



The impact of ERASMUS MUNDUS PARTNERSHIPS on Ghent University



GHENT
UNIVERSITY

NAME:

Ana Cuzovic

MOBILITY:

PhD Exchange 6 months

HOME INSTITUTION:

University of Belgrade

HOME COUNTRY:

Serbia

PROJECT NAME:

Basileus V



Having the opportunity to study abroad as a Basileus scholar was a very inspiring and valuable experience for me. It helped me to establish new, international contacts at Ghent University - exchange experiences with other scholars dealing with similar topics, and most importantly see myself and my research in the global context that gave me strong confidence to give my best and follow my ideas.

I developed a great relationship with the S:PAM research team and prof. Christel Stalpaert, my supervisor, who became my role model of a strong woman, leading a successful department. Thanks to their warm welcome I was closely involved in all activities of the research center and immersed into the cultural and art scene in Belgium. This experience was very valuable for my future career and personal growth.

'Fairy-tale' Gent is still one of my favorite places – with beautiful architecture, calm but vivid life with many cultural and art events.

In 2007 the European Commission launched the programme 'Erasmus Mundus External Co-operation Window (EM ECW)'. The aim of this programme was to improve the quality of higher education and to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures by organizing mobility of students and staff and academic cooperation between EU and certain regions outside of the EU. In 2009 the programme turned into EMA2, Erasmus Mundus Action 2 Partnerships, partnering up under one umbrella with the other Erasmus Mundus funding programme, the Action 1 Joint Master Courses. From 2007 up to 2017 the European Commission funded 308 Erasmus Mundus Partnership projects, involving around 1600 institutions worldwide and granting over 48 000 scholarships for an amount of 951 million EUR^[1]. With the start of the Erasmus+ programme in 2014 the EMA2 programme ended. The last mobility flows were implemented in 2018.

Ghent University was involved in 35 projects (11% of the total) and coordinated 11 of these. UGent was hence one of the most active European universities in Erasmus Mundus Partnerships. In total 2888 students and staff had the opportunity to study, do research or teach abroad thanks to these projects coordinated (or managed) by UGent. For UGent, there were 733 incoming mobility flows and 83 outgoing. An overview:

Project name	Region	Startdate (dd/mm/yyyy)	Enddate (dd/mm/yyyy)	UGent: Incoming mobility	UGent: Outgoing mobility
Basileus	Western Balkans	15/07/2008	30/11/2011	41	4
Basileus II	Western Balkans	15/07/2009	30/11/2011	39	2
Lisum	China	15/07/2009	14/07/2013	43	7
Basileus III	Western Balkans	30/11/2010	29/11/2014	20	5
Lotus	Southeast Asia	15/07/2010	24/07/2014	39	NA
Lotus II	Southeast Asia	15/07/2011	14/07/2015	20	NA
Basileus IV	Western Balkans	15/07/2012	14/07/2016	27	2
Lotus III	Southeast Asia	15/07/2012	14/07/2016	21	NA
Svaagata	India	15/07/2012	14/07/2016	33	NA
Basileus V	Western Balkans	15/07/2013	14/07/2017	35	2
Lotus Unlimited	Southeast Asia	15/07/2013	14/07/2017	28	11
TOTAL				346	33

Projects coordinated by UGent

[1] Ruffio, P. (2017, 8 February). 10 Years of Erasmus Mundus Partnerships [Powerpoint]. Retrieved from: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/3.ema2_main_achievements.pdf

Project name	Region	Startdate (dd/mm/yyyy)	Enddate (dd/mm/yyyy)	UGent: Incoming mobility	UGent: Outgoing mobility
Brazil EBW	Brazil	01/10/2008	30/09/2011	13	2
Chili-EU	Chili	01/10/2008	30/09/2011	5	NA
Brazil EBW II	Brazil	01/10/2009	30/09/2013	15	4
Mundus 17 Brazilie	Brazil	01/08/2009	30/06/2013	12	1
VECCEU	Ecuador, Cuba, Chile, Venezuela	01/10/2009	30/09/2013	9	5
China VUB	China	01/10/2009	30/09/2013	12	3
COOPEN	Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama	01/10/2009	30/09/2013	10	3
Eurindia	India	01/10/2009	30/09/2013	11	1
Eurotango	Argentina	15/07/2010	30/04/2014	10	NA
Eurotango 2	Argentina	15/07/2011	14/07/2015	9	NA
TEE	USA & Canada	15/07/2011	14/07/2015	2	10
Welcome	Egypt & Libanon	06/10/2011	05/10/2015	23	2
Babel	South America	14/07/2012	15/07/2016	13	1
EU-SATURN	South Africa	15/07/2012	14/07/2016	16	NA
Euroeast	Georgia, Azerbaijan	15/07/2012	14/07/2016	41	0
Mundus Lindo	South America	15/07/2012	14/07/2016	17	NA
Peace	Central America	15/07/2012	14/07/2016	17	2
Webb	Georgia, Azerbaijan	15/07/2012	14/07/2016	19	2
Techno II	Southeast Asia	15/07/2012	14/07/2016	15	NA
Caribu	ACP-Countries	15/07/2013	14/07/2017	24	NA
Namaste	India	15/07/2013	14/07/2017	22	NA
Impakt	Southeast Asia	15/07/2014	14/07/2019	29	2
Inspire	South Africa	14/07/2014	15/07/2018	22	4
Lotus+	Southeast Asia	14/07/2014	14/07/2018	21	8
TOTAL				387	50

Partner projects

To manage these projects UGent received a total budget of 16 632 913,28 EUR. The budget included:

- Mainly subsistence, travel and insurance costs for mobile students and staff;
- Tuition fees;
- Lump sums to coordinate or manage the projects.



NAME:

Manoel José Mendes Pires

MOBILITY:

Staff exchange 1 month

HOME INSTITUTION:

Federal University of Jequitinhonha and Mucuri Valleys

HOME COUNTRY:

Brazil

PROJECT NAME:

BABEL



In 2016, I received an announcement from the Erasmus Mundus Programme, since our university (UFVJM) was an associated institution. UGent was a partner university, and looking at the physics and solid-state departments, I found the DyNaMat group (Department of Solid State Sciences), which conducts researches in the same area we work, and coincidentally using three techniques that I have used during my graduate studies and further researches. Then, I contacted Prof. Van Waeyenberge, whose kindly accepted to participate in the programme.

About the impact on my institution, our university was created just 13 years ago, and our research facilities are still incipient in the area that I work, Solid State Physics / Material Science. So far, we have done few actions of international collaboration. In this way, the opportunity to establish cooperation with already consolidated research groups, such as the group that welcomed me at UGent, is extremely important for the development of our university, allowing the expansion of activities and their internationalisation. We have been able to discuss several possibilities for joint work. With the support from the group, I was able to learn how to use the open-source software developed by them in a much shorter time than I would have if I had not participated in the mobility. Presently I am using this software in my research projects and have published an article including some results obtained with it.

NAME:
Gerani Cheuk – A – Lam

MOBILITY:
Master degree 2 academic years

HOME COUNTRY:
Suriname

PROJECT NAME:
CARIBU



In September 2015 I relocated from Suriname (a small Dutch speaking country in South-America) to Ghent to start my Master program in Human Nutrition at the Faculty of Bio-Science Engineering. It was my first time studying abroad and living on my own, which was an exciting experience.

Knowing that I would spend many hours at either the faculty or studying, I chose to rent a studio close to the faculty. At first glance, the Faculty seemed impressive and it had an inviting character to get lost easily. However, due to good guidance from the ITC office, faculty members and students regarding practical and academic matters, I swiftly became familiar with the faculty flow.

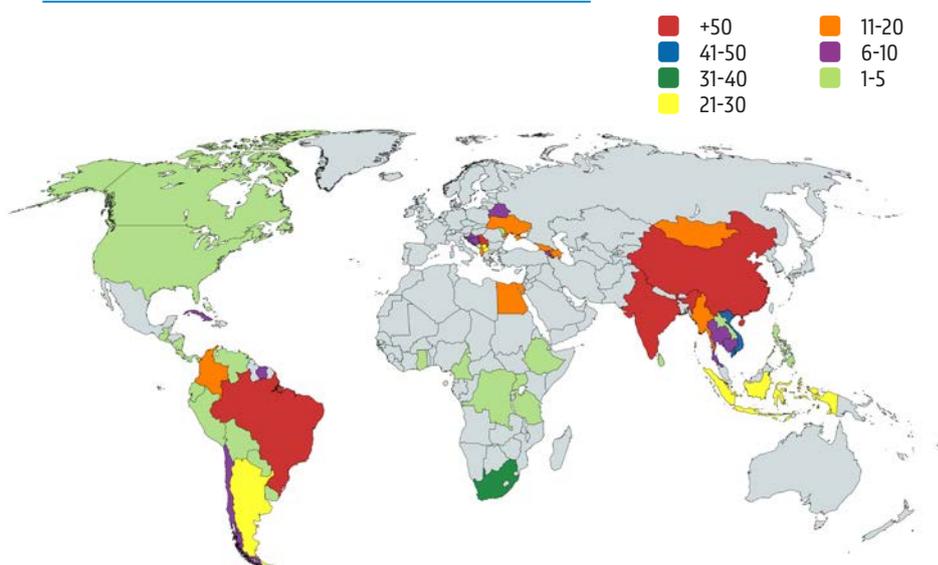
Studying at Ghent University yielded a perspective broadening experience. The educational facilities (in particular the ITC facilities) were at a more advanced stage than in my country of origin. This experience also offered the opportunity to work together with people from different cultural backgrounds, with alternative perspectives on interdisciplinary and socially relevant issues. As a result, I gained a broader view of the relevant projects through mainly practical experiences and made some good friends.

I came to know Ghent as a lively, student friendly city with many hidden pearls. You can easily get around on the bike and explore impressive sights & landmarks. All of this would have not been possible if it was not for the support and guidance of the CARIBU – Erasmus Mundus Consortium and the ITC office.

Partner institutions	Country	Incoming mobility
University of Belgrade	Serbia	31
University of Novi Sad	Serbia	28
Sichuan University	China	21
Hue University	Vietnam	18
University of Prishtina	Kosovo ²	15
Ss. Cyril and methodius Skopje	Macedonia	14
University of Kragujevac	Serbia	14
Institut Teknologi Bandung	Indonesia	11
Peking University	China	10
Ilia State University	Georgia	10
University of Tirana	Albania	9
Wuhan University	China	9
University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	India	9
National Law School of India University	India	8
National University of Mongolia	Mongolia	8

Top partner institutions – INCOMING mobility UGent

INCOMING GRANT HOLDERS GHENT UNIVERSITY

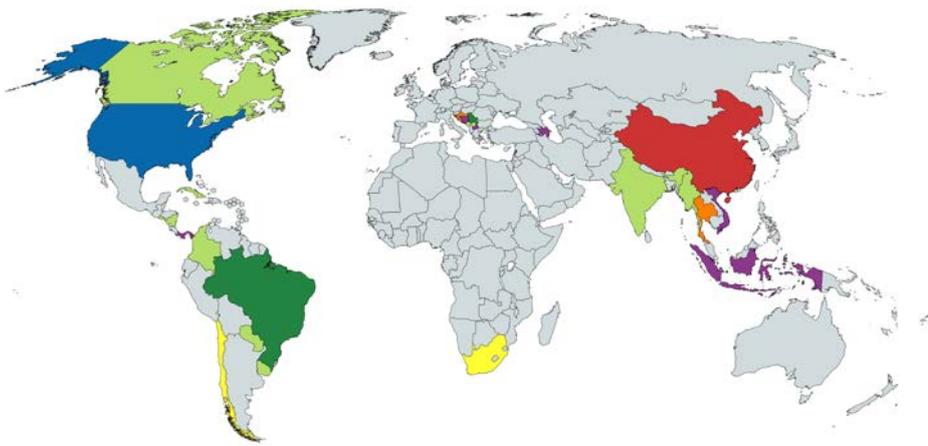


[2] Kosovo: as defined under UNSCR 1244/99

Partner institutions	Country	Outgoing mobility
Peking University	China	7
Sichuan University	China	6
University of Belgrade	Serbia	5
University of Pennsylvania	USA	4
University of Zagreb	Croatia	3

Top partner institutions – OUTGOING mobility UGent

OUTGOING GRANT HOLDERS GHENT UNIVERSITY



NAME:

Sofie De Paepe

MOBILITY:

Master Exchange 1 semester

HOST INSTITUTION:

Sichuan University, China

HOME INSTITUTION:

Ghent University, Belgium

PROJECT NAME:

Lotus+



Sichuan University was the obvious choice for me, not only because I studied Chinese, but also because I had met some of the professors during an internship the year before. It was the best decision ever! Not only did my teachers really support and welcome me, I also learned a lot during my stay and gained valuable research skills that assisted me in finishing my degree at home. Above all this, I made amazing lifelong friends. Chengdu is a vibrant city with lots of things to do and I never had a dull moment during the whole six month stay.



NAME:

Diem Chi Doan

MOBILITY:

PhD degree 36 months

HOME INSTITUTION:

Can Tho University

HOME COUNTRY:

Vietnam

PROJECT NAME:

Lotus III



I felt so proud to be selected for a full three-year PhD scholarship at Ghent University in 2013. The peacefulness, the ancient history, and the modern musical festivals in Ghent have impressed me. Doing a PhD research at Ghent University has enriched my scientific knowledge and intellectual skills, that I ended my PhD in 3.5 years with 6 research papers. I spent my time not only in the lab, but I also enjoyed myself by biking, tasting beer, eating, and listening to music. By joining many international conferences, I networked and found my current position as a postdoctoral fellow at University of Saskatchewan, Canada. Hence, the Lotus III program funded by the European Commission provided me a new route that has led me to brighter future.

In 2018 the last Erasmus Mundus Action 2 projects at UGent came to an end. It has been a great pleasure to work together and deepen bonds with institutions worldwide, share knowledge and gain experiences. These projects also enhanced new or existing collaborations and initiatives: inter-institutional agreements, Erasmus+ projects and other types of cooperation, see below.

Without a doubt the EM ECW and EMA2 projects had an impact on UGent. From the start of the new programme of the European Commission UGent was a valuable partner to collaborate with and through the experience in different projects UGent built a strong reputation at partner institutions worldwide which also increased the visibility of the institution.

The projects challenged the internal procedures of UGent and had a positive impact on the procedures at the central administration and at faculty level. It was an interesting learning process and the International Relations Office gained experience and confidence in managing large scale mobility projects outside of Europe and helped several non-EU partners in establishing an IRO.

UGent will sustain the collaborations and relationships with the EMA2 partners worldwide through the regional platforms: CESAM (Central and Latin America), ASEAN+ (Southeast Asia + South Korea, Japan...), China and Africa platform. UGent will of course also stay in touch with all its 733 international alumni of the EM ECW and EMA2 projects.

COUNTRY	INSTITUTION
China	Nanjing University
China	Peking University
China	Sichuan University
Indonesië	University of Gadjah Mada
Indonesië	Bandung Insitute of Technology
Vietnam	Can Tho University
Vietnam	Hue University
Serbia	University of Belgrade
Serbia	University of Novi Sad
Bosnia-Herzegovina	University of Banja Luka
Argentinië	Universidad Nacional de la Plata
Bolivië	Universidad Catolica Boliviana San Pablo
Bolivië	Universidad Mayor de San Simon
Brazilië	Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
Brazilië	Universidade Federal de Pernambuco
Brazilië	Universidade de São Paulo/ University of São Paulo
Brazilië	Universidade Federal of Santa Maria
Chili	Universidad Austral de Chile
Chili	Universidad de Tarapaca
Chili	University of Concepcion
Uruguay	Universidad de Montevideo

Inter-Institutional agreements



NEW ERASMUS+ CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS:

- CLEMA: Knowledge, Curricula and practice for the Educational Support Worker in Vietnam
- CONSEA: Developing curricula for Environmental safety and Conservation of the Biodiversity in SEA
- NutriSEA: Network of universities and enterprises for food training in Southeast Asia
- SIMPLE: Support of International Platform Merging Labour and Education in Southeast Asia
- Rec-Mat: Recognition Matters (Latin America)
- TeComp: Strengthening Teaching Competences in Higher Education in Natural and Mathematical Sciences (Western Balkans)

OTHER TYPES OF COOPERATION:

- UGent as member of the Santander Group takes part in the 'Think Tank for China' and the 'Think Tank for Latin America' where expertise of collaborating with China/Latin-Amerika is shared and gathered.
- Ghent University and Sichuan University created a Summer School in the field of political sciences.
- UGent signed an agreement with LPDP (Lembaga Pengelola Dana Pendidikan), a scholarship programme of the Indonesian Government for Indonesian students to study abroad.
- In Brazil several initiatives concerning mobility of students and international collaborations were introduced during and after the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 Programme. In 2011 'Science without borders' was launched in which during 5 years 100.000 Brazilian students received a scholarship to study abroad. Through the contacts of UGent with some Brazilian institutions (several because of EMA2), UGent received a total of 31 students through this programme. In 2017 a new programme 'PrInt' started, mainly focusing on research collaborations.
- TRAIN (Training and Research for Academic Newcomers) was a project coordinated by UGent and funded by the King Baudouin Foundation. It was about developing, implementing and evaluating a professional development training at 4 universities in the Western Balkans: University of Belgrade, University of Novi Sad, University of Montenegro and the University of Sarajevo.
- ...

NAME:

Thanith Vat

MOBILITY:

Master Exchange 1 academic year

HOME INSTITUTION:

Royal University of Phnom Penh

HOME COUNTRY:

Cambodia

PROJECT NAME:

Lotus Unlimited



Ghent University is one of the most welcoming and international universities in Europe. I was fortunate to be granted the opportunity to study here for two semesters from 2014 to 2015 and expanded my academic and cross-cultural learning. Ghent is a really attractive and comfortable city to live in due to its high standard living and well-preserved environment and architecture. I had good friends and everything is interesting to know and explore more such as the history, languages, and dining. My stay in Ghent helped shape my personality and academic experience to be more independent and a self-learner. Thanks to Ghent University and Erasmus Mundus program that chose me to take part and achieve my higher education.



NAME:

Irfan Hošić

MOBILITY:

Post-doc 10 months

HOME INSTITUTION:

University of Bihać

HOME COUNTRY:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

PROJECT NAME:

Basileus IV



At Ghent University I found a perfect scientific frame for my ongoing research about troubled image production in the aftermath of 9/11. When I arrived to Ghent I was totally surprised with the character of the city. Ghent was open to accept people of different origins and backgrounds in a very easy way. I was traveling to Ghent with my family and I had no problems to find a school for my sons. The Basileus project was perfectly organized in all possible segments. The year spent at Ghent University radically changed my professional and other life flows. I am definitely sure about large benefits that emerged out of this post-doctoral fellowship.



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