

4th  
Edition

# EU-METALIC II

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## Project Newsletter: July 2016



**Warm greetings from us all here in Cardiff!**

**It's been another busy few months on the EU METALIC II project,  
here is a round-up of our activities!**



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## Cohort 3 Round 1 Call for Applications

The Cohort 3 Round 1 call was open only to applications from Europe, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Algeria and restricted to undergraduate and staff levels only. The call timeline was as follows:

Third Call for Applications – Cohort 3 Round 1	25/09/2016 – 01/12/2016 (68 days)
Eligibility check	By 15/12/2016
Assessment of Academic Quality	By 29/01/2016
Selection and Nomination	By 12/02/2016

The total number of 237 applications have been submitted. Selection Committee met via Skype on 11th February 2016 and after a thorough selection process 30 undergraduates have been nominated for 5-10 months exchange mobility and 3 staff scholars for 1 month exchange mobility under the EU METALIC II scheme. The undergraduate scholars will start their mobilities in September 2016 and will have to mobilise by the 31st December 2016 the latest. Currently all scholars are preparing for their upcoming mobility and the partners are preparing welcome events for their incoming scholars.

## EACEA Progress report

In February this year we successfully submitted our Third Progress Report to the European Commission. The report summarised the past year and outlined the future activities. Most of you completed a questionnaire in order to gather feedback for the Report. Analysis of partner and scholar feedback is an integral part of the Report, therefore your input is very much appreciated!

We have also recently contacted both host universities and scholars asking for photos and stories about recent activities. Please, do send us any information you have as we love to see how everyone is getting on!



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## Call for extension

A call for extension was open from 22nd February 2016 to 4th March 2016 due to remaining budget after Cohort 3 Round 1 nominations and due to a high interest of the scholars. The Call was popular with scholars across all universities and we received 27 eligible applications. It showed good evidence of progression and academic merit to the proposed and a high number of scholars wished to expand or extend their research. The applications were assessed based on host university ranking, quality of the application and available budget. The quality of all applications was of very high standard.

We have awarded 27 extensions:

- 2 master scholars: 2 months extension
- 10 doctorates: 2 – 15 months extension
- 6 post-docs: 4 months extension
- 9 staff scholars: 1 – 2 months extension

We wish our scholars all the best and look forward to hearing of the results of their extended mobility!

## EU-METALIC II monitoring visits

Cardiff Metropolitan University's Erasmus Mundus Project Supervisor, Ms Jael Rav-On, visited partner universities for monitoring purposes.

Ms Jael visited Bologna University in April and University Hassan II in May. The visits included obtaining feedback from scholars, hearing their success stories and ensuring they are enjoying the EU METALIC II experience. Ms Jael was also at hand to answer any questions or listen to any concerns that scholars had with regards to their mobility.



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## Consortium meeting



EU METALIC II held its final year consortium meeting in Morocco on 2nd – 3rd May 2016. The EU-METALIC II consortium meeting was co-organised by the project's joint coordinator, Superior Institutions of Science and Technology (SIST) and hosted by University Hassan II in Casablanca, which is a partner in the project.

29 participants from 16 partner institutions from 10 countries attended the two day meeting. The participants were from the EU, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria. Two National Erasmus+ Office (NEO) representatives from Morocco and Libya attended the meeting and contributed to the interactive discussion with their knowledgeable input.

The EU METALIC II Consortium met to discuss the progress and achievements of the project thus far and also to plan ahead for the final year of the project, with a particular emphasis on the dissemination of the project's results, project's impact and future sustainability.

All partner universities presented their experiences of the project, telling us about their scholars and the effects of Erasmus Mundus on their institutions. The presentations generated lots of interesting ideas and discussions that it is hoped we can build on in this final year of the project. An interactive session was organised in relation to the quality & sustainability committee led by Graz University and Alexandria University to gather feedback from the partners regarding project monitoring.



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## Consortium meeting

Presentations were given by Cardiff Met and Graz University on the topic of academic recognition, which enabled delegates to discuss the common barriers to mobilities overseas and scholar engagement. The partners also discussed new institutional cooperation developed within the consortium and looked at future possibilities to ensure project sustainability.

Several future staff scholars attended the meeting. This opportunity allowed them to meet the representatives of their host university, to plan their mobility, ask questions and meet other EU METALIC II scholars and partner universities. A number of current and past EU METALIC II scholars attended the meeting and shared their experience with the scholarship and the impact it had on their future career.

The partners were able to attend interactive sessions throughout the meeting to discuss project achievements and share best practices. The consortium also had the opportunity to discuss the challenges and prospects of Erasmus+ projects with NEO representatives, which is crucial to the future successes of cooperation within Erasmus+.

The consortium meeting was very successful and contribution of all partners will be used to improve the quality and impact of the project in its final year.

We thank all partners for participation, SIST for co-organising the meeting and University Hassan II for hosting the event.



Saad Bouroua and Ahmed Nejjar – SIST master degree seeking scholars who mobilised at CMET - sharing their experience.



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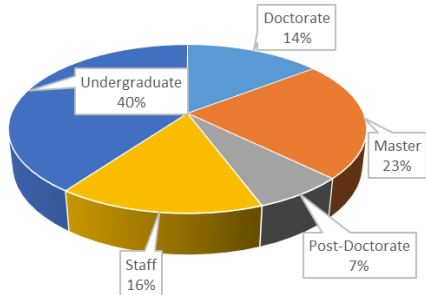
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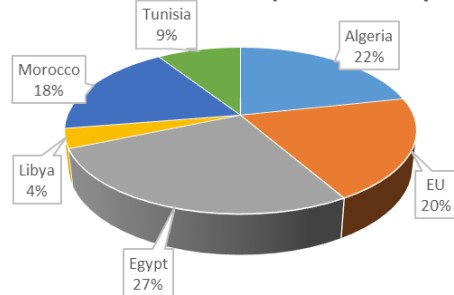
## EU-METALIC II so far

96 scholars have completed their mobility, 37 scholars are currently mobilised, 48 scholars are still due to mobilise and 4 scholars who have already completed their mobility were awarded with an extension and are planning to mobilise in coming months. Below graphs outline the structure of nominated scholars per nationality and mobility level and compares number of nominated scholars to proposed number as per project proposal.

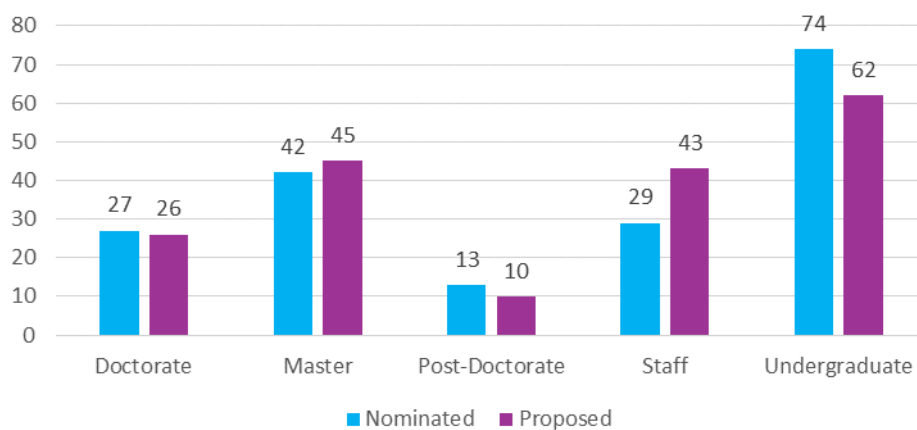
Nominated scholars per mobility level



Nominated scholars per nationality



Number of nominated vs proposed scholars per mobility levels



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## Cohort 3 Round 2 Call for Applications

Based on the above chart of proposed vs nominated scholars per mobility level the Consortium has decided to launch Cohort 3 Round 2 open to all eligible nationalities and restricted to staff level only. The call was planned to be open from 16th May 2016 till 30th June 2016. The Consortium conducted an extensive promotional campaign to attract a large number of applicants, including telephone campaign to all past applicants and providing individual feedback to the applicants. However, despite of all efforts we were not able to obtain the minimum number of applications by the 30th June. Therefore, the call was extended until 2nd October 2016 with a below preliminary timeline:

Third Call for Applications – Cohort 3 Round 2	16/05/2016 – 02/10/2016 (140 days)
Eligibility check	By 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Assessment of Academic Quality	By 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Selection and Nomination	After 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2016

We are aiming to exceed the proposed number of staff scholars.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our Partners for their hard work and cooperation during this Call.

## Staff Scholars

We are now just one year away from the end of the EU METALIC II project which means that our remaining staff scholars have just under one year left to mobilise! All universities will have now received lists of incoming and outgoing staff scholars who are yet to mobilise. We would appreciate everyone's effort in encouraging these scholars to make plans for their mobility as soon as possible. This is the last academic year for staff to take their scholarship and we all know how busy the academic year becomes so early planning is very important! We encourage all staff scholars who have not mobilised yet, to start planning their mobility. Do not miss this life changing opportunity!



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## In other news...

### Future newsletters

We would like to have features from universities and scholars in future editions of this newsletter. If you have anything to add or can recommend any scholars who would like to write a short feature then please do get in touch! Email: [eumetalic2@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:eumetalic2@cardiffmet.ac.uk)

### Dissemination video

As part of our commitment towards the sustainability and dissemination of the EU METALIC II Project, we will be putting together a Dissemination Video which will detail highlights of the project since its inception and its impact on the regions involved, partners institutions and grantees. We will dedicate the video to scholars' and project coordinators' interviews. If you would like everyone to hear your story, experience and achievements, contact us immediately!

### Success stories



Ibrahim GUENOUNE – Doctorate Exchange Scholar from University AbouBekr Belkaid of Tlemcem mobilised at Ecole Centrale Nantes obtained very promising research results and attended “Marine renewable energy” meeting, conference TORQUE 2016, in Munich.

Majda Nourelbait – Post Doctorate Exchange Scholar currently mobilised at University Montpellier published an article "Climate change and ecosystems dynamics over the last 6000 years in the Middle Atlas, Morocco" in Climate of the Past.

Ahmed Ali Abdelhamid Mohamed – Undergraduate Exchange Scholar from Alexandria University mobilised at Zagreb University – Ahmed worked as a volunteer with refugees providing them with assistance in the integration procedure and psycho-social support. Ahmed: ‘I started volunteering for 2 years with refugees. Volunteering spirit inspired my life or you could say changed it.’



We would like to congratulate all of our scholars. Let us know your achievements.



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## Hear from the scholars.....!

All mobilities have been monitored as part of the evaluation and quality assurance activities and to get feedback from the scholars on their progress and on how they find their mobility period. We received interesting feedback on how the scholars benefited from the scholarship and enjoyed it as well.

My current mobility is meaning a lot to me. It means getting out of the comfort zone and going in a journey to the unknown.

I had opportunities to participate at many congresses and events

Studying abroad in the UK has been a fantastic experience; learning about new culture making friends from all over the world!!

I had the opportunity to grow personally and professionally in a very open minded atmosphere.

This experience will undoubtedly enrich my scientific production and increase my chances of having a good place among scientists in my country.

The importance of experimental equipment available at Gem lab, made me want to go further in the acquisition of new knowledge in this field.

It's not only about a degree, it's about knowing other cultures, dealing with people from different backgrounds and having different mentalities.

This experience is a crucial step for me in term of improvement at different levels, especially linguistic and cultural. ...allowed me not only to open up more to culture differences but also to express my own and be part of the international community. I will never thank EU METALIC enough.

From an academic standpoint, this postdoc allowed me to be part of a research team of high international reputation, and to expand my expertise. This experience will undoubtedly enrich my scientific production and increase my chances of having a good place among scientists in my country!



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## Events

Field trip to the surrounding region of Zagreb,



Go Karting at Freie Universitat Berlin



Farewell BBQ at Freie Universitat Berlin



St David's Day at Cardiff Met



Sharing Experience -  
Erasmus Mundus Event at Ecole  
Centrale Nantes



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## Events



'From a personal point of view, this mobility has allowed me to know myself better, to properly measure and develop my abilities and live a new scientific, cultural and social experience in an environment different from where I grew up.' **Abdelilah Aboulayt**



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For more updates visit our website and Facebook!



**Thank you for your on-going cooperation and support  
and we look forward to a successful final year!  
EU METALIC II Team.**



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