

OVERVIEW OF OUR TEMPUS-JEP PROGRAM

The start of TEMPUS-JEP (Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Studies- Joint European Proposals) program of biology departments at Attila József University was marked by the letter of Prof. CHARLES SUSANNE of Vrije Universiteit Brussel to Prof. GYULA FARKAS in the spring, 1990. Thereafter, in summer of the same year Prof. SUSANNE came to Szeged to see the biology departments, and invited us to join the TEMPUS program organized by him.

The TEMPUS was specifically designed by the European Community for Central/Eastern Europe to promote the development of the higher education system in this region, starting with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia and then soon after with Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia, Albania and the 3 Baltic countries. As indicated by the its title (TEMPUS-BIOLOGY) with priority areas identified as such: agriculture and agro economics; and biotechnology and environmental protection, the program forms part of the overall program of Community aid for the economic restructuring of the countries of Central/Eastern Europe. TEMPUS exist alongside other programs, drawing simultaneously on parts of COMMETT, ERASMUS, LINGUA, etc., but having distinct identity of its own, with specific aims, grant conditions and priorities. All financial support under TEMPUS is available for trans-European activities only in which there is participation by organizations within the eligible countries of Central/Eastern Europe on the one hand, and organizations within Member States of the European Community on the other hand. The activities supported by TEMPUS fall into three broad categories: JEPs, Mobility Grants for Staff and Students, and for Complementary Activities. JEPs includes universities and/or other enterprises for cooperative education and training actions, e.g. curriculum development activities, continuing education and retraining schemes, development of open and distance learning provision; Structural development of higher education, e.g. creation of new or restructuring of existing higher education centers or institutions, upgrading of facilities, development of university capacities to cooperate with industry; Sector specific actions, e.g. development of education/training capacities at the higher education level in priority areas. Mobility grants support staff (higher education teachers and administrative staff, trainers from enterprises) moving from Central/Eastern Europe to the European community or vice versa for teaching and training assignments, practical placements and short visits for specific activities. In addition it supports students moving from Central/Eastern Europe to the European community and vice versa for periods of study and practical placements. Complementary activities include support for activities for instance for European associations in higher education; publications and information activities.

Our TEMPUS-JEP consists of projects with possibilities for infrastructural development of participating partners as well as exchanges of both staff and of students. One of the notable feature of the program is that all biological departments of the Attila József University are involved in its activities. Therefore it covers all aspects of biological sciences taught here, and as such provides good possibilities for cooperation in the restructuring process at all levels of higher education of biology including post-

graduate training.

On part of the European Community the following universities participate in the program: Univ. Complutense de Madrid, Vrije Univ. Brussel, Univ. degli studi di Firenze, Kings College London, Univ. College North Wales, Univ. libre de Bruxelles, Univ. Barcelona, Univ. Montpellier II, Univ. Autonoma de Madrid, Univ. Aix Marseille III, Univ. de Lisboa, Univ. del Pais Vasco, Univ. of Crete, II Univ. degli studi di Roma, Univ. of Manchester, Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki, Aarhus Universitet, Rijks-universiteit Leiden, Univ. Instelling Antwerpen, Univ. degli studi di Torino, Georg August Univ. Göttingen, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Johannes Gutenberg Univ. Mainz, Univ. Dublin Trinity College, Univ. Toulouse Paul Sabatier, Univ. Bordeaux I, Democritus Univ. of Thrace.

The eligible countries involved: József Attila Univ. of Szeged, Univ. of Warsaw, Jagellonski Univ. of Krakow, Wroclawskiego Univ. of Wroclaw, Komenskeho Univ. of Bratislava, Charles Univ. of Praha, Masaryk Univ. of Brno, Univ. v Ljubljani, Univ. of Bucharest, Univ. of Craiova, Univ. of Latvia, Univ. de Stiinge Agricole, Vilnius University, Sofia University, Tirana University.

In addition, the Univ. of Lund (Sweden) has joined to the program in 1992.

Since 1991, altogether 41 student have already taken place in different exchange programs, and studied modern disciplines of current biology for 6 months at western universities; The accompanying intensive practice of a foreign language is also being definitely advantageous for them. After these studies we collected unanimously favorable accounts of their experiences, and there is great interest on part of the students for such possibilities, indeed.

The staff exchange programs included 40 members of our university and usually lasted for 2-4 weeks. These experiences, i.e. to study the modern systems of higher education at collaborating institutes were also important for many (especially in the view of current needs for restructuring the system of higher education in Hungary, and the reintroduction of organized postgraduate training at Hungarian universities).

It is also important that more and more colleges from the European Community come to Szeged and teach biology for our students; For example in 1993, two colleges from UK, one from France and one from Denmark will visit us for 2-4 weeks.

As another goal of the program our 10 departments shared parts of the financial support and won circa 50 thousand ECU for expenditures at Szeged, i.e. for purchasing equipments, books, journals, and other things for education.

According to our experience the past activities contribute significantly to the achievements originally expected from the project (number of updated teachers, number and level of students involved, restructured courses, new subjects, and kind of upgraded facilities). We hope that this exemplary collaboration will continue in the future and contribute to the development of the quality of higher education of biology at Szeged.

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