Dear Readers,

Nepal witnessed a flurry of activities in the past months. The political fluidity did not last long and the installation of the new government gave continuity to the Nepal-EU bilateral cooperation in various sectors, in particular education, peace building, renewable energy, human rights and democracy. One point to be heartily noted is that with the signing of the financing agreement amounting to NPR 652 million for the stabilization of the peace process with the Nepal Government, the Commission has become the largest donor to the Nepal Peace Trust Fund amongst the international donors this year. The financial assistance supplied is all the more important and relevant at a time when Nepal’s peace process needs gathering momentum. The assistance has been provided under the Instrument for Stability. It aims at assisting in the area of conflict prevention, crisis management, peace building, creation of stable conditions for human and economic development, promotion of human rights, democracy and fundamental freedoms in the countries in need.

One other prominent area of cooperation has been the allocation of some NPR 2.7 billion under the ‘Food Facility’ to respond to the food insecurity in several eastern, mid-western and far western districts of Nepal. The fund is being channelled through UN agencies and select NGOs and other actors working in Nepal. We are hopeful that the funds that will be spent within the next two years, i.e. by the end of 2011, will help Nepalese farmers to be better equipped in terms of assets, knowledge and training to increase their annual food productivity. We are confident that the measures envisaged for the implementation of the “food facility” assistance will be contributing effectively in addressing the ever growing food crisis in Nepal.

Needless to say that the contributions of the EU will fall short of their ambition and of the expectations of the Nepali people if political consensus is not reached quickly on key issues of the constitution drafting and peace process.

We look forward to see an enduring and trusted cooperation between the European Union and Nepal in the years ahead.

Alexander Spachis
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d’Affaires a.i.
2nd Transregional Summer School on Human Rights Held in Dhulikhel With Support From European Commission

Pabitra Bhandari wore a tired look after two weeks of lectures, seminars, field visits and experience sharing on human rights related issues. Despite rigorous engagement at the Dhulikhel Mountain resort, 35 Km east of Kathmandu, she was more than keen to take questions.

“I regard myself fortunate for having been selected to participate in the 2nd ‘Trans-regional Summer School,’” she said. The summer school provided me with the opportunity to develop a clear perspective on the issues related to minority rights. Nepal too has many minority groups. The experiences from around the world would certainly be useful when setting out to ensure the rights of such groups in our home turf, Bhandari shared.

The EurAsia. Net, an Italy based research institute organised the Summer School. It was funded under the Seventh R & D Framework Programme of the European Commission. The primary objective of the EurAsia.net project is to enhance the requisite knowledge-base for new policies and instruments to reduce ethnic-religious conflicts and to foster stability and security in South Asia.

It further aims at creating a favourable environment for cooperation with Europe and to contribute to the exchange of knowledge for the mutual benefit of both regions. Bhandari was among the 28 participants and observers belonging to Europe (Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, and United Kingdom) and South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and other countries Australia and US without scholarship.

Bhandari has been working as programme coordinator for the Nepal Human Rights Awareness Forum. She presented a paper on the existing situation of minorities in Nepal. Although

the Interim Constitution has referred to the need for the State to work towards the protection of minority rights, it has not clearly defined the criteria for defining the minorities, Bhandari says in his paper.

The other two participants from Nepal who took part in the summer school were Naveen Dubey and Dilip Singh Rai. Dubey is a Ph.D student at Bielefeld University in Germany while Rai is the Vice President of Nepal Kirat Kulung Language and Cultural Development Association.

Dubey is pursuing his PhD on the Constitutional and political process in Nepal. Both Dubey and Rai seemed to be satisfied with the level of interactions at the Summer School and agreed of having drawn a lot of inputs for their future scholarly pursuits on the situation of minority rights in South Asia and Europe.

Eminent Nepalese scholars such as Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission Kedar Prasad Giri, President of Nepal Bar Association Biswo Kanta Mainali and renowned writer and journalist C.K. Lal addressed the Summer School.

Other prominent speakers who addressed the summer school were Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman and Borhan Uddin Khan from the University of Dhaka, Rainer Hoffman from the University of Frankfurt and some other well known names such as Ranabir Samaddar, Samir Kumar Das, Tapan Bose, Rita Man Chanda, Kamran Arif, Tanveer Jahan and Arshid Mehmood were among the speakers.

The issues related to the rights of the minorities both in South Asia and Europe were discussed widely with the participants getting to learn a lot from each other, said Alexandra Tomaselli, coordinator of the Summer School currently affiliated to EURAC research.

The participants visited the National Human Rights Commission and interacted with the officials. They also visited the National Dalit Commission to acquire information about how the work of protecting the rights of minorities was moving ahead in Nepal.
European Commission, Major Contributor to Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) Among Donors This Year

The European Commission (EC) has been continuously lending support to the ongoing peace and reconstruction drive in post-conflict Nepal. Guided by its working principles under the 'Instrument for Stability' launched in 2007, the EC signed a financing agreement of NPR 652 million (Euro 5.95 million) with the Ministry of Finance in August in support of stabilisation activities to be launched under the NPTF.

The 'Instrument for Stability' aims at assisting third countries in the area of conflict prevention, crisis management and peace building, helps create stable conditions for human and economic development and the promotion of human rights, democracy and fundamental freedoms.

The overall objective of the present intervention of the EC is to contribute to the consolidation of the peace process in Nepal by supporting through the NPTF the successful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) of November 2006 aimed at sustainable peace in complement to other peace building proposals.

The Nepal Peace Trust Fund established in February 2007 is led by the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction. It is a multi-donor fund set up by the Government of Nepal to put into place a collective mechanism in support to the peace process.

NPTF is a three year programme (2007-2010) and its scope of work has been widened. The NPTF mandate covers works related to the rehabilitation of the internally displaced persons, election of the Constituent Assembly and other entities, promotion and strengthening of peace and security, management of the cantonments and rehabilitation of the Maoist combatants, support to the peace building process and rehabilitation of the conflict affected people. The two new areas include mine action and reconstruction of public sector infrastructure damaged during the conflict.

In addition to the European Commission, the Governments of Nepal, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, as well as the development aid agencies of Germany, the United Kingdom and Switzerland contribute to the Nepal Peace Trust Fund. With this additional funding, the EC this year has become the major contributor to the NPTF amongst international donors.

The European Commission's intervention will specially provide for supporting activities, such as constitution building and elections, restructuring physical infrastructures, supporting conflict affected people and other programmes within the scope of NPTF.

EU Council approves EUR 15 million to support the film sector across the world

The Council of the European Union has approved a EUR 15m programme, covering the three year period 2011-2013, to support cooperation of the European cinema sector with professionals from outside the EU. The programme is designed to improve the distribution of European films abroad as well as screenings of works from third countries in Europe. This will increase consumer choice, improve the competitiveness of the audiovisual industry in Europe and foster cultural exchange.

MEDIA MUNDUS

Between 2011 and the end of 2013, the so-called Media Mundus fund will support joint projects of filmmakers in Europe and third countries. Actions will not only cover the distribution of movies, but also information exchange and training as well as support to increase visibility and public demand for a greater diversity of films. The Commission, which will implement the scheme on the basis of annual plans, can reimburse up to 80% of such projects’ costs.
Nepal to Benefit from 23.5 Million Euros of Food Aid - From the European Union

The food woes of Nepalese in the eastern, mid and far western hills of Nepal could be ameliorated to a large extent in the coming months. The 23.5 million Euros that has been approved to address the issue of food insecurity in Nepal by the European Union is likely to bring about some change in the existing scenario of acute food deficit in the hilly districts. Adverse weather conditions and low rainfall have led to abrupt decline in food productivity. This in turn has triggered scarcity of the main food items like rice, lentil and wheat.

The 23.5 million Euros being given to Nepal will be channelled through some UN agencies and a number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). It is part of the one billion Euros set aside to address the food crisis in 50 countries around the world. The World Food Programme would use the funds to make a rapid response for food/cash for work projects in the food deficit districts in Nepal apart from implementing its regular programmes.

Addressing the period in-between emergency aid and medium - to long-term development cooperation, the Food Facility will operate for a period of 3 years (2009-2011). Three types of activities will be supported:

- measures to improve access to agricultural inputs like fertilizers and seeds and services like vets and advisors;
- other small-scale measures aiming at increasing agricultural production like microcredit, rural infrastructure, training and support to professional groups in the agricultural sector; and
- safety net measures, allowing for social transfers to vulnerable population groups, often in the form of labour-intensive public works (roads, irrigation projects etc).

Yield of paddy crops has gone down across Nepal compared to the previous year.

The FAO and the Non-State Actors would use the funds to enhance the capacities of the poor local farmers in the food deficit districts by forging partnerships with the local line agencies i.e. district agriculture office of the Government of Nepal. Local NGOs and others will train local farmers on a range of issues directly linked with improving food and livelihood security.

The G8 Summit held in Italy in July holds special prominence. European Commision President Jose Manuel Barroso announced that the summit participants had agreed on a new Food Security Initiative under which the EU would be contributing an additional 3 billion euro. At the same time the EU is contributing to implement the 1 billion facility announced in Toyako, Japan last year and which is already now reaching 35 developing countries.

Low and untimely rainfall has been resulting in low yields and food shortage in the hilly districts of Nepal
European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) Gives NPR 110 Million To Set Up Water And Sanitation Projects In West Nepal

The European Commission’s Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has provided Rs 110 million (Euro 1,000,000) to Concern Worldwide and Oxfam for the launching of ‘Water for Life’ projects in Jajarkot, Kalikot, Dailekh and Surkhet districts. The financial assistance came at a time when the districts in far west Nepal were having a rough ride. Some eighteen districts in mid and far western Nepal recorded 425 diarrhoea deaths. The deaths were recorded between April 30 to September 6. The lack of clean drinking water coupled with poor sanitation has been attributed as the major cause behind the large number of deaths.

“The areas related to water and sanitation have been in our radar since the opening of the ECHO office in Kathmandu in 2005,” Dominque Feron, Technical Assistant of ECHO-Nepal office told the launching of Water for Life Project on August 21.

Highlighting the importance of the assistance of 500,000 Euros each given to the two International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), Feron said the sectors of health and sanitation were specially chosen given the stark reality that they had a bearing on other issues such as education and gender.

He said that the need for new water projects was felt over the past few years since the projects constructed during the eighties and nineties are no longer functioning. Some water supply schemes were destroyed during the conflict. The available water sources were polluted due to lack of awareness exacerbating malnutrition leading to diarrhoeal deaths, he said.

The aid package given to the two INGOs would help address the problem of drinking water in around 19 village development committees in the said districts. The two projects will benefit more than 15,000 people through construction of 30 water systems, 2,448 household latrines, eight school toilet facilities and basic health and hygiene promotion in all target villages. The objective of the projects are to improve the quality of life in these poor and remote villages by providing access to sustainable improved water supply and sanitation facilities and promotion of safe hygiene practices through an empowering process.

The target VDCs are Majkot, Dasera and Salma VDCs of Jajarkot district, Dhaulagoha and Khina in Kalikot district, Lakuri, Chhiudi Pusakot, Goganpani, Gauri, Rawatkot, Badabhairav, Kusapani and Katti VDCs in Dailekh district and Hariharpur, Matela, Lekhprajul, Kunathari and Mehalkuna VDCs in Surkhet district

The projects will be implemented through NGO partners: Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) in Jajarkot; Karnali Integrated Rural development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) in Kalikot, Digo Bikash Tatha Batabaran Samranchhen Kendra (SuDECC), and Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN) in Dailekh and Environmental Development Society (EDS) in Surkhet district. Both projects are expected to be completed by June 2010.

The financial assistance given by ECHO could be instrumental in achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets on drinking water and sanitation by 2015 and national goal of attaining universal coverage by 2017.

The European Commission’s humanitarian department (ECHO) maintains regional offices in six capitals around the world (Senegal, Nairobi, Jordan, India, Bangkok, Managua) and employs around 200 local staff and approximately 100 foreign technical experts.

The European Commission is one of the biggest sources of humanitarian aid in the world. In 2008, it provided almost 1 billion euros (€ 937) M in humanitarian programmes in more than 70 countries.
European Commission project partners and beneficiaries in Accham explore the potential of greater project impact

A single organisation or donor cannot shoulder the enormous burden of implementing a project. More than the burden, the very idea of handling projects in a centralized manner sounds quite bureaucratic. This very reality has prompted donors like the European Commission to join hands with multiple partners while launching different projects.

Against this backdrop, it is obvious that a number of organisations—non-state actors, donors and the locally based institutions collaborate to simplify things. Regular meetings with the major partners are essential to ensure effective implementation of the projects. A district level stakeholders meeting was held some weeks back in Accham, a far-flung district in west Nepal where projects related to human rights and democracy with the support of the European Union are taking place. The meeting was held at the initiative of the European Commission Delegation.

Many of the EU interventions seek to protect human rights and provide social justice to the most marginalised populations. The most important part of the meeting was that along with the government bodies representing the bureaucracy, the locals having direct relation with the projects got to participate.

Almost all the development actors were present at the meeting where the local development officer was the focal point. The project partners presented a brief outline of their projects along with the challenges and opportunities. The participants expressed the interest that maximum benefits go to the actual beneficiaries and wished the projects get continuity in the near future.

One major discussion was about linking the Non-State Actors projects with the development plans and priorities of the District Development Committees. The stakeholders drew attention to the importance of identifying conflict victims correctly and to the importance of identifying early health issues related to seasonal epidemics, Cholera, uterus prolapse, HIV/AIDS and malnutrition.

The presentations on projects were indeed quite impressive and provided models for replication by other projects. Going by the feedbacks obtained, it is necessary to hold such meetings in the near future to ensure seamless implementation of projects through appropriate cooperation of NGOs and the district authorities.

School children in Accham. The European Commission has been assisting school sector reform programmes in different parts of Nepal.
Commission supports UN World Climate Conference: Realizing a Global Framework for Climate Services

On the 3rd of September, the European Commission declared its support for a new Global Framework for Climate Services that is being discussed at the 3rd World Climate Conference (WCC-3) in Geneva. Proposed by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the purpose is to obtain more scientifically reliable data and prediction systems for climate forecasting. It will set new international foundations for the provision and use of science-based climate information and prediction. This initiative comes in the run up to the Copenhagen Conference that will take place in December this year.

EU Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potocnik, underlined the importance of being properly prepared for the impacts of climate change. "Climate change is a common challenge that must be addressed at global level. Reaching global agreement on reducing emissions remains the first priority. But we already know that we will have to mitigate the consequences of climate change. This will be best done on the basis of best possible scientific data. The availability of globally recognized climate information, tools, methods and models is crucial, especially for developing countries that are likely to suffer most from the negative impacts of climate change."

International cooperation is of central importance in European climate research

Since 2004 the European Commission has funded over 130 climate-related projects with more than €540 Million through its Framework Programme for R&D (FP7). The European climate research and observation research has a global scope. That's why these projects, aiming to improve the understanding of climate change, have been conducted in cooperation with non-EU research institutions from some 60 countries. The current 7th Framework Programme runs until 2013 and will continue to facilitate and advance international climate science with participation from all continents. Nearly €1.9 billion are earmarked for environment research over the period 2007-2013. On top of that, other FP7's areas such as transport and energy fund climate related research.

Climate change impacts have been targeted around the globe

Key scientific questions and challenges in vulnerable regions around the globe have been targeted. Examples are studies about the melting of Himalayan glaciers and their impact on water resources in Northern India. There are also projects which support environmental observation in Asia and Africa, contributing to global observation systems and capacity building in developing countries. Other topics include the impacts of climate change on water resources as threats to security in Southern Europe and neighbouring countries, the carbon cycle and land-use change in Africa, climate change predictions in Sub-Saharan Africa and the better quantification of impacts (for more details, see brochure below).

Background

This initiative of the WMO is in line with the EU position on adaptation in the UN climate negotiations and with the needs identified by the Commission White Paper on Adaptation from April 2009. It will also contribute to the research and information needs emphasised in the EU strategy on supporting Disaster reduction in developing countries and the Community approach on the prevention of natural and man made disaster.
European Commission Workshop on social sector programmes in decentralised context

An EC regional workshop on ‘Developing and Implementing Social Sector Programmes in Asia and Central Asia was organised in Kathmandu from 21st September to 25th September. The objectives of the workshop organised by the Europe Aid office included understanding the pros and cons of decentralisation, adding a sector governance perspective in the implementation of social aid programmes, fiscal aspects of decentralisation, design of social sector policy dialogues, implementation of performance assessment frameworks (PAPs), indicators and need to provide for capacity development of the different actors involved in the implementation of the social aid programmes. Particular mention was made about the role and capacity of non-state actors. It brought together experts and programme managers from European Commission headquarters and 12 EC delegations in Asia and central Asia. The workshop mainly focussed on sharing concepts, definitions and general lessons learnt from both decentralization and social sector perspectives, strategic challenges involved in developing and implementing sector support programme in a decentralised context and operational challenges involved in linking sector support.

The workshop provided an opportunity to the EC staff from the Headquarters to understand the realities of different delegations in Asia. There was overall consensus that decentralisation is country and context specific. The complexities of sector interventions in decentralised context underline the need to reinforce policy dialogue, increase internal coherence and risk mitigating measures adapted to the specific contexts and instruments.

During the first day, deliberations were made on ‘Introducing Decentralisation and its Potential added Value for social sector support’. Similarly on day two, deliberations were made on ‘Strategic Challenges involved in Social Sector Support in a Decentralized Context. On the third and fourth days discussions on the operational challenges were given continuity while on the fifth day consensus was built on what should be the way forward to step up the effectiveness of the projects.

A major outcome of the seminar is the large consensus among participants that sector governance, NSAs, Public Finance Management and decentralisation, are all critical aspects to take on board in the design and implementation of social sector programmes in Asia.

The participants apart from being involved in group discussions conducted a field visit in Bhaktapur including a school visit.

Participants of the regional workshop on social sector programmes in Asia and Central Asia join the teachers from a school in Bhaktapur for a visit.
DIPECHO Action Plan For South Asia Launched

A Comprehensive Disaster Preparedness Project funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) under its fifth DIPECHO Action Plan for South Asia was launched amidst a programme in mid August. The NPR 351.56 million (3.1 million Euro) DIPECHO project in Nepal aims at bringing down the extent of vulnerabilities among disaster prone communities. The project aims at mobilising and training 3,000 youth volunteers. The volunteers will be trained on search and rescue operations, first aid, emergency response and disaster preparedness.

The project aims to reduce the impact of disasters on lives, livelihoods, property and to protect the dignity of people.

Task forces will be formed in the project areas for efficient response to calamities. Sustainable models of efficient early warning systems and small scale cost-effective mitigation models like bio-embankment, culverts, elevated hand pumps and low cost barrier-free emergency shelters will be established under the project.

The project emphasises on mainstreaming people with differential vulnerabilities and will work closely with the government, donors and other key stakeholders to strengthen the national disaster risk reduction framework and disaster management policies.

The EC, under the fifth DIPECHO Action Plan, has funded eight projects, managed by ActionAid Nepal, CARE, Danish Red Cross, Handicap International, Mercy Corps, Mission East, Oxfam GB and Practical Action.

The projects are implemented through local NGOs, covering 19 districts and reaching over 243,000 disaster-vulnerable people.

DIPECHO in Nepal is put into operation by nine partners and is essentially about connecting concerned components within the society to enhance partnerships. This partnership is viewed to contribute to disaster risk reduction by enhancing community preparedness, institutional responsiveness and the legal protection of the affected people through the elimination of the possible adverse impacts of landslides, floods, river erosion and earthquake.

Flooding is a major calamity in the Terai districts of Nepal. The ECHO office in Nepal has been contributing funds to minimise the risks from such disasters.
New EU Websites launched for better accessibility and output

EuropeAid has recently launched a new website www.capacity4dev.eu, an interactive website supporting the European Commission's efforts to reform how it works with technical cooperation.

capacity4dev.eu is more than another classical website. Through online workgroups, discussion forums, collaboration spaces and various tools to facilitate communication, development practitioners can now meet, exchange on best practices, engage in an open dialogue and together make a more effective technical cooperation happen faster.

Capacity4dev also delivers news, interviews, guidance, tools, and case studies on good or innovative practice.

How can capacity4dev.eu help you concretely improve your daily work in EC Delegations?

Capacity4dev aims to facilitate communication between headquarters and delegations, amongst delegations themselves, and with other stakeholders.

Creating a workgroup takes only a while but offers so much more than email. It provides you with an opportunity to share and collaborate with external partners, but at the same time enables you to create a restricted online space where EC colleagues can securely share their work.

Capacity4dev.eu also allows you to share or stay informed on innovative case studies and practices all around the world.

The EC Delegation in Haiti, for example, recently shared with us. It provides an encouraging example of government-driven donor co-ordination and an imaginative approach to capacity development and technical co-operation in a fragile or post-conflict environment.

European Commission launches new EU Trade Website

The European Commission has unveiled a new website for trade policy which will feature more information, better navigation, and user-friendly features including a database of trade defence investigations. The EU Trade website remains the gateway for detailed information on EU trade policy. With a clear layout, improved navigation, and a host of added features, the new site provides visitors with a more user-friendly access to key information.

Key features and innovations include:

An interactive database containing information on anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations initiated by the EU, such as the opening dates of investigations and planned dates for final decisions. Links to related documents will also be provided, as well as relevant contact details (e-mail addresses and telephone numbers) for each on-going investigation. The database will allow companies and others interested in trade defence proceedings to register for an online news feed in order to be regularly informed of new investigations. This is a step towards improving transparency in trade defence investigations and will help to ensure that parties that are concerned by such investigations are fully informed of all steps of the process.

More easily accessible pages with details on civil society dialogue activities in the trade area.

Better and more user-friendly access to key statistics on trade.

The website’s content has been reorganised and language has been simplified with a view to improving transparency and providing accurate, up-to-date information that is easy to find.

The EU trade website is an important source of news and background information on trade policy issues for professional and individual users. In 2009 an average of 1.170.000 pages were opened every month.

Visit the new site at http://ec.europa.eu/trade/ (no need to update your bookmarks)
Erasmus Mundus: 63 new Masters Courses and Joint Doctorates added

The European Commission has just selected 50 Masters Courses and 13 Joint Doctorates to be added to the courses available under the EU’s Erasmus Mundus programme for stronger European co-operation and international ties in higher education. The new courses involve 296 universities from Europe and 70 partner universities from a range of countries around the world. With the 50 newly-selected Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses, students starting their studies in the academic year 2010-2011 will be able to choose from among 116 Masters offering scholarships. The programme has also selected 13 Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates, a new element within the second phase of Erasmus Mundus, which kicked off this year.

The first call for proposals under the Erasmus Mundus programme’s second phase (2009-2013) was launched in February 2009. It prompted 182 applications for Masters Courses and 135 for Joint Doctorates from universities in Europe and their partners around the world.

“This selection round for new courses to join Erasmus Mundus was very competitive,” said Ján Figel’, European Commissioner in charge of Education, Training, Culture and Youth. “The selected courses all demonstrated high levels of academic quality. And they are all set to make a major contribution to meeting learning, economic and societal needs in Europe and beyond, with their strong focus on employability, and the great importance attached to top-level research within the new Doctorate programmes.”

New: Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates

A major new element in this call for proposals was the selection of 13 Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates, which together involve 65 EU universities and 12 universities from outside Europe. These doctoral-level training and research programmes will also offer fellowships covering up to three years of doctoral activities. The selected Doctorates cover a wide spread of disciplines in natural sciences, life sciences and humanities. Students will join these courses during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses

The selected Masters Courses will operate for a period of five years. 231 European universities in 26 countries are participating in the courses selected. The countries most prominently represented are Germany (31 universities), France (26), Spain (25), Italy (22), and Sweden (21). The courses offer a number of Erasmus Mundus scholarships to top-ranked students from “third countries” and to “scholars” (academics) to teach or carry out research. The 50 new Masters Courses treat a wide variety of disciplines: the most popular area is engineering and technology, followed by social sciences, mathematics, natural sciences and agriculture.

This was the first selection year under which Masters applications could include universities from outside the EU as full partners in their consortium. As a result, 58 universities from non-EU countries - around 15% - are involved in the selected Masters courses. India, the US, Canada, Switzerland and China are the most-represented. Consortia with partners in third countries can also offer scholarships to European students or scholars to spend periods of study, teaching or research in one of the partner universities outside the EU.

The 50 newly-selected Masters Courses include 19 renewals: under this call for proposals, existing Masters Courses that had reached the end of their first five-year cycle were able to re-apply in competition with applications for new projects. 34 of these 36 projects re-applied, and 19 were selected. These 50 new Masters Courses join the 66 ongoing courses to bring the total of Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses offering scholarships in the next academic year (2010-2011) to 116.

Erasmus Mundus has been in operation since 2004, when the first 168 students and scholars were awarded scholarships to attend one of the first 19 Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses. In the six years up to and including the academic year 2009-2010, over 7800 students and more than 1600 scholars have been selected to study or research/teach under an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course scholarship.

Winners of Erasmus scholarships from Nepal

Thirty seven Nepalese students including one scholar have been pursuing their higher education in different European Universities under the ‘Erasmus Mundus Scholarship’ programme. The number of students willing to apply for the scholarship is going up every year and so is the number of scholarship winners. The scholarships have proved to become a bridge between the countries in Europe and Nepal to further their people to people contacts and cultural ties.
EU Fact Sheet

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Europe Day

09-May

Motto

United in Diversity

Jun-79

Average life expectancy in the EU27

74.6

Three Main EU Institutions

European Parliament, European Commission, Council of the EU

Currency of the 16-member eurozone

€ Euro

Biggest state (Surface)

France

Smallest state (Surface)

Malta

Most populated state

Germany

Least populated state

Malta

Source: eurostat_en

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