

Editorial

COMETT AND TEMPUS

IN THIS issue we start a series of contributions based on work done with support within the COMETT and TEMPUS programmes of the European Commission. The acronyms stand for Community Programme on Education and Training in Technology, and Trans European Programme for University Studies. The COMETT programme, launched in 1986, has had as its basis the establishment of over 200 University Enterprise Training Partnerships (UETPs) to promote continuing education and training in European regions. The partnerships are based in regions, and encompass all technical training areas with an even distribution all over Europe. A sectorial partnership type has also been established, which networks partners in particular subject sectors. Thus there are partnerships in microelectronics, the motor industry, forest technologies, building and others. The programme has launched thousands of short courses with its network, has placed many students in industry in other countries, and has provided support for cross-country industry-university and university-industry placements. In particular, through the creation of the UETP network it has been able to establish contacts between regions and in sectors that were never previously available. The innovative nature of this programme has no parallel. Unfortunately, the programme is being replaced by a more horizontal LEONARDO scheme in 1995. What is to be regretted is that the support for the UETP network from the Commission is to cease. This may endanger the life of these partnerships. On the other hand, the professed aim of the partnership was to make them eventually self-sufficient. This could only partially be achieved on educationally based activities on an international scale. What is more, for various reasons, the technology transfer potential of the partnerships has not been officially promoted. The reasons are easy to detect. The technology transfer aim would be in conflict with and supplemental to other available forms of TT. Moreover, most TT activities are universally based, where networking would be a novel form. The TEMPUS programme, created to assist in the reconstruction of Central and Eastern European educational systems, is still going strong and is just having new editions for the coming years. This programme is part of the PHARE scheme of technological aid for Central and Eastern Europe, and it also includes measures such as TACIS, available to the former states of the Soviet Union. In this issue we provide a small window on activities within these programmes, many of which relate to engineering education. We also include an introduction provided by **Antonio Ruberti**, recently European Commissioner for Education, Science and Training.

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