



Brussels, 5 December 2002
A2/PVDH

SOCRATES - ERASMUS

Special measures for the promotion of ECTS and DS

An information campaign will be organised in 2003 in order to inform universities of the new SOCRATES support mechanisms for ECTS and the Diploma Supplement. The ECTS/DS pages on the Europa website will be made more userfriendly.

The new ECTS support mechanisms are:

- An ECTS Introduction Grant for institutions which have never received SOCRATES or Erasmus support for ECTS (newcomers to ECTS).

Where to apply	to your Socrates-Erasmus National Agency
When	spring 2003 (and annually thereafter)
Funding period	up to three academic years, starting 2003/04
Criterion	never having received Socrates or Erasmus support for ECTS

- An ECTS label for institutions which apply ECTS the proper way in all first and second cycle degree programmes. The list of institutions will be published on the Europa web site. The label will raise the profile of the institution as a transparent and reliable partner in European and international cooperation. A jury of independent experts will assist the Commission in assessing the applications for the award of the ECTS label.

Where to apply	to the European Commission (TAO)
When	Nov 1st, 2003 (and annually thereafter)
Activity period	the label will be valid for three academic years, starting 2004/2005
Criteria	a Course Catalogue (online or hard copy) in two languages (or only in English for programmes taught in English), use of ECTS credits, samples of learning Agreements, Transcripts of Records and proofs of academic recognition.

- An ECTS Credit Accumulation Grant for institutions which have the ECTS label and wish to introduce mechanisms for credit accumulation (credits for lifelong learning).

Where to apply	to your Socrates-Erasmus National Agency
When	spring 2004 (and annually thereafter)
Funding period	up to three academic years, starting 2004/05
Criterion	having an ECTS label

- A Diploma Supplement Label for institutions which deliver the Diploma Supplement to all graduates in all first and second cycle degree programmes. The list of institutions will be published on the Europa web site. The label will raise the profile of the institution as a transparent and reliable partner in European and international cooperation. A jury of independent experts will assist the Commission in assessing the applications for the award of the DS label.

Where to apply	to the European Commission (TAO)
When	Nov 1st, 2003 (and annually thereafter)
Activity period	the label will be valid for three academic years, starting 2004/2005
Proof	four examples (copies) of filled and certified Diploma Supplements, delivered by your institution to four graduates after completion of their studies in at least two different first and two different second cycle degree programmes (or undivided one cycle programmes if this is still the case at your institution)

A copy of public information of your institution explaining that the Diploma Supplement is being delivered to all graduates of your institution

- Implementation of ECTS and the Diploma Supplement will be considered eligible activities under Organisation of Mobility (OM). In practice this implies that universities can decide what proportion of their OM funds they would like to use for implementation of ECTS and/or Diploma supplement, if any.
- ECTS/DS Counsellors will continue to advise newcomers and more experienced ECTS users. They also provide advice on the introduction of the Diploma Supplement. The ECTS/DS Counsellors are coordinated by the European University Association EUA. They operate in national teams lead by a National ECTS/DS Coordinator. The list of ECTS/DS Counsellors is available on the Europa web site.
- ECTS/DS Counsellors carry out site visits to selected institutions.

Where to apply	to your Socrates-Erasmus National Agency
When	spring 2003 (and annually thereafter)
Activity period	the academic year following the application deadline, starting 2003/2004
Criterion	being prepared to apply for the ECTS label

- More information on ECTS and the Diploma Supplement can be found on the following web sites:

ECTS: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates/ects.html>

DS: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/recognition/diploma.html>