



INSTITUTE OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Special edition

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Message from the Director

Distinguished Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to announce the opening of the first edition of the Institute of Latin American Studies' internship programme and welcome the 23 students selected coming from Chile, Mexico, Spain, Italy, Norway and Romania!

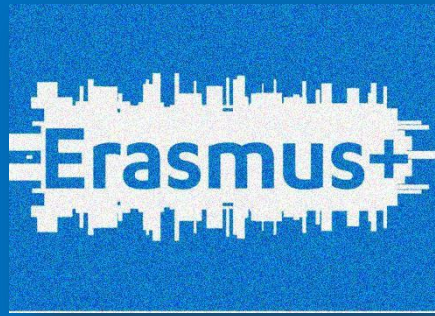
Also, regarding back at the achievements of this year, I am glad and honored to inform you that our institute has done a step forward in the process of linking EU- and LAC through the events, the publication and the academic programmes opened.

Finally, I want to thank you for your support and to express my firm believe that together we can develop strong partnerships aimed to promote the EU-LAC relation.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

IORDAN GHEORGHE BARBULESCU



ERASMUS PLUS IN THE CONTEXT OF EU-LAC RELATIONS INTERNS' TESTIMONIALS

Erasmus Plus represents a new EU study-abroad programme in the field of higher education and training with great potential for youth from around the world and it will probably be a very successful one in the future. As I see it, it is also a new opportunity for EU to strengthen the academic and scientific ties with Latin America and the Caribbean. It should be expected that this will mean fruitful cooperation between LAC and Spain, countries which share deep cultural ties. With this programme, more and more Latin American and European students will be able to meet the requirements concerning professional qualification and job adaptability for both Latin and European companies and have the valuable life experience which it usually offers. As the job market become more and more global, in what regards academic and professional achievement, it is very good news that borders no longer represent an obstacle in this sense.

Alina Bedmar, Romania

On the one hand, the UE has given one clear sign of cooperation to Latinoamerica, because the Erasmus+ programe, started this year, has had a increase in their scholarships for latinamerican students, who want to go to qualify at European Community universities. Then, this strategy means that inside an interdependent world, where many problems are common among us, the circulation of minds are a great contribution to generate knowledge for rising the economic competitiveness and promote the development of fields of our interests. And the other hand, this program promotes an improvement of the compromises of relationship between ALC-UE, which ones have been done each year between both sides of Atlantic ocean. Thus also, the possibility of qualification at european corporation is an oportunity to strengthen the competitiveness of latinamerican economies.

Diego Pavez, Chile

I think this new programme called Erasmus+ is a great opportunity for students and young people to fight against unemployment. I am saying that because I think that studying or working abroad through this programme can be a huge lift for self-confidence and for a CV, as one can be able to discover new ideas, new cultures, new ways of thinking and living. I always thought that Erasmus was a great programme but this one was aiming only students, while the Erasmus+ programme is aiming all the young people, not only for studying but also training abroad. I think the skills you achieve during a programme like this are priceless for the rest of one's life.

Andreea Marian, Romania

One of the most important aspects when analyzing two continents, is definitely when you are committed to ensure that a great exchange program as ERASMUS PLUS, can work and therefore citizens of different countries and cultures interact with each other. The European Union and Latin America, are two great countries, in which although different, they have certainly many resources not only economic, but also cultural. It is important today to learn to understand, explore, live, tolerate, but above all to know those places that are not the places where we are born, but by a spirit of international mobility, called GLOBALISATION, we learn to be citizens of one world. Erasmus Plus, all this is, to be able to get away from your front door and have an international profile, useful in the workplace, but also as human growth.

Assunta Cecere, Italy, student in Spain

‘I think that by combining education, training, youth, sport, the Lifelong Learning Program and five co-international co-operation programs, Erasmus + has become one of the biggest opportunities for students to broaden their horizons and to know better themselves.

This program it's not just giving them the opportunity to experience another culture, learn new languages, and adept to a different country, but it change them forever, because every culture is another world and they can be part of it. That's why they say that there is no way to substitute this experience by another one!

I also think that Erasmus + has an important role in developing the relation between Europe and Latin America, which is great because we can already speak not just about countries but also continents.

So, would you go for it?’

Andreea Vajda, Romania

‘In my point of view, there's only positive things about the Erasmus+ program. Going to a foreign country, regardless of the reasons of the trip (Tourism, studying, etc.), being surrounded by another culture, another people, another way of living, expands our mind and gives us the tools to see the world from a different point of view. It's very important to be able to analyze different topics from different perspectives, and doing a trip to another country is a very good way of being able to do this.

This "change of perspective" can be even greater if the students make an exchange from Europe to Latin America, being so far one continent from another, the difference between cultures is greater, such difference makes the possibility of learning from each other a lot bigger.’

Kevin Cabrera, Mexic

‘Erasmus+ is the EU Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. The Erasmus+ Programme is designed to support Programme Countries' efforts to efficiently use the potential of Europe's human talent and social capital, while confirming the principle of lifelong learning by linking support to formal,

non-formal and informal learning throughout the education, training and youth fields. The main objective of Erasmus plus is to improve employability of the youth by acquiring supplementary competences appreciated by employers, as well as improving their language skills and flexibility. This investment in knowledge, skills and competences will benefit individuals, institutions, organisations and society as a whole by contributing to growth and ensuring prosperity and social inclusion in Europe and beyond.’

Cristina Elena Buleu, Romania

‘Compared to its predecessors, Erasmus+ is more global and will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad. EU-LAC are natural partners linked by strong historical, cultural and economic ties and I believe that Erasmus Plus will help to create stronger relations and maintain an intensive political and social dialogue at all levels.

I think lots of europeans will choose to gain experience, self confidence, independence, to improve their language skills and learn to be tolerant, friendly, open-minded in LA countries.

All in all Erasmus+ I believe it's a programme who can change someones life.’

Daniel Tatar, Romania

‘The Erasmus plus program has as principal objectives the training and development of the abilities of young people in different fields of action such as sports, education and economics. By working in these fields, the Europe countries are trying to improve their competitiveness, allowing a better sustainable development in different areas through the innovation that youth can bring. In this context, the possibility for participating in an exchange program of ERASMUS between European and Latin American countries contribute to share abilities, knowledge and techniques among students of these countries which allows the formation of more able students not only in Europe, but also in Latin American countries.’

Felipe Garcia, Mexic

‘Since Middle-Ages, students have been moving between European countries. Of course that they didn’t have the facilities that we have nowadays. We have to take advantage of it, it’s a lifetime opportunity! Erasmus Plus is an incredible programme that allows students not only into enhance their studies, but also travel, discover new cultures, learn languages..and what I consider the most important, get to know a lot of people. This programme allows the cooperation with other countries outside Europe, so it’s a great chance, for example, to improve the relations between Europe and Latin American countries. Students of EU have an enormous opportunity to develop themselves in these countries, to cooperate and participate in NGO’s or other entities, to take part of the sports programme or a lot of other activities. So, I’m sure that I won’t waste this opportunity.. Will you?’

Sheila Georgiana Pop, Romania

‘Going out from your country, gaining geographical knowledge, learning about the cities, the world, makes you a person with large horizons and big expectations. Latin American countries are facing difficulties, graduation rates are low, and finally, those who do graduate, have no place in the labour market. Offering students programmes that will prepare them for the next years, it is for sure a key for the upcoming opportunities. After all, the relationship developed within the Erasmus + programme between LAC and EU it’s one big step and useful consequence of the process of globalization in the context of higher education.

Significant benefits are resulting from this partnerships, such as changes in the process of decision making in the universities from LAC countries, a way of making students from EU countries face and understand different economic situations, and the most important a way of connecting students that are qualified, to innovate, exchange sets of ideas, knowledge, and in the end, adapt to different environments.’

Elena Buda, Romania, student in Norway

‘Erasmus Plus, the new worldwide programme which brings together seven existing EU programmes is a great way of enhancing the development of the EU-LAC relations, through its aims of boosting skills and employability, but also through modernising Education, Training and Youth work. The beneficiaries will be more than 4 million young people, students and adults, who will have the opportunity to study, train or volunteer abroad, but also organisations and institutions based in the EU and outside EU. Due to its worldwide coverage, it will raise the interest for the EU-LAC cooperation, for both EU countries and LAC countries, at many levels. Erasmus Plus is expected to provide a better dynamic regarding the collaboration of the institutions from EU and LAC, especially thanks to transnational partnerships.’

Ioana Tudoran, Romania

‘Until a few months ago, I didn’t know enough information about ERASMUS+. But when I started to read the benefices that offer it, I got excited. I found that ERAMUS+ offers many possibilities for internationalize the studies. Personally I think that the aspect of promote the connections across the world, could be beneficent because provides a worldwide outlook, where we can learn new things, be it cultural, academic or even social connections that may result useful in a future.

Actually I think that ERAMUS+ should work on the EU-LAC relation, because ERAMUS+ is not well known among the students of the Latin-Americans institutions or in some cases they have heard the name but unaware of the benefits. Providing plus information to the student community, can help to ERAMUS+ to become a more competitive program where increase the number of participants.’

Jonathan Reyes, Mexic

‘In my opinion, the Erasmus Plus could have a great impact on the relation between the European Union and Latin-American Countries, by funding and supporting mobility and student exchange programs both inside and outside the European Union.

I think that giving people, and especially if we're talking about young people, the opportunity to get in contact with Latin-American, respectively European culture, to experience it in person and to interact between each other, raises their awareness, leads to a deeper understanding of the foreign culture and leads to cooperation and to long-lasting relationships between EU and LAC, that may translate into further programs and events that aim to develop inter-cultural knowledge.’

Bianca Marcoci, Romania

‘The nowadays world is experiencing tremendous changes that contribute to the development of its main sectors. Since there is a high demand on the market requiring high qualified personnel with enough capacity of flexibility, arose the necessity to implement programmes that allow young people to acquire abilities and get experience.

I tend to think that such programmes as ERASMUS+ is the best prospect for people around Europe and Latin American countries to strength the exchange of good practices, to increase collaboration between higher educational institutions and to encourage transparency within the development of knowledge. There is no doubt in my mind that this types of programmes will be efficacious, will give visibility to the enrolled universities from both sides and will consolidate political, economic and social agreements between the continents.’

Mihaela Cernei, Romania

‘Unemployment, an insufficient social engagement, a poor academic and professional formation and lack of opportunities, these are some of the problems that the youth of the world will eventually have to face, problems that Erasmus+ is willing to fight.

By taking care of multiple responsibilities and opening their doors to the world, the Erasmus+ programme aims to develop the capacities and qualifications of young people all across the globe, by promoting cooperation and mobility activities that could certainly broaden their horizons and help them reach their full human potential.’

Julio Ponce, Mexic

‘My opinion about the Erasmus plus is that this kind of programs will help many people. It is a new program that has many goals like to enrich education and turn people into good students and good professionals. Erasmus plus is an excellent opportunity to get knowledge about the culture and many other things concerning others countries.

I think Erasmus plus is a good idea to improve the EU to increase knowledge and professionals aptitudes and to support the modernization of teaching and training Systems. The Programme will foster not only learning and understanding of the host country, but also a sense of community among students from different countries.

In conclusion, I believe in this project and I am sure that I will learn many new things, this is a fabulous experience.’

Mariela Vasquez, Mexic

‘I think that given that the globalization phenomenon takes a considerable scale proportions, Erasmus is a strictly necessary program. It bulids an economic, political, cultural and scientific bridge between citizens of different states. It allows especially pupils and students experience the other cultures, different traditions and lifestyles, foreign teaching methods and how to learn in a different way. It all have the same purpose: to teach us that no matter the rules we are living bu, we are all humans. We live in a time where the laws tend to approach, regardless of culture or rules specific to each State, in particular within the European Union. I think this approach should take place among all states in the world as it is important to learn from the experiences of other people . That makes us human . Very briefly I think Erasmus Plus creates people.’

Oana Lup, Romania

‘Living in a world where globalization is on the everyday agenda makes us want not to explore but to explore in depth different cultures and societies. With the help of technology it is easy to get familiar with another country, culture, history but how familiar get one get if you aren't actually living there? Erasmus + is a new launched program derived from the well-known Erasmus program that has its goal on supporting actions, cooperation and tools for new skills and jobs. Such a program will bring closer than ever Europeans, Latin Americans as well as profitable collaboration. This will consolidate the relations on an internal level but also between the two hemispheres and moreover, will widen the mind of both regarding culture, customs and ideas. What is appreciated is that Erasmus +, among its effort to promote human talent and social capital around the world, also aims to develop programs focused even on sport, a recently neglected element, providing opportunities in this field as well as in others for the purpose of achieving world harmony and intercommunication.’

Alexandra Preda Stefan, Romania

‘Experience is the teacher of all things said Julius Caesar two thousand years ago. Nowadays this words are as alive as they were then.

That's what the Erasmus Plus Program does, helps young people to experience different cultures, to know and understand the reality of others. I had the opportunity to experience Erasmus and I know that this programme makes you become closer to the people you get to know.

We know little about Latin America, in my opinion, it is hard to understand such a different culture if you don't have the chance to live among them. Erasmus + is the opportunity to know them as they are, to establish relations starting with the first and the most important step, education. I think that the other relations, economic and political, have their fundamental base on this first step. Young people that decide to go and study abroad are usually thinking to an eventual return or search a future career related to the country and the language they get to know. So Erasmus Plus Program offers you a professional guidance, in first place. Don't forget that globalization is the word that defines our present days, technology the one that controls our days, so creating relations is just a matter of choice!’

Raluca Lupsan, Romania

‘Even though we live in a highly globalized world, where everything is interconnected and no culture or community can stay isolated, the economic, political, and social differences between various countries are sometimes astonishing. The Erasmus Plus project is in this sense, a great step towards making the world a better place, as it gives young people, especially students, the possibility to interact with and experience a completely new environment. An exchange program between the EU and LAC would not only enable the consolidation of better relations but would also widen the mind and our understanding of Latin American culture. Erasmus Plus, with its transcontinental ambition, has the ability to improve cooperation, as it gives the young generation the possibility to travel, learn and realize that we are not actually so different.’

Horia Tudor Văidean, Romania



Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies:

Iordan Gheorghe Bărbulescu

Editor-in-Chief:

Raluca Georgiana Săftescu

Editors:

Ioana Dodi, Iulia Bălțeanu

Interns: Alina Bedmar, Andreea Marian, Andreea Vajda, Assunta Cecere, Cristina Buleu, Daniel Tatar, Diego Pavez, Elena Buda, Georgiana Pop, Ioana Tudoran, Jonathan Reyes, Julio Ponce, Kevin Cabrera, Bianca Marcoci, Mariela Vasquez, Mihaela Cemei, Oana Lup, Alexandra Preda Stefan, Raluca Lupsan, Horía Tudor Vaidean, Felipe Garcia, Antonio Barat Burni

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Institute of Latin American Studies
Expoziției Avenue 30A, District 1, Bucharest, Romania
Tel.: 0372.177.146 / Fax: 021 318.08.91
E-mail: contact@isla.eu.com