asian Education Initiative

KG, KZ, TJ, TM, UZ - EEAS since 2007, upgraded at Riga 'Ministerial' 2015

EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue (HPPD): EAC since 2012. Earlier (from 2003) theme-specific dialogues in education, culture and youth

Other policy dialogues with Mexico, Brazil, EU-CELAC (Community of Latin America and Caribbean States), African Union, India, South Korea, Australia, USA, Japan



WB Platform on Education & Training (since 2012)

Albania, Bosnia, & Herzegovina, the former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro

Aim: Dialogue on all levels of Education & Training

- assist with reform efforts and convergence to EU acquis
- increase regional cooperation
- prepare for full integration to E&T programmes and EU policies

Activities 2012-2015:

- 4 Ministerial Meetings (→ priorities, needs, plans); 2 mappings studies (Teacher Training; HE and Labour Market); 4 regional conferences/stakeholder consultations (100-350)
- Next Ministerial meeting: June 2016

Results:

- Sharing best practice, discussing common challenges
- Recommendations (bottom-up and experts)
- Reporting on implementation of reforms
- Ministerial conclusions => 11 regional projects till 2020

Further information and meeting reports at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/international-cooperation/western-balkans_en.htm



EaP Platform 4 – Contacts between people (since 2009)

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus

Aim: Forum for discussion on education, training, youth, culture, research, innovation and infrastructure

- reinforce EU and regional cooperation with Eastern Partners
- identify cooperation priorities and share best practices

Activities:

- Two meetings per year and regular events & projects at ministerial and/or experts level

Results:

- Impact on national reforms in the region
- Reinforced participation in EU programmes (Erasmus+, Creative Europe, H2020, Marie-Skłodowska-Curie, eTwinning)

Further information and meeting reports at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/international-cooperation/eastern-partnership_en.htm



Dialogue with Southern Mediterranean region (since 2012)

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia

Aim: provide a regional platform for dialogue

- share good practice
- take stock of EU support and identify further needs
- promote regional cooperation in higher education

Activities 2012-2015

- 2013 Regional E+ Information Day
- 2014 Seminar on quality assurance in higher education
- 2014 2nd Policy Dialogue (strategies to improve graduate employability, reduce skills mismatches and ease transition to the labour market)
- 2015 Seminar on Recognition of Credits and Qualifications
- Spring 2016: 3rd Policy Dialogue

Further information and meeting reports at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/international-cooperation/southern-mediterranean_en.htm



Central Asian Education Initiative (2007), supported by Central Asian Education Platform

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan

(2012)

Aim:

- intensify policy dialogue – leading to better links with European strategies & programmes [i.e. more Bologna & better use of Erasmus+ and MSCA].
- encourage further participation in the Torino Process and progress in vocational education and training.
- main content areas: Interaction of VET and HE, Teacher Education and Training as well as Quality of Education.

Activities:

- June 2015 Ministerial Meeting, under LV Presidency.

Further information at: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/central-asia/eu-support-education-and-research-cooperation-central-asia_en



EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue (since China

Aim: HPPD covers education, multilingualism, culture, youth and gender equality.

- represents third pillar of EU-China relations (other two pillars: High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue and High Level Strategic Dialogue).
- helps build mutual trust and consolidate intercultural understanding.

Activities 2012-2015:

- 3 HPPD meetings (→ joint declarations and follow-up action documents); 3 higher education platforms; Tuning studies; 3 culture fora; culture mapping studies; youth conferences and events; language initiatives.
- Next events (platform and education ministers forum): China, autumn 2016.

Results:

- Sharing best practice, discussing common challenges, promoting cooperation.
- Strengthening links between institutions and individuals.
- Reporting on implementation of reforms.



Dialogues with Mexico (2010) and Brazil (2011)

Mexico, Brazil

Aim:

- Discuss topics of common interest at senior official level, exchange best practices and identify concrete areas for future cooperation.
- Long term perspective: more HE cooperation and mobility with EU.

Activities 2012-2015:

- 2012: Joint comparative study (EU-Mexico) on internationalisation of HE, transparency tools, mobility and academic cooperation.
- 2012: Analysis of existing cooperation in terms of academic mobility between EU and Brazil and main obstacles to mobility (Report).
- 2015: 2nd Policy dialogue and Seminar of Experts in Higher Education (Mexico City 24-25 September)

Further information at:

- http://ec.europa.eu/education/international-cooperation/mexico_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/education/international-cooperation/brazil_en.htm



EU-CELAC Policy Dialogue

Community of Latin America and Caribbean States

Aim: bring together leaders from both regions to discuss cooperation.

- foster bi-regional dialogue between universities and central institutions.
- support and contribute to development of programmes aimed at strengthening and modernising HE systems.
- contribute to development of future EU-CELAC Higher Education Area.
- promote joint activities and research projects in HE sector.
- support institutions in fostering social inclusion and cohesion, technology transfers, knowledge, innovation and growth.
- promote mobility of students and staff

Activities:

- 2015: 2nd EU-CELAC Summit (Brussels) → deepened political dialogue on education (among others).
- Results: new chapter IX on Higher Education included in updated Action Plan.



EU-India dialogue

- Policy dialogue since 2008. Senior Official meetings in 2011 & 2013.
- Despite work plan, little sign of follow-up by government, although Indian HEIs active in cooperation under EAC programmes.
- Problems exist → could be subjects for future policy dialogue, if mutual interest.
- http://ec.europa.eu/education/international-cooperation/india_en.htm

EU-South Korea dialogue

- Joint Declaration signed on 11 Nov 2013 → framework for policy dialogue on issues of common interest in HE (exchanges of best practices and increase student and faculty mobility with EU HEIs).
- 1st dialogue planned in March 2016.
- http://ec.europa.eu/education/international-cooperation/korea_en.htm



Dialogue with the African Union

- 2 ongoing initiatives: *Tuning and Harmonisation* (scaling up of pilot initiative to 120 universities and 8 subject areas) and *Harmonisation, Quality and Accreditation* (development of harmonized QA and accreditation system).
- → harmonisation of HE programmes and creation of attractive and globally competitive African HE space, through enhanced intra-African collaboration.

USA/Australia

- Policy dialogue with Australia last took place in 2013; USA in 2011.
- Since then, senior official visits (USA in Feb 2015 and Australia in March 2014).
- Creation of a new joint initiative by US & COM: Fulbright-Schuman Innovation Grants.

Japan

- High level meetings on ad hoc basis.
- Might be developed in light of G7 education ministerial (Japan, May 2016).