

Mobility Program / Engineering Education in the Americas

Working Group 2 – OAS

Preliminary Design

1. Background

This program comes from the initiatives of the Working Group on Human Resources Training and Education, led by Argentina, for the Plan of Action of Panama. The objective of this working group is to increase the number of graduates in Science, Technology, Engineering and Technical Education and to improve curricula in these areas, in order to meet the changing needs of the industry, especially MSMEs and the communities.

2. Objectives

The Mobility/Training for Engineers in the Americas Program suggests:

- Strengthen the integral education of students, graduates and engineering faculty
- Promote and consolidate durable partnerships between higher education institutions in the Americas that can be responsible to train engineers in the Member States.
- Benefit the mutual recognition of academic periods by promoting researches development within inter-university networks.
- Impulse the development of internships that are supervised by different enterprises.
- Benefit technology transfer and innovation through the promotion of research and development.

3. Program Features

The program calls for the submission of academic cooperation projects, jointly developed by higher education institutions of the Americas that are responsible to train engineers.

3.1. Institutions eligible to submit projects

The eligible institutions will be those authorized by each Member State that can offer the title of Engineer.

3.2 Characteristics of the Project

The following aspects will be considered for evaluation and selection of projects:

- Mutual academic recognition (credits and academic sections, comparative analysis of curricula, etc.).
- Balanced participation of all institutions in the project and reciprocal mobility flows that are appropriate to the goals.
- Implementation of institutional support to language training for students, graduates and faculty / researchers.
- Significant progress towards the implementation of a dual qualification scheme.
- Implementation of joint research projects.

3.3 Implementation Modalities

The projects will be implemented through mobilities of undergraduates, graduates and faculty / researchers.

The mobilities will be based on the principle of reciprocity, keeping a balance of exchanges between countries.

The projects will last 3-6 months.

The general modality is as follows (as recommended by ASIBEI):

- The home and destination institutions will assign the institutional links.
- The home institutions will suggest the action plan for the researcher, graduate and student.
- The destination institutions will accept the action plan for the researcher, graduate or student.
- The destination institutions will accredit the activities of the researcher, graduate and / or student with a study certification letter describing the activities made during the exchange.
- The home institutions will acknowledge the activities of the researcher, graduate or student exchange in the period authorized by the university.
- The home institution will cover the cost of the tickets, healthcare and required insurance.

- The target institutions provide the cost of room and board.

The countries participating in the Committee shall be those who will finance the mobility program. ASIBEI, which will operate as a network, is the advisory Steering Committee on issues related to engineering education, providing its expertise on the subject. ASIBEI sent to the General Secretariat their academic recommendation about the submitted agreements.

The Presidency, through the General Secretariat, will call for an annual forum which will offer agreements discussed with the recommendation received by ASIBEI, as well as the guidelines for the following year. It will also consider the suggestions of both academia and the private sector. Public institutions (ONCYTS and ME) will participate in the forum and UPADI (Pan American Union of Engineering Associations), will decide on the approval of agreements submitted.

The approved agreements will be implemented according to the method that the parties decide.

4. Funding

Each State will finance the planned activities according to the available annual budget of the institutions responsible for funding the program and with the necessary adjustments to the regulations in each country.

5. Evaluation and Selection

Each project will be evaluated by the Steering Committee integrated by the ONCYTs and / or Ministries of Education that make political decisions and private associations. They will suggest the guidelines required from that sector (UPADI).

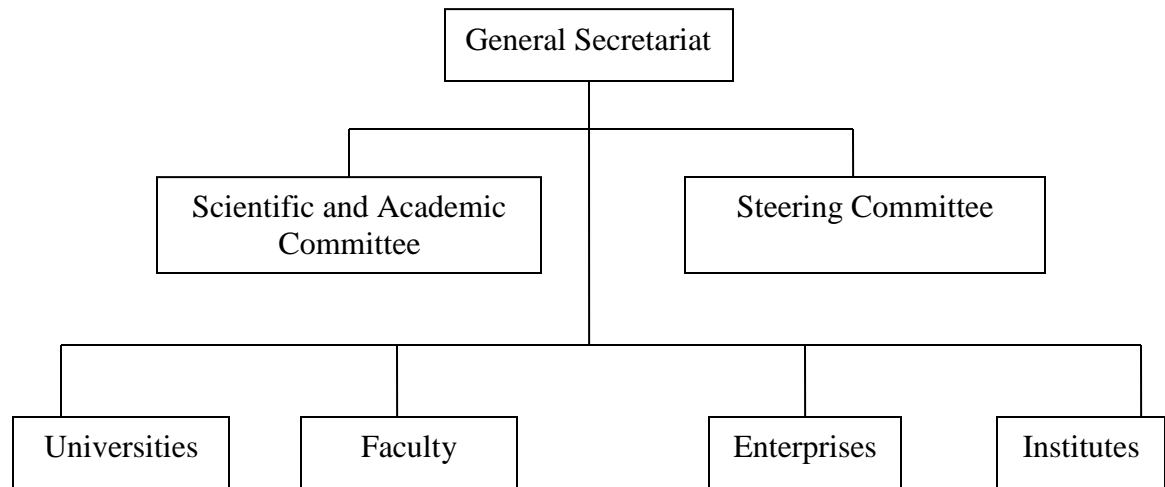
The first selection of the Scientific Committee will be considered as the final selection of the projects, as well as the national priorities and industrial perspective.

The results of the final selection and the approval conditions will be officially notified to the participating institutions.

No reviews will be accepted after the decision of the evaluation meeting.

6. Organizational chart

I. - Steering Committee



1. Steering Committee

- Composition

The Steering Committee includes one representative of the ONCYT 's, ME of each State and UPADI.

The change of a member of the Steering Committee should be notified by the institution to the General Secretariat.

A Scientific Committee member can not be a member of the Steering Committee.

- Functions
 - Define the strategic and thematic orientation to be implemented.
 - Make the final selection of candidates on the basis of the Scientific Committee proposals
 - Allocate funding
 - Approve the progress and final reports of financed projects (each member must approve the reports of the financed projects by its institution).

- The Chairman of the Steering Committee

Its functions are to conduct the meetings of the Steering Committee and represent the program.

The chair of the Steering Committee alternates between ONCYT 's of the Member States of the Program, and it is assumed by the representative of the country that will host the next meeting with the Scientific and Steering Committees.

II . Scientific / Academic Committee

- Composition:

The Scientific Committee is formed by ASIBEL.

The change of a member should be notified by the Secretariat.

A member of the Steering Committee can not be a member of the Scientific Committee.

- Functions:

- Ensure the scientific perspective of the program.

- Appoint external experts to evaluate proposals received in each call for proposals, if considered necessary.

- Regarding the assessments of external experts, to develop a list of the selected projects, classify them according to their scientific quality and deliver an opinion on the work and financing plan.

- Propose the theme of the annual meeting, in relation to the host country.

- Evaluate the progress and final reports of the financed projects.

- Chairman of the Scientific Committee:

The Scientific Committee is appointed by ASIBEL, It has a president, who is elected by its members for a period of two years. The president coordinates the activities of the Scientific Committee and is the contact person with the Secretariat and the Steering Committee. The president directs the annual meetings of the Scientific Committee and is responsible, with the help of an adviser of his/her choice, of the minutes about the meetings with the Scientific Committee. He/she writes acceptance and rejection letters with the support of the Scientific Committee.

The resignation of the President must be informed in writing to the Secretariat prior to the annual meeting, in which they should notify the name of the new president.

- Ethics and confidentiality

If any of the committee members participates in a project or has a conflict of interest with an applicant, must inform the other members of the committee and be absent during the discussion of the project.

The Committee members shall maintain confidentiality of the information, evaluation and discussions about the program projects.

III . - General Secretariat

- Institution in charge of the Secretariat:

The Secretariat serves as general coordinator with a rotating presidency by a Member State for a period of two years.

- Functions:

- Draft the annual call for projects and release it to all the participating institutions.
- Receive proposals and verify project eligibility.
- Verify projects receipt by the involved institutions.
- Coordinate the project evaluation process in collaboration with the Scientific Committee (sending and receiving external expert evaluations).
- Update a database of external evaluators.
- Ask for progress and final reports and disseminate them with the committees.
- Support the Committees Annual Meetings in collaboration with the host country institutions.
- Support the logistics of the seminars in cooperation with the hosting institutions.
- Update and animate the website.
- Share the scientists' contacts on the website.

7. Annual Meetings:

7.1 Steering and Scientific Committees, with the presence of the Secretary, will meet annually in the last quarter of the year. The date and place will be determined during the annual meeting of the Steering Committee by the countries they wish to consider.

Each Latin American country should host the annual meeting by turns.

The Meeting Act will be drafted by the Secretariat. It should be reviewed by all the participants and signed by all the members of the Steering Committee.

The Act will include the accepted projects, the financing granted projects by each institution, the date, the location and theme of the next Committees meetings, and any program modifications and additions of new institutions. All the decisions included in the Act must be followed by the participating institutions.

In order to allow foreign participants to harness exchange and organize professional meetings outside the program, the Secretariat shall communicate as soon as possible, and no later than two weeks before the meetings start, an agenda and program for the meeting.

7.2 Academic and Scientific Seminars:

In parallel to the Annual and Scientific Steering Meeting, a scientific seminar on engineering can be organized as a workshop.

Its aim is to enable scientific information exchanges between teachers, researchers. It also aims to stimulate the implementation of projects and particularly the involvement of host countries.

The theme of this seminar is named at the Scientific Committee Annual Meeting. The host country is responsible for the logistics and for the organization of scientific seminars, with the Secretariat's support. Some projects funded by the program can be the subject to a presentation during scientific seminars.