

## **ERAWEB Media Alert**

Target group: partner universities, associates and contacts

### **Note to press officers at ERAWEB Partner Universities and Associated Partners:**

This media alert will be posted on the ERAWEB website in conjunction with the Call for Applications. While you may wish to customize its content (i.e. content and pictures) for your local media, please note that it is mandatory to include the disclaimer and logo referring to European community funding (as shown below):



European Commission  
**ERASMUS  
MUNDUS**

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**Second ERAWEB call for applications.  
Top universities in the European Union and the  
Western Balkans to exchange students and  
staff in clinical and health sciences:  
100 EU-funded scholarships from 1 to 24 months!**

*Rotterdam, the Netherlands – Wednesday, December 19, 2012*

**From today to 1 April 2013 citizens of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/99), Montenegro, and Serbia seeking a career in clinical, biomedical, public-health or applied research can apply for European Commission funding under the ERAWEB mobility scheme. Within the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 programme: Partnerships with Third Country higher education institutions, ERAWEB provides scholarships for undergraduate, Master's, doctorate and post-doctorate students, and also for academic staff at selected universities in EU countries. Similarly, citizens of Austria, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands can enrol at partner universities in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Serbia.**

**Detailed information on the application process is available on the ERAWEB website: [www.erasmus-westernbalkans.eu](http://www.erasmus-westernbalkans.eu).**

ERASMUS MUNDUS – WESTERN BALKANS (ERAWEB) is an international academic exchange programme involving five EU universities and six Western Balkan universities focusing on health and public health.

As health affects the development of countries and citizens alike, it is an area of policy and practice that is closely linked to development priorities across the Western Balkans. All countries in the Region have signed the Skopje pledge, which commits them to improving their health systems and to ensuring universal access to high-quality public healthcare. Similarly, health research contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Running from July 2011 to July 2015, the ERAWEB programme is addressing the issue of health in three ways: 1.) by enhancing the academic skills of students, researchers and teachers in the health sciences; 2.) through research that identifies factors influencing the health of the population, and 3.) through research that develops interventions designed to improve health.

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**Contributing to mutual enrichment and greater  
understanding between the people of the European Union  
and the Western Balkans.**

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## ERAWEB's objectives:

- » **Mobility:** To promote and support student and academic staff exchanges;
- » **Research training:** To develop, promote and implement joint research training in medicine and the health sciences – the reason being that well-educated professionals are essential to fully functioning healthcare systems;
- » **Scientific development:** To encourage and facilitate collaborative research in disciplines related to the health sciences;
- » **Capacity building:** To stimulate collaboration between partners, to strengthen the sustainability of EU-funded projects in Member States, and to use student exchanges and 'train the trainer' activities as means for building the quality and number of researchers and policymakers. All these activities will ensure short, mid and long-term capacity in the Health Sciences.
- » **Scholarships:** Scholarships include tuition fees at the host university (where applicable), travel costs, a monthly subsistence allowance, and insurance. During the three-year period of the student-exchange programme, a total of 180 one-month to 36-month scholarships will be awarded for undergraduates, Master's, doctorate or post-doctorate students, or for academic staff. For students in all four categories there will be three calls for applications, the first of which will close on April 2, 2012. Teaching staff can start any time within the programme. Applications can be submitted online through [www.erasmus-westernbalkans.eu](http://www.erasmus-westernbalkans.eu)



“Students and academic staff wishing to participate in the ERAWEB programme seek national or international careers as researchers, executives or advisors in the health sciences. Whatever their fields of interest – clinical medicine, drug research, public health, or health-policy development – they all serve one overarching interest: people’s health. Our consortium of ERAWEB universities has the potential to accommodate all their ambitions.”

Professor Albert Hofman, MD, PhD, (consortium leader), Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam, the Netherlands

## Selection criteria

ERAWEB supports equal opportunities, gender equality and social equity, all of which will be important criteria in the selection of applicants. Socio-economic differences in health will be important topics in the educational and research topics included in the programme. As poor health is often compounded by a lack of funding and health knowledge, health is just one of the worries of people with low socio-economic resources. Improving health in these populations will stimulate social participation, bring opportunities to new careers, generate more equal chances, and improve social equity.

A set of minimum academic qualifications apply for undergraduate, Master's, doctorate and post-doctorate students, and also academic staff. Local qualifications apply to specific programmes.

## European Community initiative

ERAWEB is a European Community initiative whose principle aim is to bring sustained improvements to knowledge, teaching and research skills in the public-health sciences in the Western Balkans. It also intends to forge lasting links not only between the EU and Western Balkans partner universities, but also within and between the two regions. Similarly, it envisages that when participants return to their home countries, their employability will have been advanced by new knowledge and skills.

With its focus on health, ERAWEB addresses the fields of education, mathematics, health sciences, natural sciences, and social sciences. But there is more. As well as bringing academic enrichment, participation brings immeasurable benefits in life skills, immersion in another culture, and acquaintance with another language. And it also brings new friends.

## About ERAWEB

A unique opportunity to study in the EU or Western Balkans for as little as one month and as much as 24 months, ERAWEB provides scholarships for undergraduate, Master's, doctorate and postdoctorate students, and also for academic staff. These scholarships include participation fees (where applicable), travel costs, a subsistence allowance, and insurance.

## About Erasmus Mundus Action 2

Partnerships with Third Country higher education institutions and scholarships for mobility

Partnerships in the framework of Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 are the basis for enhancing academic collaboration and exchanges of students and academics, contributing to the socio-economic development of non-EU countries targeted by EU external cooperation policy. Consortia must include a minimum of five higher education institutions from at least three European countries and a number of higher education institutions from targeted non-European regions. Special attention is given to disadvantaged groups and populations in vulnerable situations.

## About the Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences – NIHES

The Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences (NIHES) is an alliance of leading Dutch universities and research institutes that collaborate on quantitative medical and health research. In our Master of Science programmes and short courses, we provide graduate and postgraduate research training in quantitative medicine and the health sciences. We have five core disciplines – Epidemiology, Clinical Epidemiology, Genetic Epidemiology, Public Health, and Medical Informatics – and four key partners: Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University of Amsterdam, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, and the Netherlands Cancer Institute.



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## Contacts

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### **Online applications:**

[www.erasmus-westernbalkans.eu](http://www.erasmus-westernbalkans.eu)

## Members of the Partnership

### Coordinator

Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam (Erasmus MC), the Netherlands

### Partners

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany

UMIT – University for Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology,  
Austria

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

University of Torino, Italy

University of Tirana, Albania

University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Macedonia (FYROM)

University of Belgrade, Serbia

University of Nis, Serbia

University of Novi Sad, Serbia

### Associated partners

Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe / European Students'  
Forum (AEGEE), Serbia

Dutch Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina

European Public Health Association (EUPHA), the Netherlands

European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF), France

European Roma Information Office (ERIO), Belgium

Glocal Synergy, Serbia

Institute of Health Policy & Management (iBMG), the Netherlands

Institute of Public Health, Albania

Institute of Public Health, Macedonia

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations-Serbia (IFMSA-  
Serbia)

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations-Nis, Serbia (IFMSA-  
Nis, Serbia)

Ministry of Education and Science, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ministry of Health, Albania

Ministry of Health, Macedonia (FYROM)

Public Health Institute Nis, Serbia

Regional Medical Chamber of Vojvodina, Serbia

Research Student Development Center (CNIRS), Serbia

Rotterdam-Rijnmond Public Health Service (GGD), the Netherlands

Student Parliament Nis, Serbia

Verba Medica, Serbia