



Higher education cooperation in the framework of EU cooperation policy towards Asia – lessons learned and perspectives

Vincent Piket

Head of Unit, European Commission (EuropeAid Cooperation
Office, Centralised Operations for Asia)



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The current context:

**Higher education as a priority area
for regional cooperation**

Lessons learned

The current context: Higher education as a priority area for regional cooperation

- Policy framework
 - Policy paper 'Europe and Asia: A Strategic Framework for Enhanced Partnerships' (2001)
 - Strategy Paper and Indicative Programme for multi-country programmes 2005-2006
 - Regional cooperation as a priority area
- "Asia-wide" programmes:
 - Asia-Link (higher education partnerships)
 - Asia-Invest (business and investment partnerships)
 - Asia Pro Eco (sustainable development partnerships)



Asia-Link activities



Partnership Projects (Calls for Proposals)

- Projects cover one or more of the following areas:
 - Human Resource Development
 - Curriculum Development
 - Institutions & Systems Development

Programme Support Activities

- Stakeholders' meetings
- Networking of beneficiaries
- Studies/analyses
- Information and promotion
- European Higher Education Fairs



Partnership projects (1)



- **Grant size and co-funding**

- € 200.000 - € 750.000
- Maximum EU contribution: 75% - 90%

- **Minimum partnership 4 partners:**

- At least two EU partners from different Member States PLUS at least two Asian partners from **different** Asian countries

- **Duration:** 12 – 36 months

- **Eligible institutions:**

- Higher education institutions
- Networks of higher education institutions
- Regional higher education institutions



Partnership projects (2)



- **To date (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 Calls)**
 - 984 applications received, involving 4590 institutions
 - 155 projects selected, involving 707 institutions
 - € 53.0 million co-funding
- **2006 Call closed 19 October: 354 proposals received**
 - € 12.6 million available for grants



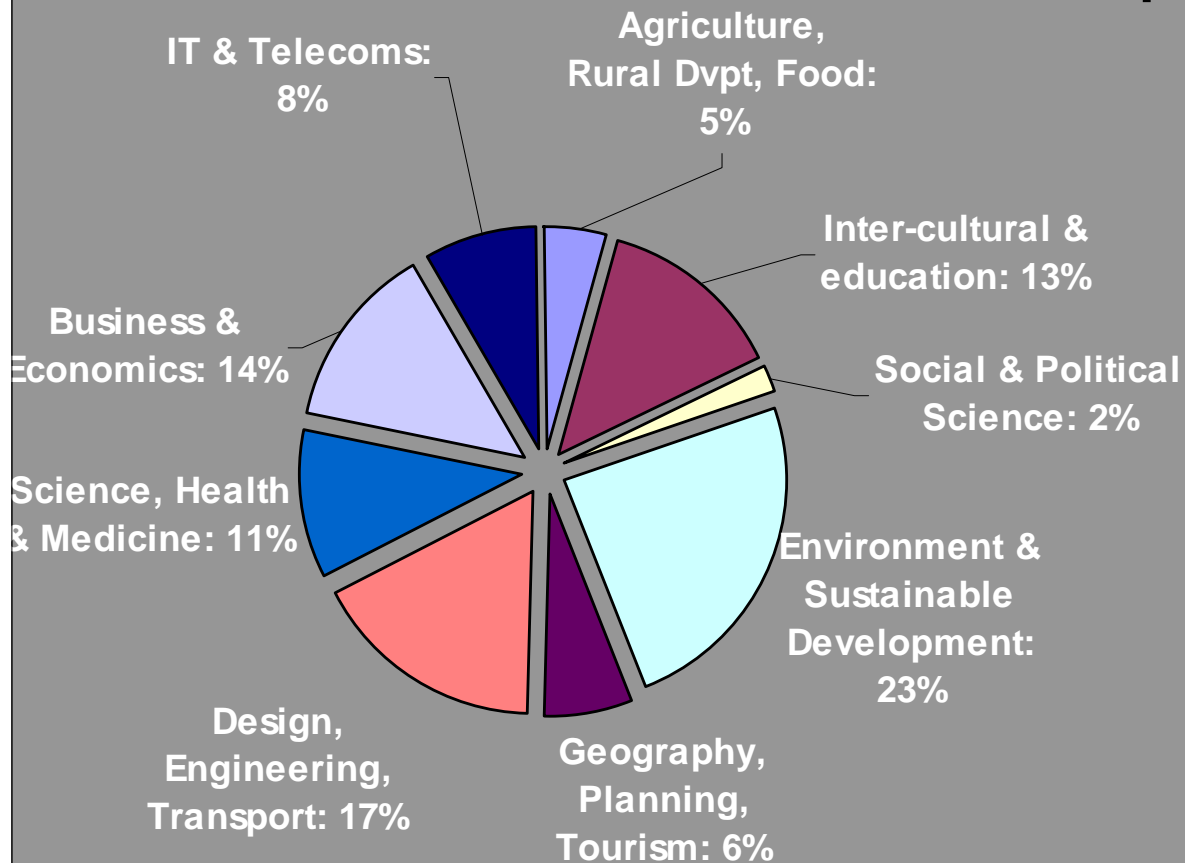
Partnership projects (4)



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155 Asia-Link projects by theme

(Calls 1 - 4)



Asia-Link: lessons learned (1)



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Programme evaluations, 2004 & 2006

- **Relevance of projects**

- relevant to national and regional priorities
- important to the universities.

- **Sustainability of projects**

- Networks in over 85% of projects will last “to a considerable degree” after project end.

- **Effectiveness of projects**

- 70% of projects scored 9 or 10 out of 10 for effectiveness.

- **Impact of projects outside partnerships**

- Wider range of stakeholders outside the immediate project partnership
- Projects well-based in the national economy that their results are to serve.



Asia-Link: lessons learned (2)



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Impact and relevance of programme

- Projects are increasing Asian interest in European HE sector and its reforms
- The "brand name" is well-established
- Networks complementary to scholarship programmes.

Importance of the partnership approach, and transfer of experience

- valuable for project ownership, strengthens EU-Asia mutual understanding
- regional value-added through partnerships across Asian borders and regions
- a number of projects focus on inter-cultural partnerships and working together over distance.



ASEAN-EU University Network Programme (AUNP)

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Agreement between EC and ASEAN University Network (AUN)

- 20 Partnership projects (EU and ASEAN partners)
 - Common Applied Research
 - Human Resource Development
 - Curriculum Development
- Networking activities
 - ASEAN-EU Rectors' Conferences; Round Table Meetings; national and regional workshops
- 2006 final evaluation:
 - "Improved ASEAN-EU and ASEAN-ASEAN HE relationship"
 - "University linkages frequently extended to other cooperative activities and exchanges"



Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

- ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) initiative
- Funded by ASEM member countries and the EU
- Promotes cultural, intellectual and people-to-people exchanges between Asia and Europe
 - **Intellectual Exchange programme**
 - Includes education, science and technology (academic co-operation, Asia-Europe Environment Forum)
 - **Cultural Exchange programme**
 - **People-to-People Exchange programme**
 - Includes educational exchanges (ASEF Universities, Asia Europe Education Hub ...),
 - **Public Affairs programme**



The future context: 2007 - 2010

Future framework for EU-Asia higher education cooperation 2007 onwards

New legal and policy basis

- Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)
- All Asia Regional programming document (2007-2013)

New Asia-wide strategy and policy *(current draft)*

- 1. Sub-regional Cooperation and Dialogues
 - ASEM, ASEAN, SAARC
- 2. Specific Multi-country Programmes
 - Avian influenza, Uprooted people
- 3. Asia-Wide Programmes
 - Trade & Investment
 - **Higher Education**
 - Environment

EU-Asia higher education cooperation, 2007-2010: a continuing priority

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Key objectives

- Develop EU-Asia relationship through higher education scheme to benefit universities, scholars and students
- Help Asian universities raise academic standards and cope with increased demand
- Position higher education programme as a brand name of excellence

Key activities

- Mobility schemes at postgraduate level
- EU-Asia university partnerships for Masters courses
- Dialogue with Europe on quality, standards



Building on the past, moving to the future

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The way forward

- Disseminate good practice and practical lessons learned
- Build university partnerships into networks
- Improve HEI human resources and raise academic standards
- What contribution can universities (and/or networks) make to sustainable economic development?