Transatlantic Friendship and Mobility Initiative

Workshop 2
Welcoming Students: Welcoming Better to Welcome More

Paris
March 7-8, 2016
Chairs: Christel Outreman (MAEDI) and Caroline Donovan (NAFSA)

Panelists:
- Peggy Blumenthal (IIE) and Eloise Brézault (St Lawrence University) on student profiles,
- Noureddine Manamanni (Université de Reims) and Pierre Van de Weghe (Université de Rennes 1) on academic achievements,
- Christel Outreman (Ambassade), Alia Ladjili-Rodriguez (Campus France) and Sandra Cohen (MAEDI) on administrative achievements,

Rapporteur: Nadine Van der Tol (MENESR)
Questions:

- How can we train the staff and the professors who are willing to adopt the shared good practices or are seeking to raise the quality of their cooperation with a US partner?

- How can we measure quality in the field of welcoming students?

- How can we advertise that France has improved greatly in terms of welcoming and accompanying students who studying abroad?
Summary

Situation:
- Short visits
- France first destination in non English speaking country
- 600 mobility programs
- 400 universities
- Student mobility not necessarily in an academic program (voluntary)
- Change of mentality

Obstacles to mobility
- language, cost, poor reception, administrative difficulties (visas, accommodation card)
- non similar calendar between French and American universities
- teaching methods: taking notes, faculty contact
- problem of American students debt
- Length of stay
Actions to attract more American students in France
- Increase communication on the websites of universities
- Create internships with companies
- Organize visits of French and American universities by administrative but also by Faculty

Actions to improve visa issuing procedures
- Tool *Etudes en France/Study in France*
- Electronic procedure
- Catalog *Taught in English* on the CampusFrance website

Actions to welcoming better students on their arrival in France
- 28 Guichets uniques
- CLEF procedure to bail with a state caution
- CampusFrance space in embassies and in some consulates
- MOOCS to prepare the visit in France
Actions to improve the lives of students in universities (eg the University of Rennes and Reims)

- “Guichet unique”
- a guide (students and faculty)
- operation “red carpet” for the welcome at the airport or train station
- low cost of housing in provincial cities outside Paris
- explanation of rules to live with a French family
- English courses (ECTS)
- Scholarship from universities or cities
- “buddy system” entrusted to student organizations

- Actions to better train the actors in French universities to welcome foreign students
Deliverables:

- Share the good practices with toolbox
- To commit in a quality process of good practices.
- To better train members of French institutions who would like to become more successful in their cooperation with the US. Created and operated by a transatlantic team, this training could offer 3 components:
  - an online “learn the basics and improve your skills” 20 hour session
  - a case study with a US partner
  - an evaluation of the US site
- Agree on indicators to MEASURE the quality of welcoming students
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