



Resolution:

The ERASMUS Mundus project in North Africa

Adopted at the YEPP Council meeting in Madrid 27 September 2012

Recognising:

- ERASMUS is the EU's flagship and education program enabling 200000 students to study and work abroad each year.
- It funds cooperation between higher education institutes across Europe.
- The majority of EU Universities take part in ERASMUS.
- More than 2.2 million students have participated since the programme started in 1987.
- 250000 teachers and Universities' staff have participated since 1997 and especially since 2007.
- The annual budget is in excess of 450 million Euros and more than 4000 higher education institutions in 33 countries are participating including third- countries such as Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Turkey.
- More than 3000 participants of ERASMUS Mundus coming from North Africa and the Middle East have been awarded with teaching and education grants from the EU. The number of these grants was doubled by the EU commission in December 2011.

Acknowledging:

- This programme supports students as well as teachers and helps the University staff to receive accurate and specific training.
- Erasmus increases the knowledges of each student and it improves the self awareness, independence, language and social skills of all the participants. The program encourages participants to understand new cultures and accept differences as a cultural enrichment.
- The added value of an Erasmus exchange for students entering the labour market. The beneficial effects are both for the students and for the Universities hosting.
- That YEPP has as goal "to reinforce the Erasmus program with the Mediterranean countries, to provide a framework for cooperation in higher education ... between the two shores of the Mediterranean".

YEPP calls on:

- The EU Commission to enlarge the ERASMUS project to the countries in North Africa that have to start a civil reconstruction since their former rulers have been forced from power (States such as Tunisia, Egypt and Libya). ERASMUS should be one of the tools used a

modernization of their higher education institutions. Erasmus should act as a promoter for political freedom.

- The EU Commission and especially its Directorate-General for Education and Culture to encourage and support North Africa Universities to reach the standards of the ERASMUS University charter which guarantees the quality of the programme. Subsidising these institutions from funds made available through the European Neighbourhood policy.
- The EU Commission to increase the number of exchanges with countries involved in the "Arab Spring", with a focus on teachers and University staff, that could represent an efficient response to the need of democratization of North Africa countries.
- The EU Commission to increase the Erasmus Mundus projects that aim at promoting European Higher Education in North Africa countries. These projects involve specific subjects such as doctorates, architecture, environment and sustainability.