

# SEGUNDO SEMINARIO PREPARATORIO 2DA CUMBRE ACADÉMICA ALC-UE AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE - UNIÓN EUROPEA



25 Y 26 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2014  
GUADALAJARA, JALISCO



## **SECOND PREPARATORY SEMINAR TO THE SECOND ACADEMIC SUMMIT OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**UNIVERSITY OF GUADALAJARA, MEXICO  
25 and 26th November 2014**

### **STATEMENT: SYNTHESIS OF GUADALAJARA**

The academic institutions and scholars from Latin-America and the Caribbean and the European Union meeting in the University of Guadalajara, Mexico, on 25 and 26 November 2014 for the Second Preparatory Seminar to the II Academic Summit of the Community of Latin-American and Caribbean and the European Union, have reiterated their willingness to participate actively in the consolidation of the Euro-Latin-American and Caribbean Area for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, which must constitute a fundamental pillar of the Strategic Association between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, as agreed at the I Bi-regional Academic Summit, held on 22 and 23 January 2013, in Santiago de Chile.

In this context and CONSIDERING that:

The declaration of the I Academic Summit EU-LAC was directly delivered to the Heads of State and Government from the sixty member countries of the Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union (EU), and integrated to the Official Declaration of the Santiago Summit, article 29, whereby the academic world became the seventh institutionalized forum in the EU-CELAC Strategic Partnership;

The declaration of the I Academic Summit EU-LAC contents a set of sixteen proposals to advance to the compliance of its objectives and, particularly, in the academic cooperation and integration of the two regions, while created the Permanent Academic Forum (FAP ALC-UE) and the Executive Secretary in order to ensure the continuity, follow-up and promotion of joint activities and, specially, contribute to the organization of successive Academic Summits.

In application of the decisions included in the Academic Declaration of Santiago a First Preparatory Seminar was held in Bucharest, Romania, on 26 and 27 May 2014, which allowed



analyzing of activities from the Academic Summit of Santiago, since it was held the Second Preparatory Seminar at the University of Guadalajara, on 25 and 26 November of this year;

In the course of the different activities of the Seminar, opening and final remarks, panels, thematic analysis groups and roundtables, over fifty presentations were made. Also, maintained dialogues, especially in the last two activities mentioned above, meant valuable contributions to advance the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Area for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.

Developments and conclusion of this Preparatory Seminar of Guadalajara will be presented in a report which will be issued soon. A brief SUMMARY OF ITS MAIN RESULTS is exposed below.

The Second Preparatory Seminar to the II Academic Summit EU-LAC gave continuity to the works done at the four precedent academic events and advanced towards the compliance of the objectives of the Declaration of Santiago, through a deep examination of the concerted proposals, looking forward to enhance them and go in depth and, also, to incorporate new proposals and action fields. Particularly, there was a reflection around these focuses: integration of the higher education, science, technology and innovation systems; relations of the higher education institutions with society, especially with productive sector; and links of the academic community with public policies. In the same way, necessary normative and financial conditions in order to develop the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Area for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation were analyzed.

Concerning **the strengthening of the integration of the higher education systems**, it was stressed that progress in this area depends decisively on the efforts of universities and academic institutions that promote mobility based on bilateral agreements and programs. Likewise, an effort is also required in the convergence of criteria to ensure quality. In Latin-America and Caribbean, on the national level, the importance of evaluation and accreditation of education has been valued. Thus, in the regional area they are deploying efforts in order to constitute a Latin-American and Caribbean council of evaluation and accreditation. Those efforts could lead to the formation of bi-regional bodies of accreditation as well, which could work, first of all, on the harmonization of corresponding criteria. Bi-regional dialogue is still finding difficulties to share standards for the recognition of studies and certifications.

The European experience, which has been developed through Bologna process, could constitute an important legacy in this way, as well as the practices settled to allow bi-regional mobility on the last years. Alike, bilateral experiences in matter of co-direction and co-supervision

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interpellate national bodies so that the conditions that permit the continuation of studies are harmonized and generalized criteria are taken regarding the recognition of diplomas. On the other hand, bi-regional dialogue must embrace completely the development of a vision of Latin-American reality that encourages exchanges and convergences with the Caribbean higher education system which, in reason of its specificity, requires a technical and financial support which has to be considered as a priority for the bi-regional relation. In the same way, strengthening of the integration of education systems on the bilateral level was emphasized, that corresponds to an imperative of the internationalization of higher education establishments in both continents. This involve the need of ameliorate the structuration of international relation services in the universities to work better in the perspective of bi-regional cooperation.

Regarding the **promotion of the integration of scientific, technologic research and innovation systems**, it was emphasized the necessity to shift the paradigm of technology transfer to the paradigm of cooperation with mutual benefits from a material, human and symbolical view. With the objective of reduce asymmetries between both regions, it was proposed the possibility to expand opening of European publications to the Latin-American and Caribbean universities and to progress on the recognition of undergraduate and postgraduate diplomas in all the countries of both regions. To do so, it was suggested as well the possibility to organize a bi-regional agency to accredit undergraduate and postgraduate diplomas. Given the existence of several collaborative processes between institutions from both regions in this aspect, it is recommended to profit them through a capitalization area of these experiences which should be presented in the next Academic Summit. It was also recalled the need to reinforce the dynamic of post-doctorate studies on the bi-regional area so they can articulate even more with cooperation projects in scientific and technologic fields between countries of both regions and, particularly, with different workgroups of the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI).

In relation to **collaboration between Higher Education Institutions and their relations with society, particularly with productive sector**, it is essential to develop an environment which highlights and encourage both, productive and social innovation. Accordingly, it is necessary to improve the reinforcement of university-enterprise and university–society links, increasing the role of higher education on the productivity and competitiveness of the enterprises (SMEs) and on social sustainable development in the process of quality employability and socio-labor mobility, from social and productive research, technologic transfer and vocational and academic training (regular income for employees and training), in the context of education throughout life. It is also required to generate initiatives of bi-regional cooperation through EU-LAC collaborative education nodes for employment, regional social development and productivity, based on innovation and internationalization, focused on information and communication technologies and social and corporate responsibility placing an EU-LAC common academic area

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of quality certification on the action of links with society and productive sector. Finally, it is suggested to spread and enhance existing University - Enterprise networks in the Euro-Latin American area. There was accentuated the interest in recognizing the needs of micro, small and medium enterprises for knowledge development by higher education institutions. It was as well reiterated, the objective of generating links between the Academic Summit and the Business Summit (academic-business interface), organizing a joint session in order to share bi-regional experiences on the relation between universities and enterprises.

Relating to the **connections of the academic community with public policies**, it exist a consensus about the fact that the quality of policies is not only played in the contents or their type but also in the process of formation. Results are important, but equally or more important than this is the process through policies are conceived, discussed, approved and implemented. It was highlighted that scholars have an unavoidable role in this process. Contributions from the academic community are a key tool to influence in the process trough formulation of better diagnostics of public problems as well as on the cooperation level in the formation processes of competences of decision makers from the EU-CELAC area countries. Spaces like the Academic Summits allow to transit from academic circuits to a network logic that make possible the reinforcement of the role of Higher Education Institutions as authentic “policies forums” facilitators of consensus. This requires moving from “declared will” to “real will” in order to build a bi-regional academic cooperation area which allow fundraising for strengthening exchanges, mobility and circulation of knowledge that helps to the academic association with public formation and management. Similarly, it was indicated that it is essential to advance identifying concrete issues that could agree with a narrower relation between the academic world with public management’s one.

On the other hand, the Seminar welcomed the renovation and enhance of the Academic Council of the FAP ALC-UE, assigned to orientate and promote advances towards the compliance of the objectives of the Declaration of Santiago.

Considering the important contributions made by the participants in the Seminar in its various activities as well as registered ones in the Seminars of Paris, Lima and Bucharest and in the I Academic Summit, the Academic Council agreed the creation of four Permanent Reflection Groups related to each thematic focus contained in the Declaration of Santiago and developed in the Seminar, that is: reinforcing the integration of the higher education systems, promoting the integration of science, technology and innovation systems; encouraging relations of the higher education institutions with society, especially with productive sector; and supporting the cooperation between higher education institutions and their relations with public policies.

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Permanent Reflection Groups will have as objectives to promote dialogue, formulate proposals and generate results in order to advance towards the compliance of the objectives of the Declaration of Santiago; they will be open to participation of all the academic institutions and scholars from sixty-one countries of Latin-America and the Caribbean and the European Union; they will be coordinated by scholars who had participated in the held bi-regional events; and they will have autonomy to establish their working methods. The Executive Secretary of the FAP ALC-UE will promote actively the formation and the operation of these Permanent Reflection Groups. Looking forward the II Academic Summit, to be held in Brussels, in early June 2015, the Groups will present a first report of their activities and proposals during April next year.

It was reaffirmed that the process started with the I Academic Summit and its corresponding Preparatory Seminars is an open space that pursues the active, transparent and solidary participation of all the Universities, Academic Institutions, Networks, Programs and another associativity establishments as well as of all the Scholar from both regions who desire to contribute to the reinforcement of the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Area for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.

Finally, all the participants expressed their gratitude to the University of Guadalajara, its Authorities and Members, for their agreeable and generous hospitality and for the important efforts made in order to successfully organize the Second Preparatory Seminar to the Second Academic Summit of the Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States and the European Union.

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