

Report on the dissemination workshop on
Euphrates Project of Erasmus Mundus Programme
Organized on 2nd December, 2015

EUPHRATES Project of Erasmus Mundus Programme has emerged as an academic-cum-research consortium with a wide geographical scope, covering 9 states of Europe and 11 institutions from different parts of the Indian Union. This consortium has initiated efforts to enhance cooperation for fostering excellence in training and research as well as promoting exchange of students and researchers from India to the European Union. The Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Spain is coordinating this programme supported by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University as joint-coordinating Institution from India.

Erasmus Mundus is a cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education and research of European Union and aims to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through cooperation with developing countries. In addition, it contributes to the development of human resources and the international cooperation in the field of Higher education by increasing mobility between the European Union and developing countries. The Erasmus Mundus programme provides support to **higher education institutions** that wish to implement joint programmes at postgraduate level (Action 1) or to set-up inter-institutional cooperation partnerships between universities from Europe and targeted developing countries (Action 2).

EUPHRATES project promotes flow of 140 students and staff (from India to the European Country) in a collaborative framework which includes a representation of 12 Universities in India and 12 in Europe (Spain, Ireland, Poland, Germany, Lithuania, France, Greece, Slovenia, Portugal).

The Euphrates Project of Erasmus Mundus Programme has been initiated at Central University of Orissa, Koraput (CUO) since 2013 with the signing of MOU between CUO and University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain. In this regard, the third call has been declared open from **17th Nov, 2015 to 7th Jan, 2016**. A workshop was organized at Main Campus, of the University at Sunabeda with an intention of informing the students of Department of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources, Mathematics and Statistics about the

importance of the programme and steps for filling of the application for pursuing higher education in European Universities.

The meeting was presided by **Hon'ble Vice Chancellor** of the University, **Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty**, Central University of Orissa Koraput. The other dignitaries present were **Prof. K. C. Rout, Dean Academics, Dr. S. K. Palita, Dean of School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources, Mr. Kosala Rao, Deputy Registrar (Academics), Mr. Jyotiska Datta Head In-Charge, Department of Mathematics and Dr. Mahesh Panda, Head In-Charge, Department of and Statistics respectively**, other professors of the University and **Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, Project Coordinator & Assistant Professor, Department of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources**.

Welcome address was delivered by Dr. K. Banerjee where she explained about the programme, while Dean SBCNR in his address gave a detail perspective of the programme and requested the student to apply in large numbers in the said programme. Dean Academics in his address encouraged the students to apply for the fellowships being provided in this programme as it is an unique opportunity for them.

The Honorable Vice Chancellor in his address discussed on the different perspectives of such programmes including the fellowships available in India and abroad. He explained about the opportunities and credentials that candidate gets from such fellowships for building their career. He further added on the different morals and characteristics that the students should possess and cultivate in order to make them successful in life. He further highlighted the importance and objectives of higher education in India and abroad. He also gave a broader perspective of education and research in developed countries around the globe. Not only he inspired and encouraged the students for the present programme but provided a thought-provoking and brain-storming agenda for their day to day life in order to make them successful.

Dr. Banerjee as the Coordinator explained in detail the aims and objectives of the project to the students. She also explained about the mobilities available in this last cohort and also about the details for the requirement for the documents and the modalities to be followed in filling up the application form. The workshop ended with vote of thanks.