



AUNP  
ASEAN-EU UNIVERSITY NETWORK  
PROGRAMME



# ASEAN-EU UNIVERSITY NETWORK PROGRAMME

A CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME  
FOR EU AND ASEAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2002

ISBN 92-894-4146-1

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*Printed in Belgium*

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# ASEAN–EU UNIVERSITY NETWORK PROGRAMME (AUNP)

Overview



# DEVELOPING

## European Union–ASEAN partnerships



The ASEAN–EU University Network Programme (AUNP) builds on the long-standing, high-level political dialogue between the European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and on a series of initiatives already undertaken by the European Commission to increase mutual understanding between the two regions.

Relations between the EU and ASEAN are based on a cooperation agreement between the EU and the following ASEAN member countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The European Commission's priorities for the development of economic cooperation with Asia, and its aim to establish an overall strategic framework for EU–Asian relations over the coming decade, are outlined in the communication 'Europe and Asia: a strategic framework for enhanced partnerships' (adopted in September 2001). This communication identifies ASEAN as a strategic economic and political partner of the EU and emphasises its importance as a protagonist in the field of relations between Europe and Asia. A key requirement is the need to enhance reciprocal understanding and to strengthen the mutual awareness of European and Asian cultural perspectives through enhanced cooperation in the higher education sector:

The AUNP was initiated through the signing of a financing agreement on 20 January 2000 by the European Community and the ASEAN University Network (AUN) <sup>(1)</sup>. The objective of the programme is to enhance cooperation between higher education institutions in the two regions, to promote regional integration within ASEAN countries, and to strengthen the mutual awareness of European and Asian cultural perspectives.

The AUN was established in 1995, with the signing of its charter by the ministers responsible for higher education from ASEAN countries. The AUN seeks to strengthen the existing network of cooperation among higher education institutions in ASEAN by promoting collaborative studies and research programmes on the priority areas identified by ASEAN. The AUN aims to promote cooperation and solidarity among scientists and scholars in the ASEAN member countries; to develop academic and professional human resources in the region; to promote scientific and scholarly knowledge and information dissemination; and to enhance the awareness of regional identity amongst its members.

<sup>(1)</sup> Further information on AUN is available at the following web site address: <http://www.aun.chula.ac.th/>

# WHAT IS the ASEAN–EU University Network Programme?



The ASEAN–EU University Network Programme (AUNP) aims to reinforce the capacity of higher education institutions in eligible ASEAN countries through the transfer of European expertise and knowledge. It supports joint cooperation projects in order to strengthen coordinated and sustainable relations between higher education institutions in eligible European Union and ASEAN countries.

A total budget of EUR 7 767 500 has been allocated to fund the programme over a five-year period, valid until January 2006. The European Union contribution to the programme amounts to EUR 7 000 000. The ASEAN University Network (AUN) contributes EUR 767 500 to the programme implementation. The European Union funds will be managed by the European Commission, whereas the ASEAN contribution will be administered by the AUN.

The AUNP will serve to benefit post-graduate students, tutors/professors, principals, administrators, and educational practitioners in European Union Member States and in the eligible ASEAN countries. It will also benefit the higher education institutions and the academic community, whose international activities and collaborative arrangements will be established or strengthened. The programme ultimately aims to benefit actual students, whose choices and opportunities in terms of higher education are increased, and whose mobility is enhanced.

Two different types of support are provided: **grant support** and **network initiatives**.

# ELIGIBLE countries

Eligible for support are higher education institutions with their headquarters in one of the following eligible countries:

## European Union Member States

Austria  
Belgium  
Denmark  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Ireland  
Italy  
Luxembourg  
Netherlands  
Portugal  
Spain  
Sweden  
United Kingdom

## ASEAN countries — signatories to the EU–ASEAN cooperation agreement

Brunei Darussalam  
Cambodia  
Indonesia  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Malaysia  
Philippines  
Singapore  
Thailand  
Vietnam

# Grant support — PARTNERSHIP projects

Higher education institutions may apply for grant support to promote sustainable relationships and effective networking in the mutual interest of participating institutions. Project proposals by higher education institutions shall be submitted on the basis of calls for proposals published in the Official Journal of the European Communities and on the AUNP web site (<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/aunp>).

Each project shall include partners <sup>(2)</sup> from at least two different European Union Member States and two different eligible ASEAN countries. The project duration may last **from 12 to 24 months**. Grant support may range **from EUR 100 000 to EUR 200 000**, which may not exceed 80 % of the total eligible project costs.

Grants are provided to:

- upgrade and enhance the skills of students, teaching staff and administrators of higher education institutions through the provision of in-country and overseas training;
- promote the exchange of experience and encourage mutual appreciation of study programmes and reciprocal access to higher education;
- raise awareness of opportunities in the sector and develop links that can ultimately lead to mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

Grant support may be offered for the following three programme components:

- common applied research;
- human resource development;
- curriculum development.

**6** <sup>(2)</sup> 'Partners' is used as a general term for the lead applicant and its partner institutions.



## Who is ELIGIBLE?

Eligible for grant support are non-profit-making higher education institutions (or parts of such institutions) with their headquarters in one of the eligible European Union or ASEAN countries.

Applicants must act in partnership with partner institutions.

As a minimum requirement, a partnership must involve at least four partners, which shall be higher education institutions from at least **two different European Union Member States** and **two different eligible ASEAN countries**.

In order to be eligible for a grant, applicants and partners must fully comply with the following two criteria:

- they must provide courses at undergraduate and/or graduate level of higher education leading to a recognised qualification in their own country; they may be called a 'university' or bear some other relevant name (e.g. 'polytechnic', 'college', 'institute', or similar); and
- they must be recognised, and their degrees accredited, by the responsible national authority in their own country. Institutions preparing students for foreign degrees (e.g. those operating as a branch or under a franchising agreement) are not eligible for support.

Private higher education institutions that have been registered for a minimum period of five years may participate on the same basis as public institutions, provided they are non-profit-making.

The AUNP is also open to:

- established networks of higher education institutions, provided they have their headquarters in one of the eligible countries;
- regional higher education institutions not belonging to any national system but formally recognised by one of the eligible countries.





## What types of project are **SUPPORTED?**

Projects should clearly aim to promote EU–ASEAN cooperation and cooperation within ASEAN, and should focus on fields of study of demonstrable EU–ASEAN mutual interest (such as social and human sciences, basic sciences, engineering and technology, health, the environment and information technologies).

### **A) Common applied research**

Grants are awarded for high-quality collaborative applied research projects that focus on fields of study of demonstrable EU–ASEAN mutual interest. The applied research projects will aim to mobilise the strengths, expertise and resources of the European and ASEAN academic community.

Each project may include elements such as:

- joint applied research activities between scientists from Europe and ASEAN countries in one or more of the AUNP priority fields;
- sharing of research results and joint publications;
- teaching missions and study visits in Europe/ASEAN countries;
- mobility scholarships for teaching staff and/or post-graduate students;
- thesis preparation and thesis supervision, including applied research and laboratory work contributing to it;
- training for Ph.D. and Master's students and/or post-doctoral researchers;
- workshops and conferences.

Projects under this activity component shall be implemented by higher education institutions. Research institutions, which do not satisfy the eligibility criteria for higher education institutions set out in the Guidelines for Applicants, are not eligible for EC support under the AUNP.

## **B) Human resource development**

Grants are awarded for cooperation projects that aim to upgrade the skills of university teaching staff, in particular young faculty staff and future teachers (i.e. postgraduate students), and administrators. Each project, which should aim to promote mobility for nationals from both the European Union and the eligible ASEAN countries, takes the form of a human resource development programme, and may include such elements as:

- short teaching/training missions in Europe/ASEAN, especially those combining lectureship or training with activities such as seminars, research collaboration, thesis supervision, outreach conferences, or joint work with local staff;
- short intensive overseas programmes to permit attendance at relevant intensive courses (for example, summer courses or joint modules) or seminars/workshops, the gathering of teaching/research material and the preparation/development of actions for other programme components leading to longer-term partnerships;
- study/research abroad for programmes at the PhD and Master's level (such as 'split' or 'sandwich' programmes);
- internships when integrated within a structured cooperation between universities and industries.

Undergraduate students shall not be considered for mobility grants.

## **C) Curriculum development**

Grants are awarded for cooperation projects that aim to develop curricula, producing new/improved courses, modules or teaching/training materials. Each project, which should be innovative, covers activities relating to the preparation of curricula and course material (content definition, teaching tools, production/printing of course material), their dissemination and the training of professors/tutors to teach them. Projects could focus on:

- multidisciplinary curricula leading to qualifications in demand on the labour market;
- courses based on common or coordinated modules at different institutions;
- modules/courses with a regional (European, ASEAN or ASEAN–Europe) dimension, including those concerning contemporary ASEAN studies in Europe and European Union studies in ASEAN countries relevant to the future development of economic and social relations between the two regions;
- curricula integrating aspects of university–industry relations;
- open, Internet and distance education.

Curriculum development projects may concern the undergraduate as well as the graduate level. They will be based on the sharing of experience and the pooling of resources. They are expected to plan for the integration of jointly developed courses/material into the academic structure of participating institutions and for their broader dissemination.



## How to apply

- **Familiarise yourself with the AUNP**

Consult the programme web site, and read the programme Guidelines for Applicants, which are published at the same time as the call for proposals.

- **Ensure you are eligible to submit a project**

The programme is open to all higher education institutions (or parts of such institutions), to established networks of higher education institutions with their headquarters in one of the eligible countries, and to regional higher education institutions not belonging to any national system, but formally recognised by one of the eligible countries. **Ensure that all partners fully comply with the given eligibility criteria.**

- **Ensure there are at least four partners to develop a project**

Each partner should contribute to the design and implementation of the project, providing facilities, human resources, skills and expertise, experience or similar inputs. Check that there is a minimum of four partners, which shall be higher education institutions from at least two different European Union Member States and two different eligible ASEAN countries.

### ● **Select relevant component**

Choose from the three given components:

- common applied research;
- human resource development;
- curriculum development.

Project proposals must indicate only one component, but activities may be cross-cutting with other components.

### ● **Prepare a project proposal with budget**

Project proposals must comply with the standard European Commission procedures as published in the Official Journal of the European Communities and on the programme web site.

### ● **Submit your proposal**

Calls for proposals are announced in the Official Journal of the European Communities (<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj>) and on the programme web site. Project proposals may be submitted by registered post, hand delivery or courier service to the given address at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, in accordance with the instructions published in the call for proposals.

### ● **Selection procedure**

Proposals are screened for administrative compliance, then assessed on both a technical and a financial basis according to published evaluation criteria.

### ● **Enquiries**

Questions relating to calls for proposals may be sent by e-mail or by fax to the addresses listed below, indicating clearly the reference of the call for proposals.

E-mail: [europaaid-aunp@cec.eu.int](mailto:europaaid-aunp@cec.eu.int)

Fax: (32-2) 299 10 62

Additional information, and specific questions and answers relevant to other applicants will be published at the following address:

**<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europaaid/projects/aunp>**

# Grant application PROCEDURE

## **Launch of call for proposals**

(and publication of Guidelines for Applicants)

## **Receipt of applications**

(see web site for deadlines)

## **Evaluation**

Administrative compliance and eligibility check

## **Evaluation**

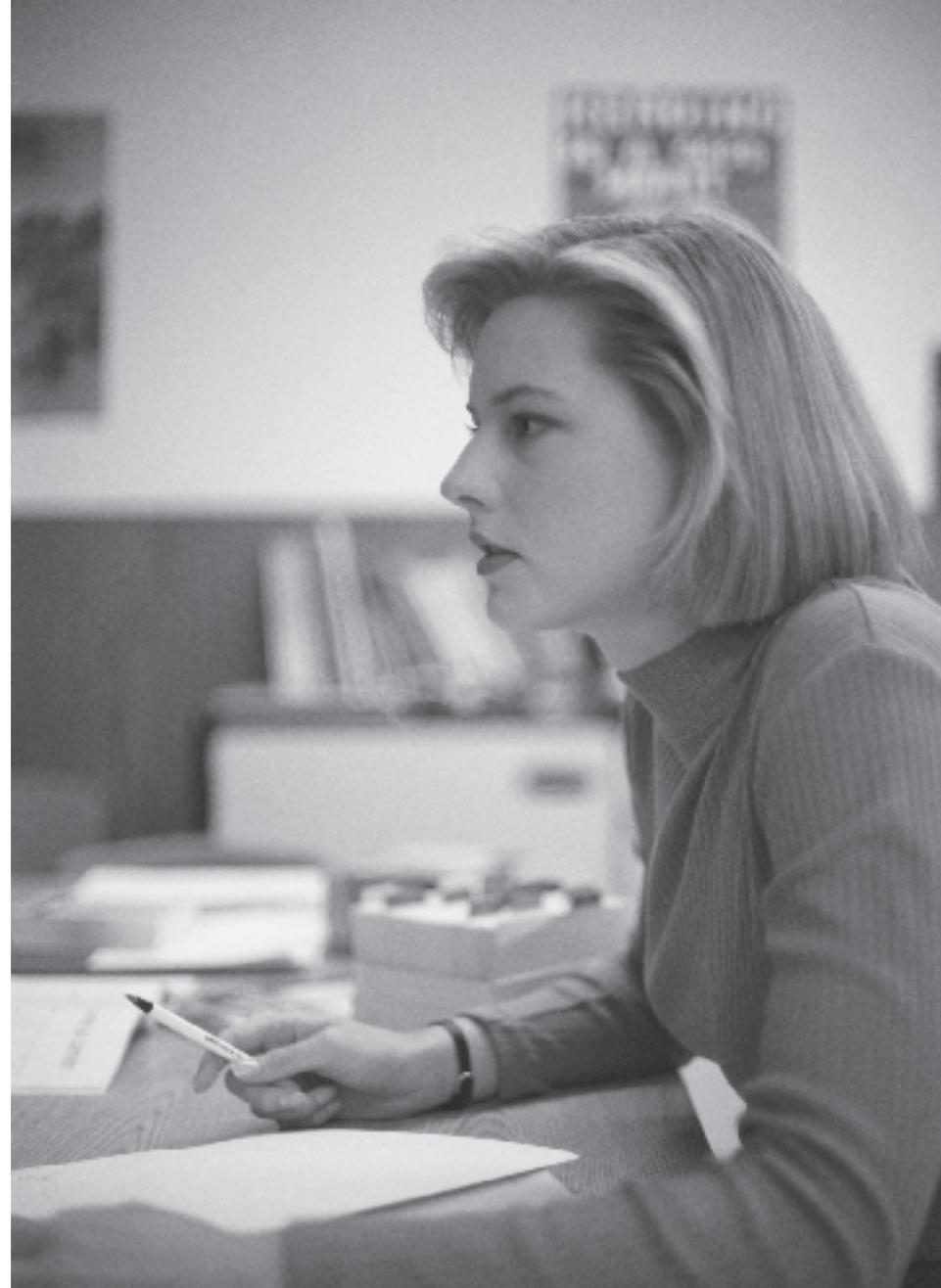
Technical and financial

## **Selection of projects**

(and notification to applicants)

## **Preparation and signing of contracts**

## **IMPLEMENTATION**



# NETWORK initiatives

The following three AUNP activities are designed to bring European Union (EU) and ASEAN higher education institutions together to share experiences and to transfer the benefits of EU experience to ASEAN partners.

- Two rectors' conferences, which will bring together ASEAN and EU university rectors (chancellors/presidents) to exchange information on experiences and to explore priority issues of mutual interest for the enhancement of EU–ASEAN cooperation in the field of higher education.
- Four annual round tables for representatives of ASEAN and EU higher education institutions and relevant public authorities, which will focus on the further development of EU–ASEAN higher education cooperation.
- Targeted technical assistance assignments, which will be carried out to the benefit of the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and its members. The technical assistance will cover areas where European institutions and organisations have acquired significant experience, which can usefully be shared with the ASEAN counterparts (such as credit transfer systems, initiatives for student and lecturer mobility, initiatives promoting joint research, and convergence of curricula).

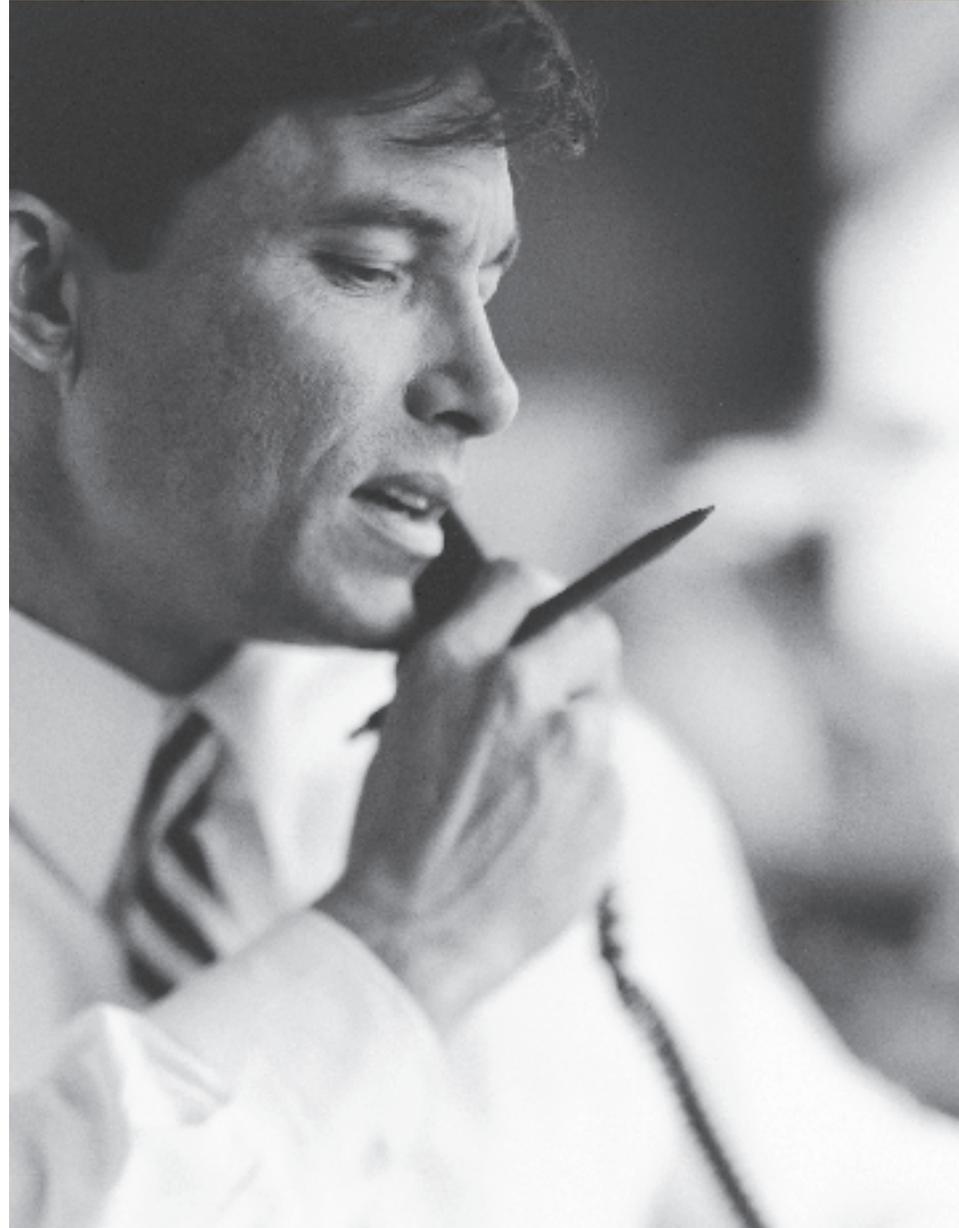
Further information on the implementation of the network initiatives will be made available via the programme web site.



# How is the programme **MANAGED?**

The day-to-day management of the programme is carried out by a **Programme Management Office** with its headquarters at premises provided by the ASEAN University Network (AUN) at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. The Programme Management Office is staffed by the European Commission and the AUN, with a European Co-Director recruited by the European Commission and an ASEAN Co-Director made available by the AUN.

A **Programme Advisory Committee** provides guidance and recommendations on the programme implementation, and monitors its performance. It is composed of two European Commission representatives, a representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, the Chairman of the AUN board of trustees and the two co-directors of the Programme Management Office (acting ex-officio). Meetings will be held alternately in Brussels and in ASEAN countries approximately twice a year.



European Commission

**ASEAN-EU University Network Programme — A co-operation programme for EU and ASEAN higher education institutions**

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

2002 — 14 pp. — 25 x 17.6 cm

ISBN 92-894-4146-1



**For enquiries relating to calls for proposals or specific financial/contractual issues:**

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B-1049 Brussels

Belgium

Fax (32-2) 299 10 62

E-mail: [uropeaid-aunp@cec.eu.int](mailto:uropeaid-aunp@cec.eu.int)

Web site: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/aunp>

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OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

L-2985 Luxembourg

ISBN 92-894-4146-1



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