ANNUAL REPORT 2008

ACADEMIC COOPERATION ASSOCIATION
Introduction by the President

Another eventful and fast-paced year gone by – the 15th in the history of the Academic Cooperation Association. The anniversary also marked important changes at the helm of our organisation. Sir Peter Scott’s second mandate as ACA President came to an end and I was chosen as his successor. Sir Peter was a formidable President and ACA has every reason to be grateful to him. He led ACA with dedication, intelligence and charm and he set high standards. I am enthusiastic to take up the challenge.

The past year brought new project work. As part of the Erasmus Mundus Global Promotion Project, ACA produced an important study on trends and models in European cross-border education provision outside our continent. Also, ACA set up and tested a European higher education promotion network of so-called ‘Study-in-Europe advisors’ in Mexico. For the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), ACA created an inventory of over 400 scholarship programmes funding student mobility between Asia and Europe. And ACA continued to play a key role in the ‘official’ working group on the development of a ‘global dimension’ of the Bologna Process, which made concrete proposals for the Bologna Ministerial Meeting in Belgium in April 2009.

2008 was also a year in which ACA strengthened its position as an expert organisation and as one of the top-end organisers of international events in Europe. All four European Policy Seminars of 2008 were oversubscribed, and with some of them, like the one on development cooperation, ACA conquered new thematic ground. ACA’s 2008 Annual Conference, held in Tallinn and addressing the needs of European higher education in the next decade, once again drew a record audience and was an intellectual highlight of the year.

Next to events and projects, the year was also rich in publications. The Annual Conference resulted in a new publication in ACA’s own monograph series, of the title Beyond 2010: Priorities and Challenges for Higher Education in the Next Decade. As a sequel to an earlier directory of European higher education networks of the year 2000, our organisation published the Handbook of International Associations in Higher Education – a guide to 100 academic consortia world-wide seeking to encourage further academic partnerships and collaboration. Last but by no means least, ACA entered into a joint venture with the European University Association to launch Internationalisation of European Higher Education (Internationalisation Handbook), a loose-leaf collection of articles covering all facets of internationalisation in higher education. The first instalment of articles appeared in September 2008 – and many more are to follow over the coming years.

As you will have noticed, I have here attempted to put the year’s activities into a nutshell. But the work of 2008 was, of course, much richer than any summary can convey. To discover more, I therefore invite you to explore the 2008 Annual Report.

Rolf Tarrach
ACA President
2008 brought a breeze of ‘frâlcheur’ as well as continuity to the activities carried out by the Academic Cooperation Association. As part of the multi-faceted Erasmus Mundus Global Promotion Project, of which ACA has been coordinating one pillar since 2007, ACA staff carried out a large-scale analysis, in 2008, of trends and models in European cross-border education activities in other parts of the world. The study – the first of its kind in terms of comprehensive reach and approach - maps the current supply and demand for European transnational education, and analyses the possible opportunities and risks for European providers in this area. It contains five extensive country reports that look in detail into the provision of transnational education in terms of policies and practice in France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK. Furthermore, the study includes an analysis of the profile of typical transnational education students and their decision making mechanisms, based on a web-survey.

An international seminar on the topic was held by ACA, within its European Policy Seminars series, in May 2008. The event led to recommendations for possible European-level activity or support for transnational education. High interest for the project results and appreciation of the topicality of the subject have been expressed by several professionals, organisations, and indeed national governments in a number of European countries. The European Commission took over the task to publish a complete electronic version of the report.

As countries world-wide are wooing international students and taking measures to make their higher education offer both visible and attractive to potential candidates, ACA was commissioned, also in the framework of the above-mentioned project, to set up and test a European-level higher education promotion network in situ (Mexico was chosen as the trial country).

Based on the analysis of the experience of national promotion initiatives and with the support of national agencies in Mexico (chief among them the DAAD, as the regional project coordinator), a loose, but centrally coordinated structure of ten ‘Study-in-Europe advisors’ was built. The network involved further stakeholders, such as the EU Delegation, several European embassies and – most importantly – Mexican alumni to Europe.

While the pilot project will come to an end in March 2009, the lessons learned go well beyond. First of all, there is good hope that Europe will become the most popular study destination in the future – yet, what Europe is still lacking is comprehensive information about the study opportunities it offers. But most importantly, the right way to fill this knowledge gap is to focus on capacity building for international student advisors in the sending countries and to involve the national actors coming from Europe that are already present in those countries.
In 2008, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), which strives to promote Asia- Europe cooperation, commissioned ACA to create an inventory of all national scholarship programmes supporting bi-regional ASEM cooperation at the student level (covering all 45 ASEM partners). The results should feed into the Database on Educational Exchange Programmes (DEEP), which also contains country profiles and information on study programmes in all ASEM countries, extracted from the World Higher Education Database of the International Association of Universities (IAU). DEEP was first launched in 2007.

The project turned out to be a big success: the total number of programmes delivered to ASEF in January 2009 amounts to 428 - more than one third of these are offered by German providers, chief among them the DAAD.

Numerous institutions in Asia and Europe already have links to the DEEP website. The database is consulted by many students and should officially be re-launched in May 2009, at the ASEM Education Ministers Meeting in Vietnam (see: www.deep.asef.org).

While always concerned with student needs, ACA focused its attention in 2008 on international cooperation in higher education within Europe and well beyond. A visible sign of the growing cooperation in higher education worldwide is the increasing number of associations, consortia, networks, etc. in the field. This does not mean that knowledge about these organisations is expanding at the same pace. In fact, the aims, history and activities of many of them are not tangible for outsiders. Why were they founded? Who and where are their members? How can they be contacted?

In an attempt to systematically portray them and to ‘translate’ their terminology for a wider audience, Bernd Wächter, the Director of the Academic Cooperation Association, published a first overview for Europe, the much sought-after Handbook of European Associations in Higher Education (2000). The idea of a systematic presentation of higher education associations not only in Europe, but in other parts of the world as well, was then taken up by ACA staff. In 2008, the Asia-Europe Foundation, through the ASEM Education Hub (AEH), expressed its support of this lofty goal, smoothing the way financially.

The Handbook of International Associations in Higher Education sheds light on the activities, the purpose and the history of 100 academic networks worldwide. The book, which is co-authored by Chripa Schneller, Bernd Wächtner and Irina Lungu, is divided into five sections, covering networks in Europe, Asia/Oceania, Africa and the Americas, as well as their global counterparts. Most importantly, the publication seeks to showcase the interrelation among the various networks and, by doing so, to provide information for future cooperation and partnerships.
Unsurprisingly, it is internationalisation that remains the most important concern of the Academic Cooperation Association. ACA's first publication in the by now well-established ACA Papers monograph series was entitled *Internationalisation in Higher Education*. Keeping up the tradition, the association was pleased to enter into a joint venture with the European University Association (EUA) for the creation of *Internationalisation of European Higher Education*, or, in shorthand, the *Internationalisation Handbook*. The initial instalment of this loose-leaf collection of articles appeared in the autumn of 2008.

The Handbook, which is produced by Raabe Academic Publishers in Berlin, covers all fields and facets of internationalisation in the tertiary sector. It is designed as an information and reference tool targeting all those who are interested and involved in the internationalisation of European higher education and its global standing. It is also to serve as an essential guide for university leaders and international officers, as they develop and pursue their own specific internationalisation strategies. The purpose of the Handbook is to respond to a growing demand for mutual learning and exchange of good practice. By providing tools to develop genuine European approaches to international engagement, the Handbook is also actively contributing to building the European Higher Education and Research Area.

When trying to discover what else kept us buzzing in 2008, ACA's advising activities cannot pass unnoticed. As a partner in the TEA-TEAM project, coordinated by the Open Society Foundation (London), ACA went East and delivered, in May 2008, one in a series of four training seminars in the Republic of Moldova. The seminar, fully prepared and delivered by ACA, gave an insightful overview of higher education reforms, programmes and scholarships within Europe. ACA also took on an advisory role in a one-year project of the UNICA network, designed to support and train the so-called ‘Bologna Experts’, previously known as the ‘Bologna Promoters’. ACA brought an added value to the project by providing high-calibre speakers.

Since the beginning of this century, ACA has been advocating a global outlook of European higher education policy. In particular, it has argued that the Bologna Process should develop an ‘external dimension’. Milestones in this regard were ACA's 2004 Hamburg conference *Opening up to the wider world* and the study *Perceptions of European higher education in third countries*. ACA's efforts finally bore fruit. Since 2006, there has been an ‘official Bologna working group’ on the Bologna Process in a global context, with ACA as a key member. The external cooperation strategy the group developed was adopted as official policy by Europe’s education ministers at the Bologna summit in 2007 in London. Since then, and mainly in 2008, the working group has developed concrete proposals for engaging Europe’s universities and colleges at a global level. The proposals have been welcomed by education ministers at their Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve meeting, in April 2009.
Also in a 'Bologna context', ACA has contributed to the debate about the future of mobility under the conditions of the European Higher Education Area. For the Ghent conference Bologna 2020: Unlocking Europe’s potential – contributing to a better world, ACA Director Bernd Wächter wrote a much-discussed research paper on the influence of the new degree structure on student mobility inside and into Europe. The findings of Internationalisation and the European Higher Education Area, as the paper is called, do not support the conventional wisdom that the shorter Bologna degrees are reducing mobility levels in Europe.

Also, in the by now long-established tradition of ACA-EAIE cooperation, 2008 was an important year. It marked the 10th edition of the joint ACA-EAIE seminar, held in conjunction with the EAIE annual conference in fashionable Antwerp. Thanks to the theme – transnational education – and to top speakers such as Maurits van Rooijen, Robert Coelen and Maria Kelo (ACA), the seminar, co-chaired by Hans de Wit and Bernd Wächter, was fully booked, with more than 100 participants and a queue outside for extra places. In addition to the seminar, ACA delivered other meaningful presentations at the conference and is keen on continuing in the same spirit in 2009.

In order not to overlook ACA’s research activities – the foundation for its good reputation in international higher education - it should be mentioned that in 2008, ACA put significant effort into a study assessing the attractiveness of DAAD scholarships in comparison with other scholarship providers in 20, mostly European, countries. The evaluation, commissioned by ACA’s German member, will draw the competitive position of DAAD scholarships for incoming students, both in qualitative and quantitative terms and will be finalised in 2009. In addition, as a partner in the HEXTLEARN project (Higher Education exploring ICT use for Lifelong Learning), ACA carried out extensive research throughout the year, to identify examples of good practice on the use of ICT in higher education. ACA will also take a significant role in the dissemination stage of this project that is to continue until 2010.

ACA Newsletter – Education Europe remains the main communication tool of the association and its interface with the outside world. As the survey conducted in 2007 revealed the value of the newsletter as a trustworthy information source for its readers, the ACA Newsletter Team did their best in 2008 to enhance the quality of the newsletter and to cover the most topical and relevant developments in higher education world-wide. As part of this effort, the team is also preparing a re-shape of the newsletter in 2009, to make it more attractive visually, and most important, more user-friendly.
While highly interested and involved in the present developments in higher education, ACA always keeps an eye on the future. 2010 will be an important date on the European higher education calendar. It is to mark the completion of the first phase of the Bologna Process related reforms, and the achievement of several improvements suggested in the framework of the Lisbon Strategy. However, it is clear that many of the goals set for higher education will not be wholly accomplished across Europe by the established timeframe, despite the ambitions and efforts, and that new – perhaps unexpected – challenges are already facing our systems. This is why the ACA Secretariat thought, already in 2007, that it was high time to organise and coordinate a platform for discussing and reflecting on the future challenges, and opportunities for European higher education beyond 2010.

ACA’s 2008 Annual Conference Beyond 2010: European Higher Education in the Next Decade, was held on 15-17 June in the charming city of Tallinn. It drew an audience of some 300 stakeholders and policy-makers in higher education world-wide – a record number of participants in the history of ACA events - and was, not only in this respect, a big event. Carried out in cooperation with ACA’s Estonian member, the Archimedes Foundation, and with the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union, the conference featured highlights such as David Coyne’s (Director of DG Employment at the European Commission) insightful perspective on the employability of students, as well as challenging presentations by Rolf Tarrach, Rector of the University of Luxembourg and ACA President since December 2008, Sir Peter Scott, Vice-Chancellor of Kingston University and ACA President until December 2008, Jan Sadlak, Director of CEPES/UNESCO, and Neil Kemp, former Director of Education UK at the British Council, to name a few. A number of other renowned speakers contributed to the success of the event by addressing a number of issues central to thinking about the future of higher education: What current challenges will persist well into the next decade? What opportunities does European higher education face in an increasingly globalised world? Where will we be ten years from now? The conference attempted to provide a response – or rather a number of responses - to these questions through scrutiny of themes that will not lose their centrality at the end of this decade: student mobility, alternative delivery of international education, funding of higher education, and the impact of labour market changes on higher education. The responses provided by conference speakers as well as articles by other renowned experts were incorporated into the conference-related publication - Beyond 2010. Priorities and challenges for higher education in the next decade - published by ACA in its Papers on International Cooperation in Education series.

Delegates left the conference with renewed energy and enthusiasm for international cooperation in higher education, despite the many remaining challenges, and certain that challenges are there to be positively addressed, not avoided and feared. As an ‘au revoir’, participants blocked the 13-15 May 2009 for the next annual ACA conference, to take place in Warsaw, Poland.
ACA's extremely popular European Policy Seminar series continued in 2008 with great success. Since its debut in 2004, the European Policy Seminars have gradually become a household name in the field of internationalisation, drawing large crowds of practitioners and stakeholders to Brussels for high quality debates and networking. Today, the series, reaching its 20th seminar, is certainly one of ACA's flagship products.

The already renowned What's new in Brussels? Recent developments in European programmes and policies hit the first high note in January, with top European Commission experts providing behind-the-scenes information on the latest schemes shaping European higher education policies. For 2008, the seminar offered the latest information on, and analysis of, the new Erasmus Mundus Programme ('Erasmus Mundus II'), the priorities of the 'Benelux Presidency' for the Bologna Process until 2009, the first results of mobility under the bachelor/master architecture, reform and mobility within the doctoral programmes and the Education & Training 2010 Agenda.

A second seminar in April tackled the widely debated topic of international rankings. Intent on thoroughly exploring what these rankings tell us and, more importantly, what they don’t, this seminar provided an introduction and a constructive critique of rankings and league tables, presenting and explaining the major methodologies in use today, such as those of the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) and of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, as well as introducing new approaches and initiatives by the German Centre for Higher Education Development (CHE) and the OECD.

Transnational education was the subject of the third European Policy Seminar in 2008. As part of the European Commission-funded Global Promotion Project, Exporting education: Europe’s role in transnational education presented the main findings of ACA’s study on the expanding field of cross-border education. Drawing widely on experiences of European higher education institutions engaged in exporting their education outside of Europe, an impressive range of experts tackled pertinent topics such as strategy, recognition, benefits, national level support and the global context of transnational education.

In the fall, ACA broke new ground with a successful turn on development cooperation. Attracting many new participants and high-calibre experts beyond ACA's established audience, From Aid to Partnership - Enhancing development through education provided insights into Europe's development agenda with Africa, as well as practical examples of cooperation and stirred discussion and thoughts on the nature of partnership as such.

ACA is looking forward to continue its European Policy Seminars in 2009, with other captivating themes.
As often is the case, ACA publications in 2008 were the fruit of ACA projects and activities. This goes for *Beyond 2010. Priorities and challenges for higher education in the next decade* as well. The main themes of the ACA Annual Conference 2008, i.e. student mobility, alternative delivery of international education, funding of higher education, and the impact of labour market changes on higher education, were also taken up in this conference-related publication, edited by ACA’s Maria Kelo and published in the *ACA Papers on International Cooperation in Education* at the end of 2008. The book can be ordered from any bookshop, as well as from the publisher Lemmens Medien.

Looking for new members? Or seeking cooperation with your counterparts world-wide? If so, ACA’s *Handbook of International Associations in Higher Education* comes in handy, by systematically presenting one hundred higher education associations from various continents as well as their global counterparts. Most importantly, the publication seeks to showcase the interrelation among the various networks and, by doing so, to provide information for future cooperation and true networking.

The publication was supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) through the ASEM Education Hub (AEH). The Handbook can be ordered via the ACA Secretariat, at info@aca-secretariat.be.

On 9 September 2008, ACA launched the first instalment of *Internationalisation in European Higher Education*, with a list of authors which reads like the ‘Who’s who in European higher education’. The Handbook, jointly edited by ACA and the European University Association (EUA) and published by Raabe Academic Publishers, was met with an enthusiastic welcome by the academic community. A new set of articles will be added every four months for a number of years, with the second set of articles already released in early 2009. The publication can be obtained from Raabe Publishers, as well as from any bookshop.
While 2008 is a ‘closed book’ by now, the 2009 ‘book’ just opened for ACA. Nevertheless, the three projects scheduled to begin next year already get 2009 off to a great start. In addition to the projects below, ACA will continue to look for new research opportunities throughout 2009, always bearing in mind the areas of greatest interest to its members. In the first half of next year, ACA will evaluate the Institutional Grants Programme of the Swedish STINT Foundation. This flagship scheme of STINT, which has been in operation since 1998, funds joint research and exchanges between research teams in Sweden and elsewhere in the world. ACA feels very honoured to have been entrusted with this important task.

ACA was also commissioned by the University of Groningen (RUG) to provide an ‘informed opinion’ on the institution’s international strategy and its internationally-oriented activities. The assessment, mainly based on desk research and interviews, is also to produce a set of recommendations for further improvement.

As a consequence of the increased global competition for the best brains, services for international students have come to play an important role in the quality assessment – and thus competitiveness - of higher education institutions. However, Continental European institutions seem to be, in general terms, lagging behind in the development of international student support, and there is a weak realisation of the importance of service provision on the attractiveness of the institution. This is why ACA decided to embark on a new project, starting in 2009, on services for international students in European higher education – a follow-up and extension of a study carried out in 2006. The ENATIS project (Enhancing attractiveness through international student services) is to result, among others, in a comprehensive report on the support needs of non-European degree students, the impact of services on student decision-making, and the strategic approaches and organisation of support at the institutional level, and will include a series of examples of good institutional practice in this area. ACA is looking forward to work on this project, funded from the Action 4 of the European Commission’s Erasmus Mundus programme, with two experienced partners: CIRIUS - the Danish internationalisation agency - and International Education Consultants UK.

Keeping up the tradition, ACA will organise an Annual Conference in 2009. Springtime Warsaw will be the place where internationalists will get together to discuss Innovation through Internationalisation - the theme of the 2009 conference from 13 to 15 May 2009. Organised in collaboration with ACA’s Polish member, the Perspektywy Education Foundation and held in partnership with the University of Warsaw, the event will provide a unique platform for high-level information, debate and networking.

Also, ACA will continue its highly popular series of European Policy Seminars, with four events in 2009. The first seminar of the year - What’s New In Brussels? 2009 – will also be ACA’s 20th event in the highly popular series. While the first seminar will focus, as every year, on the latest developments in European programmes and policies in higher education, the remaining three seminars will address student mobility, funding of higher education and languages, respectively.
New member

Early 2008, ACA happily welcomed the Lithuanian Education Exchanges Support Foundation (SMPF) to the ACA family.

SMPF is Lithuania’s national agency for all parts of the EU Lifelong Learning Programme and helps Lithuanian institutions implement the Bologna Process. Furthermore, it acts as the country’s ‘national structure’ for Erasmus Mundus, being also responsible for the Tempus Programme. In addition, the agency manages the Nordic Council of Ministers’ Nordplus scheme. Last but not least, it is in charge of Europass and Euroguidance and runs a number of nationally funded exchange programmes.

Elections and goodbyes

As every year, the ACA General Assembly met twice in the course of 2008. The meetings provided ACA members with the much appreciated opportunity to network, share the latest news, shape the future course of the association, and simply enjoy meeting with old and new friends.

In December, ACA members came together in lovely Riga for an exclusive and highly informative seminar, kindly hosted by ACA’s Latvian member, the Academic Programme Agency (APA). On the same occasion, the members unanimously elected Rolf Tarrach, the Rector of the University of Luxembourg, as the new ACA President, during the General Assembly. Rolf Tarrach is a Spanish national and a nuclear physicist by training. He has held professorships at the universities of Valencia, Barcelona and St. Petersburg. His extensive international experience and high commitment to the internationalisation of higher education made him an ideal candidate for ACA Presidency. Concurrently, the General Assembly elected Gunn Mangerud, the Director of ACA’s Norwegian member SIU, as its new Vice-President. ACA warmly welcomes Rolf Tarrach and Gunn Mangerud and is looking forward to closely working with them both.

At the gathering in Riga, tribute was also paid to outgoing president Sir Peter Scott whose profound dedication and great leadership have guided ACA during the past six years. With immense gratitude, ACA wishes him the very best. ACA also said goodbye to retiring CIMO Director Ulla Ekberg and to Margareta Sandewall, the head of the Higher Education Unit within IPK. ACA would like to thank them both for their deep commitment to ACA over many years.
ACA Secretariat

As a fervent promoter of international mobility, the Secretariat staff cannot escape its own rationale. Consequently, in 2008 ACA witnessed another series of hellos and goodbyes.

Shortly after the turning of the year, ACA saw its team reinforced by trainee Riikka Thitz who was closely involved in the production of the ACA Newsletter – Education Europe.

In June, ACA Deputy Director Ulf Lie left the Secretariat after a one-year collaboration. ACA warmly thanks Ulf for his enthusiasm and contributions.

The summer marked the arrival of two fresh faces to ACA, those of Barbara Müller and Irina Lungu. As Visiting Fellow, Barbara contributed to a variety of projects well into 2009 for which ACA would like to offer her many thanks. Trainee Irina Lungu’s dedicated support to ACA projects led to her joining the ACA team as Policy Officer in early 2009.

Naturally, there was also continuity in 2009 in terms of staff - Office Manager Isabelle Deneyer, Policy Officer Chripa Schneller, Senior Officer Maria Kelo, and the Director, Bernd Wächter, remained on post.
As of 1 January 2009 a fundamental change has taken place in the ÖAD – the Austrian Exchange Service, established in 1961. The OeAD-GmbH (Österreichische Austauschdienst-GmbH) has taken over, as the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research, all agendas of the former ÖAD, which up to then was organised as an association of the Austrian universities. The OeAD-GmbH will seek to build a dialogue and a constructive collaboration with all partner institutions in the field of international cooperation and will work to launch possible joint activities in a proactive way. The main goal is to develop OeAD-GmbH as a powerful agency - a central platform for internationalisation and mobility agendas. OeAD continues to manage a wide range of scholarship programmes for students, postgraduates and scientists and the EU programme for Lifelong Learning. The agency is in charge of the on-site counselling and support of international students at Austrian universities. It also provides information and advice for study and research in Austria and abroad and is responsible for the promotion of Austria as an attractive location for study and research.

VLHORA is an independent council of the 22 Flemish university colleges. It promotes the interests of these colleges, coordinates their joint activities and advises them on all higher education matters. VLHORA is particularly active in the areas of internationalisation, quality assurance and financial matters of higher education. It runs some student exchange programmes and advises the international offices of the hogescholen. VLHORA coordinates the assessment visits of all the university college study programmes and publishes the external assessment reports that the study programmes must use to apply for accreditation by the NVAO (the Netherland-Flemish Accreditation Organisation). VLHORA is also involved in programmes concerning diversity and equal access to higher education.

VLIR is a private foundation, which acts as the rectors’ conference for the six Flemish universities. It promotes dialogue and cooperation among the Flemish universities, and between the Flemish universities and the competent authorities. It supports the Flemish universities in making common proposals and statements, and in giving policy advice to the government on issues related to university education and research. It facilitates joint projects for the government, such as studies on topical issues in the academic debate. The Cell Quality Assurance of the VLIR is responsible for the quality assessment of the academic study programmes. The University Cooperation for Development coordinates the Flemish universities’ development cooperation programmes.

The Archimedes Foundation is an independent agency established by the Estonian government in 1997 with the objective to coordinate and implement different international and national programmes and projects in the field of training, education, youth, research, technological development and innovation. The Foundation helps opening up the European education and research area to Estonia through European cooperation programmes and creates conditions for participation through accreditation and evaluation of higher education. In this respect Archimedes acts as the Estonian Higher Education Accreditation Centre and the Estonian ENIC/NARIC Centre. The national programmes are managed in a new unit – the Centre for International Mobility, created in 2004. The Foundation strives to contribute to the development of quality education and help make lifelong learning opportunities widely available to Estonian people.
**CIMO**, operating under the Finnish Ministry of Education, provides specialist services, promoting international cooperation in education, work, culture, and among young people. CIMO manages various exchange and scholarship programmes, and functions as Finland’s national agency for the European Union Lifelong Learning and Youth programmes, being the national contact/information point for other EU programmes as well. The centre also collects, produces and distributes information on international cooperation in education relevant to the needs of different client groups. The centre administers and awards scholarships to Finnish and international postgraduate students, teachers and researchers. CIMO is committed to raising the international profile of Finnish education and training. In addition, it supports the teaching of Finnish language and culture in universities abroad.

**Campus France** was established in 1998 by the French Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Education, as EduFrance. This national agency acts under the supervision of the above-mentioned ministries, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the Ministry of Immigration, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry in charge of the Budget, as well as in liaison with the main French conferences of the higher education institutions. CampusFrance is a non-profit making association serving the public interest and has 219 member institutions, including 76 universities, 40 business schools, 58 engineering schools and specialised institutions. Its main goals are to promote French higher education abroad, to offer international students information and counselling on study opportunities in France and to publish analyses on different aspects of global academic mobility. CampusFrance operates 108 overseas offices in 78 countries and publishes a wide range of information guides for potential international students. The agency manages an online catalogue of 33,000 undergraduate and graduate study programmes and 300 doctoral departments CampusFrance takes part in EU-funded projects and has been the lead institution of a consortium comprising DAAD, Nuffic and British Council for a three-year project to promote European higher education in Asia.

**DAAD** is one of the founding members of ACA. It is a joint organisation of 231 German higher education institutions, promotes academic relations with institutions all over the world, primarily through the exchange of students, academics and researchers. It offers more than 200 student and faculty scholarship and cooperation programmes which are open to applicants from abroad and Germany alike and cover all academic disciplines and all countries. The DAAD is supporting the study of German language, literature and area studies at key universities around the world. It is furthermore acting as the German national agency for EU Higher Education Cooperation. Supporting the reform of higher education systems in developing and transition countries in the South and the East is one of DAAD’s further tasks. In 2008, the DAAD continued its world-wide activities in the international marketing of study, research and training in Germany and in the European Union. All in all, the DAAD supported, with a total budget of EUR 300 million, more than 56,000 people in cross-border education and research and 30,000 in mobility activities funded through LLP/Erasmus. The DAAD also acts as national agency or contact point for several EU programmes in the field of higher education, such as Erasmus and third country programmes covering the whole world such as Tempus IV, Erasmus Mundus II, Alfa III, Atlantis, EduLink, ACP Science and Technology Programme, etc.
**Greece – IKY**

The State Scholarships Foundation
www.iky.gr

**IKY** is one of the founding members of ACA. It is a legal entity of public law, operating under the supervision of the Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. It was founded in 1951 and is administered by a Board of Directors, nominated by the Ministry of Education. The mission of IKY is to promote education, culture and arts and sciences, to upgrade and strengthen quality in education, to promote the European idea to all educational levels. The Foundation is the Greek national agency for granting scholarships to Greek citizens and foreigners. It is responsible for planning, communicating and implementing scholarship programmes to study in Greece and abroad. The Foundation is also the Greek agency for the EU Lifelong Learning Programme. At the international level, IKY cooperates with the European University Institute in Florence, the ESA (European Space Agency) and the German DAAD, to name a few.

**Latvia – APA**

Academic Programme Agency
www.apa.lv

**APA** is a state agency working on behalf of the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science. APA’s prime expertise lies in the area of programme management, where the organisation can boast a 15-year experience. The organisation is very well connected to the European Union institutions in Brussels and to counterparts all over Europe. The agency has a demonstrated expertise in all matters relating to internationalisation in higher education. Having cooperated with many ACA members on a variety of projects, APA strives to support ACA studies and projects with its know-how and its excellent network. With its main task being the implementation of Lifelong Learning Programme in Latvia, in 2008 APA started a few new activities, namely: co-administration of Nordic-Baltic cooperation scheme Nordplus; of two special support schemes in EEA and the Norwegian financial mechanism; and took over from the Ministry of Education and Science the administration of scholarships awarded to Latvian students by a number of foreign governments within the framework of bilateral agreements. Through all the schemes managed by APA, each year about 1500 Latvian students can go to other countries for a study period or practical placement and around 500 lecturers and administrative staff from universities can go for visits either to deliver lectures or exchange expertise with their colleagues in foreign countries.

**Lithuania – SMPF**

Education Exchanges Support Foundation
www.smpf.lt

**SMPF** is a Lithuanian national agency responsible for implementing the EU Lifelong Learning Programme plus a number of other EU and national programmes and initiatives within the field of education and training. Additionally, in 2007 the SMPF was given the national responsibility to promote higher education abroad. During 2008, a motto for promoting Lithuania as a study destination for international students was presented for public debate and a survey was carried to sound out the public’s preferences. Based on the results of the survey and the debates, the motto ‘Study in Lithuania. Discover. Develop. Enjoy’ has been adopted and the accompanying visual logo created. With the possible support of the European Social Fund, the task of ensuring national and international recognition of Lithuanian higher education brand is going to be achieved in a more coherent and dimensional way. The project, whose main purpose is to introduce the Lithuanian higher education into the world-wide market, envisages such activities as creating an online portal, producing dissemination tools and materials, establishing a strategy for promotional campaigns, and increasing its visibility through marketing. The starting date of this two-year project is May 2009.
**SIU** is a national administrative agency under the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research. Its mission is to promote internationalisation, mobility and cultural communication as well as to coordinate planning and actions at the national level in accordance with the official Norwegian policy. SIU administers programmes like LLP, Erasmus Mundus, Nordplus, Pestalozzi, NUFU and bilateral programmes with Russia, Canada, the US, France, Germany, the Balkans, South Caucasus, etc. In addition to programme administration, SIU is responsible for providing advisory services to the higher education sector and for providing advisory services, analysis and counselling to the Norwegian government, including being the national focal point of the EEA grants. SIU is also responsible for promoting Norwegian higher education and research abroad, making use of the web portal www.studyinnorway.no, the official gateway to higher education in Norway for foreign students.

The Perspektywy Education Foundation is an independent, non-profit organisation established on 1 June 1998 to promote and support education. The activities of the Foundation concentrate around promoting the Polish higher education at the international level. The Foundation closely collaborates with the Conference of Polish Rectors (CRASP) in a multi-year program called ‘Study in Poland’. It also functions as the Secretariat of the IREG/International Observatory on Academic Rankings and Excellence. Perspektywy plays an important role on the domestic arena, by actively promoting quality in education. It organises public debates and seminars and does a national ranking of universities, and a ranking of best secondary schools in the country. The Foundation is supported by Polish universities and by the Perspektywy Press, a publishing and marketing company.

**SAAIC** is a non-governmental, voluntary organisation, which has been supporting, since its establishment in 1991, the development of the internationalisation of all sectors and fields of Slovak education and training mainly through the EU programmes it manages (Tempus and the Lifelong Learning Programme). The Association is assembling and distributing information for universities and other institutions concerning the possibilities of participating in educational and research activities through international programmes. It cooperates with institutions of a similar nature in the Slovak Republic and abroad, especially in the European Union countries.
SAIA, n. o. is a non-governmental organisation established in 1990, which through its programmes and services assists in developing internationalisation of education and research in Slovakia. SAIA provides information on study and research abroad and in Slovakia, organises the selection of scholarship holders, holds seminars for Slovak HEIs, and produces publications. SAIA administers the National Scholarship Programme for the support of mobility of students, PhD students, university teachers and researchers, the bilateral programme Action Austria – Slovakia, and the multilateral programme CEEPUS. SAIA is also a part of the European network of EURAXESS Services Centres and since 2007, it is an intermediary of the Fund NIL Supporting Cooperation in the Field of Education (EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms).

IPK is a public agency supporting schools, universities, companies, organisations and individuals wishing to participate in international cooperation. The IPK informs the stakeholders about different programmes and markets them; provides simple and effective administration; and evaluates and disseminates the results of the various activities. The IPK manages some 60 different programmes and actions for internationalising education, of which LLP, Tempus, Erasmus, EU-Canada, to name a few. Annually, approximately EUR 19 million are distributed in different kinds of support, and about 9 000 individuals are assisted to take part in different cross-border programmes in Europe and other parts of the world.

The Swedish Institute is a public agency established to promote knowledge and interest in Swedish higher education abroad. SI seeks to establish cooperation and lasting relations with other countries through active communication and cultural, educational and scientific exchanges. SI works closely with Swedish embassies and consulates around the world. Scholarships and grants designed to support exchanges between Sweden and other countries constitute a vital part of SI’s operations. SI provides information on Swedish higher education and research opportunities on its website Studyinsweden.se in order to encourage foreign students to enroll at Swedish universities and university colleges. The institute arranges seminars, informational activities and summer courses in Sweden for foreign students, researchers and professionals, and supports Swedish language instruction at foreign universities by providing Swedish lecturers, arranging conferences, summer courses and training for teachers and students, etc.

CRUS is a private association whose members are the twelve research/doctoral universities of Switzerland, labelled swisuniversity.ch. CRUS provides a platform for their common interests and concerns and enhances mutual coordination and cooperation between universities as well as between universities and public authorities, national bodies in science and research, and international organisations such as ACA, EUA, etc. By mandate of the Federal Government and the ministerial Swiss University Conference, CRUS regulates and coordinates the implementation of the Bologna reforms in Switzerland. It also coordinates the implementation of the European Charter and Code for Researchers and the ERA-MORE (Mobility of Researchers) project in the Swiss universities. Further, it administers scholarship and exchange programmes (especially Erasmus) and operates the Swiss ENIC. To provide such services and to tackle all higher education policy questions, CRUS intensively cooperates with the Rectors’ Conferences of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschulen) and the Universities of Teacher Education (Pädagogische Hochschulen).
The British Council heading for Associate members is the UK’s principal agency for educational and cultural relations with other countries. Its purpose is to build trust and engagement for the UK through the exchange of knowledge and ideas between people worldwide. Within this broad mission, the British Council aims to increase international recognition for the learning opportunities provided by the UK and help UK institutions to make contact with overseas markets. Within the UK, the British Council is also charged with helping to enhance quality provision by encouraging the sharing of expertise, experience and good practice and by providing international professional development opportunities for educators. The British Council is part of the UK national agencies for the EU Lifelong Learning and Youth programmes. The British Council was founded in 1934 and operates as a charity supported by government funding.

Universities Australia (formerly AVCC) was formally established on 22 May 2007 as the national peak body for the Australian university sector. It represents 38 of Australia’s universities in the public interest, both nationally and internationally. Members of Universities Australia are the universities themselves, represented by their Chief Executive Officer – the Vice-Chancellor. Universities Australia is committed to advancing Australia’s ability to realise the potential of its people through education, research and innovation. Its agenda for the future is firmly built on evidence-based analysis, encompassing policy development, advocacy and government relations, international collaboration, information transfer and other services to members.

IDP Education Australia is owned by 38 Australian universities and operates a global network of offices and activities stretching across 50 countries. IDP Education Australia supports international students and graduates, undertakes strategic marketing and research, has a portfolio of examination products, and manages international development projects. Some of the services include: informing and advising international students on Australian education; assessment and evaluation, including English language testing; and consultancy to governments and communities around the world.

IIE, the Institute of International Education, an independent non-profit organisation founded in 1919, is among the world’s largest and most experienced international education and training organisations. Each year, over 20,000 men and women from 175 countries receive scholarships and professional training through IIE programmes, assisted by 500 IIE staff in 18 offices around the globe, and an annual budget of over USD 200 million. The IIE designs and implements study and training programmes for students, educators and professionals in all sectors, with funding from government agencies, foundations and corporations. These programmes include the Fulbright and Humphrey Fellowships, administered for the US Department of State, and training programmes administered for the US Agency for International Development. IIE also provides educational advising, conducts policy research, and provides comprehensive information on international education in its widely consulted publications, such as its annual Open Doors Report and the IIE Networker Magazine for International Educators. IIE’s European Office based in Budapest, Hungary, designs and implements scholarship programmes in numerous EU countries and provides support for higher education in South-Eastern Europe.
### ACA Accounts 2008 (EUR)

#### Expenditure

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff costs</td>
<td>402,566</td>
<td>353,572</td>
<td>401,863</td>
<td>447,868</td>
<td>392,384</td>
<td>293,535</td>
<td>236,177</td>
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<td>Secretariat running costs</td>
<td>119,448</td>
<td>124,583</td>
<td>100,550</td>
<td>91,176</td>
<td>86,124</td>
<td>89,453</td>
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<td>Project expenditure</td>
<td>215,840</td>
<td>328,893</td>
<td>178,342</td>
<td>558,659</td>
<td>270,216</td>
<td>89,524</td>
<td>90,936</td>
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<td>Travel, meetings</td>
<td>25,354</td>
<td>33,334</td>
<td>32,716</td>
<td>18.172</td>
<td>15,455</td>
<td>23,380</td>
<td>19,057</td>
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<td>Provision</td>
<td>10,548</td>
<td>63,026</td>
<td>48,006</td>
<td>27,973</td>
<td>18,469</td>
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**Total**

|                     | 763,208 | 850,930 | 713,471 | 1,178,901 | 812,185 | 523,864 | 475,977 |

#### Income

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<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>271,738</td>
<td>257,033</td>
<td>257,621</td>
<td>274,540</td>
<td>274,486</td>
<td>274,528</td>
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<td>ETAPTE payment for Secr. Serv.</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>34,679</td>
<td>34,679</td>
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<td>19,500</td>
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<td>ACA share of ETAPTE man. fee</td>
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<td>Project income</td>
<td>537,948</td>
<td>534,332</td>
<td>480,200</td>
<td>810,502</td>
<td>451,880</td>
<td>155,186</td>
<td>136,125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>54,091</td>
<td>44,781</td>
<td>31,875</td>
<td>7,263</td>
<td>2,662</td>
<td>3,607</td>
<td>5,569</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**

|                     | 863,777 | 836,146 | 780,122 | 1,244,836 | 888,951 | 593,244 | 560,832 |

**Result**

|                     | 100,569 | -14,783 | 66,651  | 65,935   | 76,766  | 69,380  | 84,855  |

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twenty-two
The Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) is an independent European organisation dedicated to innovation and internationalisation in education and training within Europe and beyond. It was created in July 1993 with the legal status of a non-profit international association under Belgian law. The Secretariat is located in Brussels. The members of ACA are major agencies located in Europe, responsible for the promotion of international cooperation in education and training. The three associate members come from outside of Europe. Further information is available from the address below.

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