“Academic Cooperation in South Eastern Europe: Dynamics and Aims in the Light of Scientific and Political Changes”

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Academic Cooperation between the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the Process of Convergence with the European Union

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What does convergence mean?

- 2003: Thessaloniki – the starting point of the SEE accession process
- SAA (Stabilisation and Association Agreements)
- Visa liberalisation
- CEFTA (Central European Free Trade Agreement)
- Dialogue on disputed topics
- From Tempus-Cards to IPA (Instrument of Pre-Accession)
- The Bologna Process
- 1999: Start of Academic Reconstruction: first workshops, Sur-Place-scholarships (e.g. at the Technical University of Sofia).
The challenges – yesterday, today

- Climatic changes
- Environmental disasters/ecological problems
- Energy supply problems
- Scarce resources
- Communicable diseases
- Human rights violations
- Corruption, human trafficking
- Deficits in social systems
- Economic crises (e.g. Euro crisis)
- Nationalism and history
- …
Answers to the challenges

As a rule, DAAD programmes are open for the study of all subjects: “classic” DAAD programmes for students, graduates and academics.

However, special programmes have been and are being created as an answer to special needs: academic reconstruction in SEE (1999), DAAD-OSI programme (2009).

Joining forces: programmes in cooperation with South East European governments and line ministries; mobility of young researchers (“PPP”) – Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Hungary.
And the future?

- Individual excellence – the DAAD’s classic field of activity: individual scholarships for excellent students, graduates and academics (both Germans and foreigners)

- Attaining international quality through international and regional cooperation: specialist courses, PhD seminars, summer schools - Bachelor Plus programme, Strategic Partnerships, Joint or Double Degree programmes (Master, PhD)

- Attaining international competitiveness through networking: from “Stability Pact networks” to EU projects (TEMPUS, FP 7, …) or DAAD-funded “Higher Education Projects Abroad”

- Staying in contact and dialogue: alumni meetings, DAAD alumni associations

- Information and consultation: DAAD regional offices and Information Centres, network of DAAD lektors in SEE.
Sustainable university cooperation in teaching, study and research

“Academic Reconstruction in South Eastern Europe”

Strategic shaping of the programme’s activities
Current achievements

Exchange and mobility in 2012

- About 25 tailor-made intensive courses on MA- and PhD-Level are conducted
- 15 curricula are significantly reformed
- 10 study-modules and -courses are developed
- Almost 1000 individual grants are allocated (more than 17,000 since 2000), 70% within SEE
- Total amount of funds since 2000: 31.5 m. €
Recent developments

- Sharing the Bologna dimension
  - Harmonising study courses
  - Introducing quality assurance according to international standards

- Promotion of young academics on an international level
  - Supporting especially MA- and PhD students
  - Attracting Postdocs to leading positions
Upcoming challenges

- Strengthening cooperation in the fields of humanities and social sciences
- Consolidating the development of regional MA programmes
- Enhancing the efforts to build up SEE-PhD programmes
- Expanding project activities in the area of joint research and publications
- Extending the centres of excellence’s outreach on new partners
Strategic shaping

How can the scale of project activities be enhanced?

- By progressing from intensive courses to study modules and to joint degrees, while setting up joint quality assurance models
- By using the networks’ platforms to cooperate with local administration, ministries, economy and industry

How can partnerships for large-scale European projects and EU-funding be build?

- By bundling capacities and by harmonising structural differences of the region
- By finding new European partners and by preparing joint applications, e.g. in TEMPUS and other programmes
Thank you very much for your present and future cooperation!

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