

2015 Assessment of the progress of CEI projects Project Evaluation Form

Evaluator	Final Report
Project Reference	Campus IBERUS
<p>General Comment: The report shows the efforts of the 4 universities to try to overcome the delay in implementing the project. A very well prepared report though many significant actions begun the last two years or will take place only late 2015 or in 2016. This creates difficulties to judge effects and impact of the CEI. Rather than looking at the results of a proposal accepted in 2010 the report describes mostly actions just launched. The Spanish economic recession during previous year could be an explanation, but compared to other CEIs the delay for Iberus looks very specific. The current governance structure of Campus Iberus seems to operate more efficiently and the added value of the aggregation with four universities from four different autonomous communities is clear. The establishment of the international postgraduate and doctorate center is an important step forward, as well as the inauguration of the Campus Iberus Academic Course, in which the four universities have joined forces. The focus on agri-food, energy and environment, and public health is commendable. Both the Scientific Coordination Office and the European Projects Unit should contribute to the increase of scientific production and the number of applications for research grants. New joint degree programs promise to bring a growing number of research students to the Center.</p>	
<p>Strengths: Introduction of consortia in the areas of specialisation gathering researchers from the 4 universities, companies and regional entities. Set up actions on "innovation and training of teaching & research personnel" Set up a common European Projects Unit and a Campus office in Brussels to develop European projects and to be able to integrate more European networks Development of partnerships at international and regional levels linked to areas of specialisation The DEMOLA initiative and the Colombia Skills project as ways to encourage social responsibility and as a learning processes for students. The Master's degree program in Environmental Nanotechnology and the interuniversity Master's degree in Entrepreneurship are important steps in the development of postgraduate studies, as well the approval of the joint doctoral program in Heritage, Communities and Geographical Borders. Improvements in teaching, as demonstrated in the introduction of the First Teacher Training Plan. The participation in the European Energy Research Alliance and the formation of inter-university consortia in the area of energy are worthy of mentioning. Increase in funding obtained from different European agreements and contracts signed with business companies. The trend of an increasing number of scientific publications in indexed journals is positive.</p>	
<p>Weaknesses: One main weakness: Too many actions appearing at the end of the project or planned for 2016 and the future: Too late creation of the Consortium needed to promote the campus as such and should have boosted actions. Late introduction of inter-university format (A4) Student mobility between Iberus universities should have been put in place earlier. Insufficient concrete developments of EBRoS cross border campus signed in 2012 which was</p>	

supposed to be a major target.

Although there is a clear improvement in the internationalization of the campus, still it has to aim higher as far as the agreements signed with leading universities around the world.

There is still much to do in the business-campus interaction, especially in licencing agreements, technology transfer and patent registration. The number of contracts with companies and the number of patents have decreased.

There seems to be a decrease in the numbers of European projects coordinated and awarded.

The number of international students enrolled in Masters and doctorate programs is still lower than in 2013. The number of postdoctoral researchers is only 14.

Potential Impact:

Probably will exist but no evidences are provided. Dynamic seems to be there, but mainly appears only after 2014. Actions are undertaken in many fields but it's too early to judge results

Of the new degree programs, the forthcoming joint doctorate in the area of Quality, Safety and Agri-food technologies might have the strongest impact on research.

The initiative to create a joint network in the agri-food area of institutions from France, Spain and Portugal might be important in the near future.

Recommendations:

Increase efforts in research production, especially as far as the involvement in European projects and R&D innovation programs.

Increase the number of internships offered to students.

There is an absolute need to increase the number of postdoctoral fellows. This is an important engine for research.

Score:

B Reasonable Progress

Decision's Proposal:

Confirm CEI label