

Eligible countries*EU Member States:*

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Other European countries:

Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Romania, Turkey.

Developing countries in Asia:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China*, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

* excluding Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei and Macau

**Asia-Link Fifth Call for Proposals (2006) launched**

The 2006 Call for Proposals was launched on 30 June 2006, with reference **EuropeAid/123738/C/ACT/Multi**. The Programme has EUR 12.6 million to award to partnership projects, and it is expected that some 20 – 25 projects will be selected. Much of the content of the Call remains the same: we seek proposals for projects that address one or more of the following areas: Human Resources Development; Curriculum Development and Institutions & Systems Development. This year's call places extra emphasis on the third category of project, which supports projects that address areas of university administration and networking.

Main differences in relation to 2005:

- **Wider European coverage.** With the adoption by the Commission of two new regulations on the 'Untying of Aid' (28 December 2005), the Asia-Link programme now also includes Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, FYRoM and Turkey.
- **Newly eligible country in Asia.** Higher education institutions from Myanmar are eligible to apply to the Asia-Link Programme. Myanmar is also a LDC.
- **Partnership requirements.** The minimum size of the partnership remains four: two European institutions from different countries and two Asian institutions **from different countries**.
- **New application procedure** (new Commission Practical Guide)
- **ONE deadline only:** 19 October 2006

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-link/apply_en.htm

Asia-Link funds seven European Higher Education Fairs in Asia, 2006-2008

Following the success of the November 2004 European Higher Education Fair in Bangkok, the Asia-Link Programme is to fund seven additional Fairs across Asia in the 2006-2008 period. The events will have two main elements:

(a) a European Higher Education Fair. This will offer HE institutions from all European Member States a platform for promotion in Asia.

(b) an Asia-Link Symposium, to promote discussion on higher education cooperation between the EU and the respective country, and to demonstrate some of the EU's activities in this sector that benefit Asia.

The events will be implemented by a consortium of four European academic exchange bodies led by EduFrance, and including the British Council, DAAD and Nuffic.

Thailand	November 10th-13th 2006
India	November 24th-26th 2006
Malaysia	September 2007
China	October 2007
Vietnam	December 2007
The Philippines	February 2008
Indonesia	October 2008

For more information, consult the EHEF web portal: www.ehefs.org

EuropeAid

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-link/index_en.htm

Europeaid-asia-link@ec.europa.eu



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

New e-mail and website addresses

ASIA-LINK

On 9 May 2006, the European Institutions changed their Internet domain name from "eu.int" to "europa.eu". The Commission's email addresses now end in "@ec.europa.eu"

Note the new addresses for Asia-Link my new e-mail address above. The new address of the EuropeAid Co-operation Office website is:
<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/>

Please update your address books and bookmarks accordingly.

Funded project information on Asia-Link website

Don't forget that you can consult project factsheets and lists of projects on the **Funded Projects** page on the Asia-Link website. Details include contact details of the project coordinator, and often a link to the project's own website.

Evaluation of Asia-Link

Some readers will already have been contacted as part of an evaluation exercise carried out on the Asia-Link Programme during the second quarter of 2006. The final draft of the report is being completed – more news soon.

"Modernise Europe's universities", urges Commission

The European Commission has issued a Communication urging Member States to press on with the modernisation of Europe's universities. The aim is to increase European universities' contribution to the Lisbon Agenda for more growth, and more and better jobs. Europe's 4000 universities have enormous potential, much of which unfortunately goes untapped because of various rigidities and hindrances. The Commission is urging Member States to free up the EU's substantial reservoir of knowledge, talent and energy with immediate, in-depth and coordinated change: from the way in which higher education systems are regulated and managed, to the ways in which universities are governed.

Erasmus Mundus: selection of students for 2006-2007

The Erasmus Mundus programme is proving to be very popular: the level of demand from third-country graduates and academics to study and teach in Europe's universities has been increasing rapidly: the 57 Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses received almost 6,000 applications for scholarships from students and scholars from all over the world. In all, for the 2006-2007 Academic year, the European Commission has selected 1,377 students and 231 scholars from all over the world to receive Erasmus Mundus scholarships for the next academic year (2006-2007).

741 students were selected under the general Erasmus Mundus programme. To cover the demand from specific Asian countries, additional funds were injected into the Erasmus Mundus programme, the so-called "Asian Windows". These funds are earmarked for scholarships for nationals coming from developing countries in Asia (the same countries as are eligible under Asia-Link). The 636 additional students receiving scholarships under the "Asian Windows" come mainly from India (288), China (99), Thailand (53), Pakistan (42), Malaysia (32) and Vietnam (29).

Of the 231 scholars, 199 have been selected under the general Erasmus Mundus programme and 32 under the "China Window".

Asia-Link Update