

BRIDGES-LAC

**International Seminar
Mexico, 26 March 2009**

**Building Relationships & Improving
Dialogue Geared towards Erasmus Mundus'
goals- Latin America & Caribbean.**



BRIDGES-LAC and the ERASMUS MUNDUS PROGRAMME

- European Commission- Directorate-General for Education and Culture
- BRIDGES-LAC is implemented according to the guidelines set forth in Action 4 of the Erasmus Mundus Programme
- This Action is addressed to higher education institutions and other organisations active in the field of higher education that wish to establish a **cooperation project**



Mexico, 26 March 2009



Common Area in Higher Education

Latin America and the Caribbean- The European Union

- It is a Latin America and European initiative
- Cumbre Union Europea America Latina y el Caribe de Cúpula de Río de Janeiro, 29 de Junio, 1999
- To build a cooperation and multilateral framework to improve both (LAC and EU) education systems, and
- To identify Higher Education as a priority area in the LAC-EU relationships



Mexico, 26 March 2009



BRIDGES-LAC

- Improving **Accessibility**
- Advancing the **Recognition of Degrees and Qualifications**
- Enhancing the **International Dimension of Quality Assurance**
- Ensuring Participation to Share and **Disseminate Experiences, Knowledge and Information**
- Strengthening Relations while Furthering Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation through **Workshops and Debates**
- Working towards the Development of a **Common Perspective to respond to Global Challenges in Higher Education**



Mexico, 26 March 2009



WHY BRIDGES-LAC?

- **To enhance the attractiveness of European Higher Education in Latin America for the benefit of both regions**
 - *by building upon previous projects funded by the European Commission and the experiences and knowledge accumulated until now*
 - *by taking advantage of synergies already in place among consolidated networks*



Mexico, 26 March 2009



HOW BRIDGES-LAC?

- 1. By preparing and carrying out a SURVEY to identify the challenges and opportunities in the area of accessibility of European Higher Education
 - By consolidating findings on the accessibility of European Higher Education in a Green Paper and including recommendations in a White Paper
 - By creating a consolidated Database to be updated periodically
- 2. By working on the mutual recognition of degrees and qualifications and consolidating the existing information in a Research Paper identifying best-practices and successful joint actions
- 3. By strengthening the international dimension of Quality Assurance and proposing a Prototype Model



Mexico, 26 March 2009



II- HOW BRIDGES-LAC?

- 4. By contributing to the interdisciplinary policy debate to further a greater understanding among stakeholders and decision-makers in both regions through the organisation of Round Tables, Debates, Foras and Bi-regional Seminars
- 5. By working towards the dissemination and multiplication of good practices and successful experiences carried out by Europe and Latin America in the area of Higher Education and research through the creation of Multiplier and Participatory Units, a searchable Portal, an on-line newsletter and a prototype model for evaluation and ongoing monitoring of the project
- 6. By consolidating an evaluation framework in order to ensure the quality of BRIDGES-LAC outputs



Mexico, 26 March 2009



WHO IS BRIDGES?

- Coordinator: **Asociación Observatorio de las Relaciones entre Europa y América Latina (OBREAL)**
- European Partners:
 - Leiden Universiteit – The Netherlands
 - Universidad de Deusto- Spain
 - MENON Network- Belgium
 - IPA- Poland
- Latin American Partners:
 - FLACSO- General Secretariat - Costa Rica
 - FLACSO Mexico
 - ALADI- Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración- Uruguay
- Associated Partners:
 - AUSJAL – Venezuela
 - EMA-LAC – Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association.- Brussels
 - Universidad Austral de Chile – Chile
 - EUA –European University Association –Bélgica.



Mexico, 26 March 2009



Education and Culture DG

ERASMUS MUNDUS

Thank you for your attention

Open discussion

