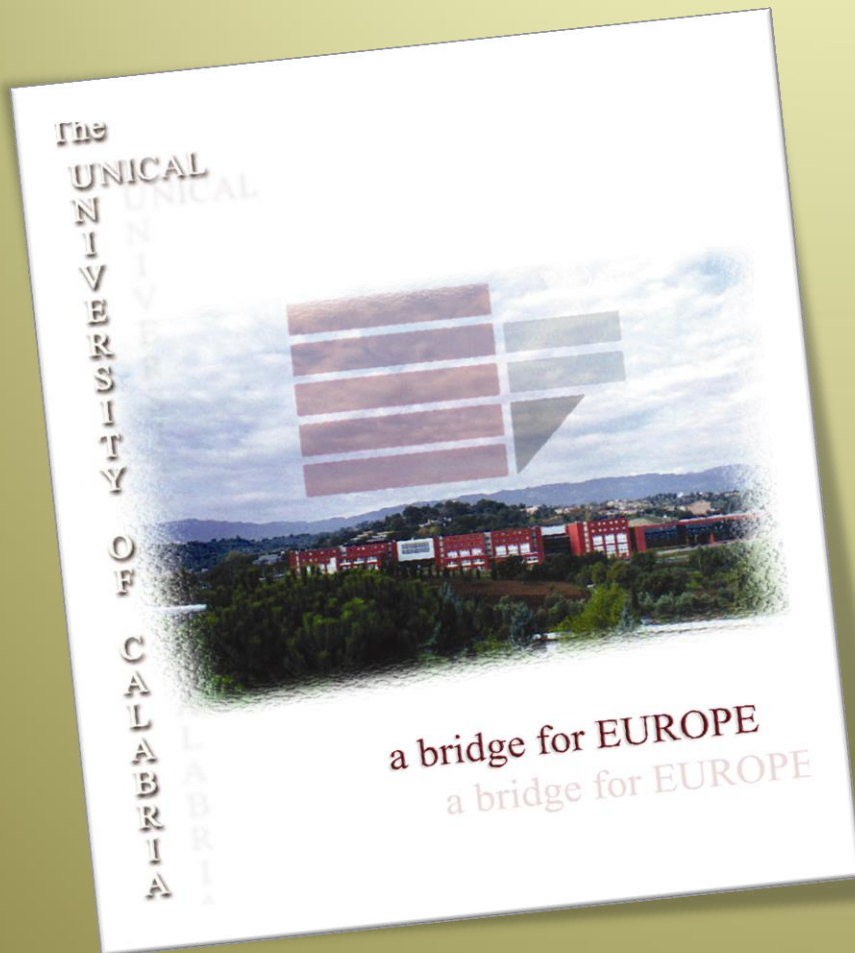


The University of Calabria



**European Conference on Higher Education:
Traineeships & Mobility Consortia
Bilbao, 27 - 28 October 2014
Dr. Franca Leonora Morrone
Director of the Erasmus Special Office
University of Calabria**

The Past

Rationale behind the creation of our first Consortium in 2007

The idea for the creation of a consortium in 2007 was based on:

- the long and positive experience gained through the implementation of several projects in the ambit of the previous LdV. Programme for students and graduates mobility and for staff exchanges in Europe. These pilot experiences were the springboard for better implementing on a wider scale student placements and for creating a proper consortium for Erasmus Placement in LLP;
- the fact that our University is in the south of Italy, in Calabria, which is among the regions with the highest unemployment rate and the situation is even more critical when considering youth unemployment which reaches about the 60%.

So the fundamental need to be satisfied was providing for a better qualification of university students in order to improve their employability on the labour market and we firmly believed that a work experience in enterprises abroad could satisfy this need.

The Erasmus logo features the word "erasmus" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a background of colorful, abstract, feather-like shapes in shades of red, blue, green, and yellow.

the Best Community Program for Education and Training



OUR FIRST ERASMUS PLACEMENT CONSORTIUM

A.S.P.E “Academic Students’ Placements in Europe”, actually one of the biggest existing in Italy for Erasmus placement activities was made up by the following nine universities:



University of Calabria (coordinator)

Polytechnic of Bari,

University of Basilicata,

University of Messina,

University of Pavia,

University of Salerno,

University of Sannio,

University of Teramo

University of Tuscia.

that have been managing Erasmus Placement activities since 2007 in main sectors or disciplines such as

Social Science, Economics and Commerce, Engineering, Manufacturing, Building, Health and Wellness

Cooperation with partner HEIs and tasks

In implementing the placement activities all the Consortium partners make great efforts to:

1. guarantee a high quality level in organizing their students' placements and each university has its role and own responsibilities for the correct development of the project;
2. guarantee quality placements through the search of trainings that fit students' needs;
3. curricular recognition of placement activities developed according to the Training Agreement agreed and signed by the students, home and host institutions before departure;
4. follow and apply the right financial and management rules and send all information concerning placements and students' mobility and financial documents to the coordinator.

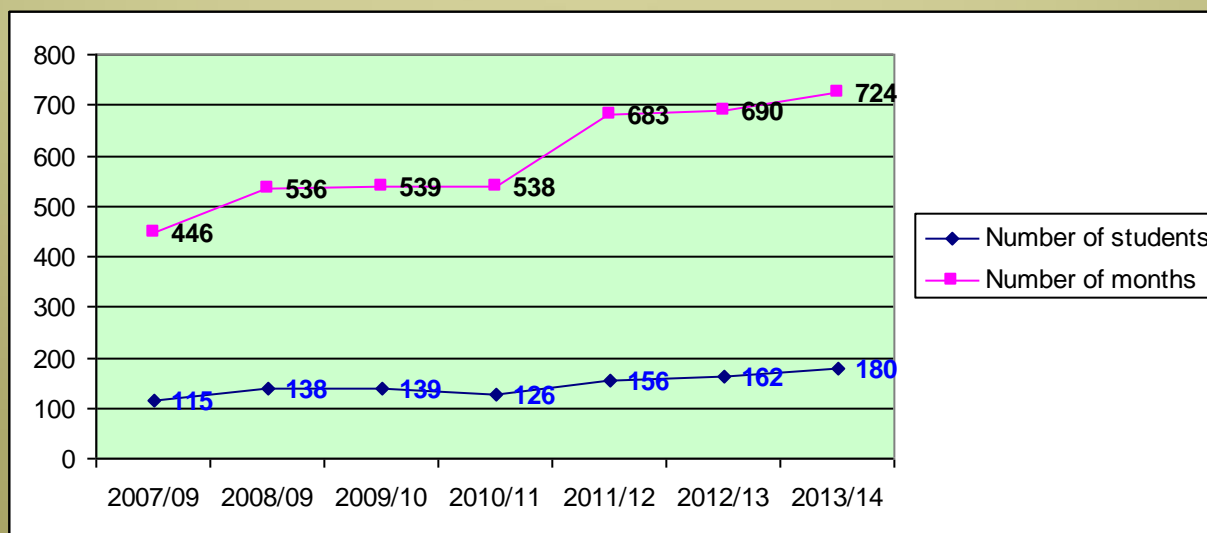
The University of Calabria, as coordinator, has specific tasks such as making periodical controls among partners in order to ensure project correct implementation and management of the activities even on the financial side, in respect of NA rules;

The coordinator and partners are responsible for the selection of their own students and have collaborated for the attainment of the very positive results by the consortium from 2007 to present.

GOOD PRACTICES RESULTING FROM THE CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT

The organizational experience gained by the consortium and the reinforcement of collaboration between Universities and Companies (more than **700 host organizations in the partnership**) have permitted to send out quite a high and ever growing number of students in the past seven years.

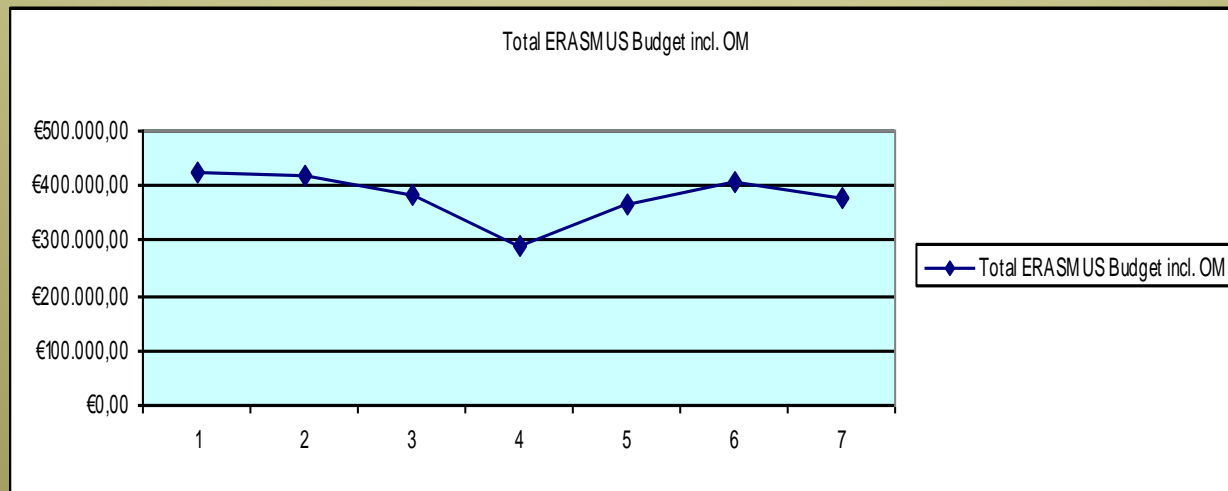
A.Y.	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
N° of students	115	138	139	126	156	162	180
N° of months	446	536	539	538	683	690	724



EU budget awarded over seven years

Year	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Number of funded students	159	159	146	134	170	170	158
Total ERASMUS Budget incl. OM	€ 425.650,00	€ 420.900,00	€ 383.305,00	€ 290.900,00	€ 365.500,00	€ 408.000,00	€ 380.300,00

Total funds spent in the 7 academic years: € 2.674.555,00



PLACEMENT STRATEGY WITH HOSTING COMPANIES

Main objective of our strategy is *to ensure High Quality Placements* through the

- a) choice of host companies among those offering work trainings coherent to beneficiaries interests;
- b) definition of work programs before placement takes place;
- c) development (via e-mail or telephone) of tutoring, mentoring, supervision, and evaluation activities of trainees while abroad;
- d) recognition of developed activities in student's curriculum by home institution and also in the Diploma Supplement:

What services are offered to trainees?

before mobility:

- massive advertising campaigns on Erasmus Placement via the media and the Internet;
- orientation sessions to illustrate the countries of destination;
- provision of websites and materials on the culture and customs of the different countries;
- information on the insurance policy needed when going abroad;
- information on language preparation courses either in the language centers of home universities or in the destination countries ;
- choice of host enterprises among those offering work trainings coherent to their interests;
- definition of work programs before placement takes place by home and host institutions;
- provision of logistical information also offered by the hosting partners.

during mobility:

- tutoring, mentoring, supervision, and evaluation, via e-mail or by other means, of beneficiaries while abroad.

after mobility:

- evaluation of the activities developed and recognition in students' home curricula;
- evaluation of students' satisfaction at end of the placements;
- dissemination encounters where their experiences can be shared by other students interested in going abroad.

What services are offered to partner HEIs?

- preparation and publishing on the project website of the text of the annual notice of competition for the attainment of the Erasmus Placement grants by students;
- help in implementing the selection process in order to find the most suitable students who want to go on a traineeship abroad;
- preparation, updating and publishing of supporting documents to be used by partners for their mobile students;
- holding of annual meeting with consortium partners for better organising placement activities;
- solving any issues or problems that may arise during the trainees' mobility period;
- presentation to Italian Erasmus NA of intermediate and final reports on mobility and expenditure

More on the Consortium

Furthermore, the **A.S.P.E. Consortium project** was selected among 67 other European proposals and **awarded by the European Commission in Prague on May 7, 2009 as Best Practice** in Erasmus Placement, in the ambit of the "Conference on Innovation & Creativity in t



NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES WITH OTHER CONSORTIA

Since 2003 networking with the LEO-NET “Leveraging Education into Organizations”
For the future we are looking for new networking opportunities also by meeting other consortium coordinators here in Bilbao in occasion of this Conference .



Erasmus+

The Present: Creation of a New Consortium, WHY?

Because the results of our previous consortium

- have been excellent and the impact on the people involved has been quite strong because of its innovativeness;
- the consortium itself represented a novelty because a network of institutions was involved in setting out collaboration terms for promoting and facilitating traineeships;
- a huge database including EU enterprises, University and placement organizations has been created.

The New Erasmus+ Consortium

in 2014 a new proposal for a consortium project has been approved by the Italian Erasmus+ National Agency

Its name is **Best Erasmus Traineeships for Jobs “BET for Jobs”** and ten Italian Universities, two more than in the previous consortium, will be participating.

Future objectives of the New Consortium “BET for Jobs” and its composition

Main future objectives to be reached are to:

- improve the quality and increase the volume of cooperation between Higher Education Institutions, Foreign Organizations and Companies;
- improve the professional, social and intercultural skills of students/graduates in order to facilitate a more qualified entry in the labor market;
- increase the offer of Traineeships abroad in all the Universities in the Consortium;
- increase in the number of Italian students/graduates benefiting from quality traineeships
- inclusion of Italian SMEs wishing to host trainees from other countries in our traineeship database in order to offer equal opportunities to students also in Italian enterprises.

Universities participating to the BET for Jobs Consortium

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II.

POLITECNICO DI BARI

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI BARI "ALDO MORO"

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PAVIA

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI TERAMO

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DEL SANNIO

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DELLA TUSCIA

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DELLA BASILICATA

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI CATANIA

What are the expected impacts of the consortium on main target groups ?

- a) Universities will be able to enlarge their educational offer for students and graduates with traineeship opportunities in companies abroad and strengthen their internationalization policy by collaborating with EU private sector partners and not only with Universities;
- b) Companies will enjoy the benefits arising from the comparison with the academic culture of trainees taking advantage of their work and will strengthen their cooperation with Italian Universities;
- c) Students and graduates will better their cultural and professional experiences and be facilitated in entering the job market;
- d) Italian SMEs, deciding to recruit students or grads with such training experiences, will take advantage of their expertise gained abroad both in terms of contacts and of "good practices" on the workplace.

Go to the project website: <http://betforjobs.erasmusmanager.it>

E-Mail the consortium coordinator at:

socrates@unical.it ; international@unical.it

**Thanks for
your
attention!**