



IAAS Support of the Engagement of Students with Industry

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ICA/CEDIA Conference 2009
12.06.09



Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme

"This project has been funded with the support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."

Outline of the presentation

- Introduction: What is IAAS?
 What does IAAS stand for?
- Our partner institutions
- Benefits from engagement with industry
- Our activities – opportunities for engagement with industry
- What does IAAS offer industry?
- Three real-life examples of the IAAS Exchange Program
- Challenges faced
- Solutions employed by IAAS
- What can universities do?
- In short... A summary

IAAS...

- = International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences
- ... is independent from any other body, non-political, not for profit and registered as INGYO in Belgium
- ... was established in 1957 in Tunis by 8 countries
- ... today consists of Local Committees at >80 universities in >40 member countries
- ... is entirely student-run

What does IAAS stand for?

Our mission:

"To promote the exchange of experience, knowledge and ideas, to improve the mutual understanding between students in agriculture and related sciences all over the world"

- non-formal learning opportunities for intercultural learning and problem-solving skills
- development of pro-active entrepreneurial characters

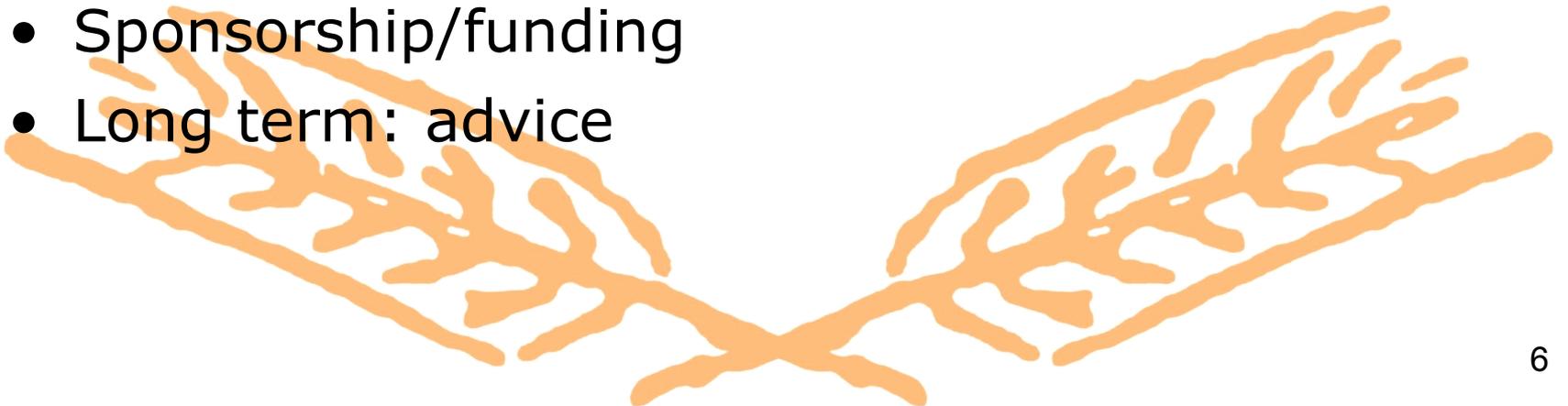
Our Partner Institutions

- European Commission
- United Nation bodies
 - FAO
 - UNESCO
 - UNEP
 - UN CSD
- ICA (Association for European Life Science Universities)
- IFISO (Informal Forum of International Students' Associations)



Benefits from engagement with industry

- Insight into the diversity of the sector
- Training
- Practical experience
- Expertise: Presentations, excursions, visits
- Employment opportunities
- Sponsorship/funding
- Long term: advice



Our Activities - Opportunities for Engagement with Industry

Event/Activity

Potential input from industry

Statutory meetings

GA

Directors' Meetings

Expertise: presentations, excursions, visits

Assistance with management of human resources

Educational events

Seminars

Workshops

Conferences

Expertise: presentations, excursions, visits

Insight into diversity and practice of a sector

Our activities - opportunities for engagement with industry

Event/Activity

Potential input from industry

Exchange Program

Ceres: Local farms

Archimedes: Industry,
NGO's, IGO's,
universities, other
institutions

Training

Practical experience

Specialised, in-depth expertise

Employment opportunities

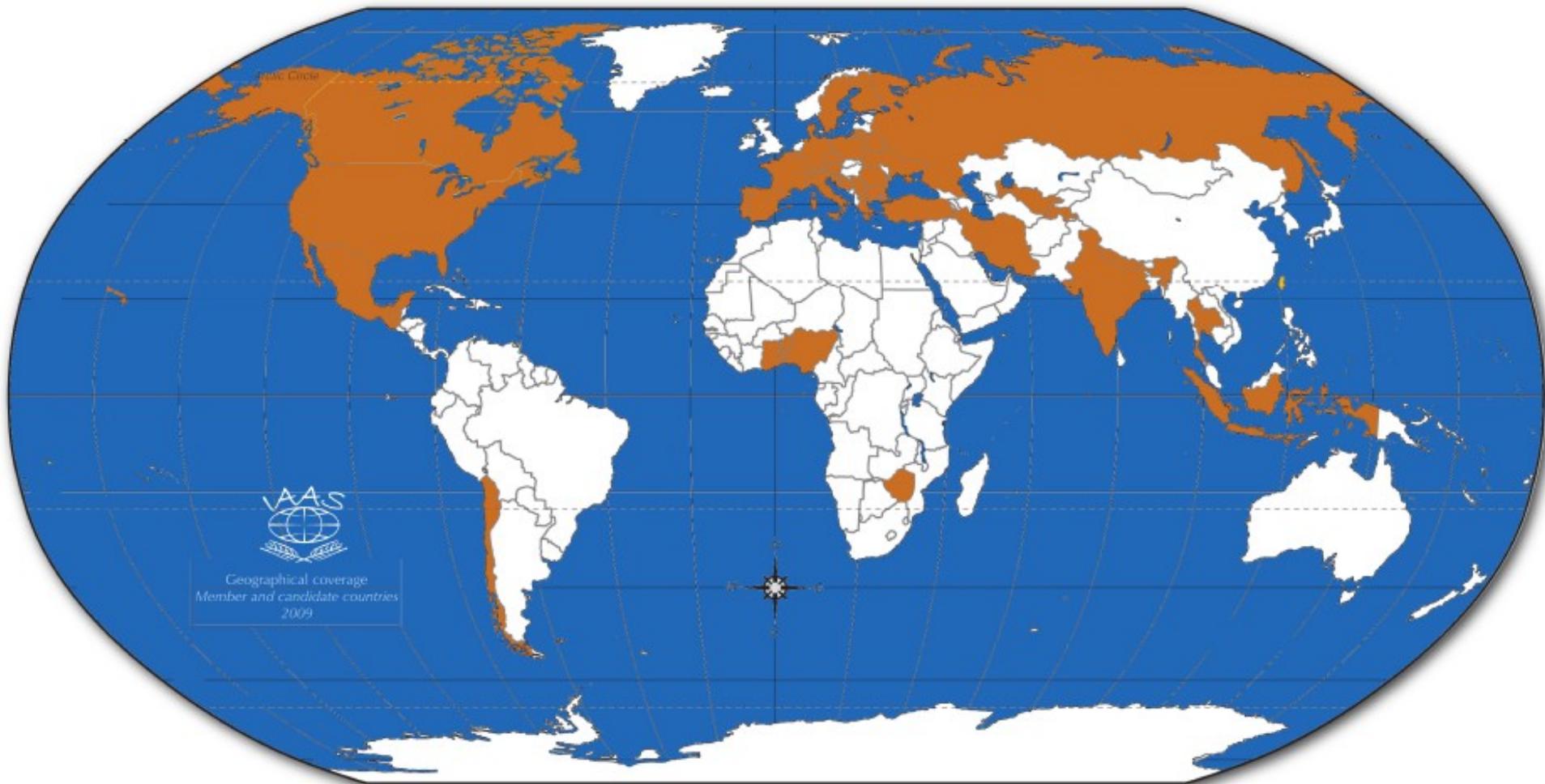
Cultural Activities

Sponsorship

What does IAAS offer industry?

- IAAS reaches thousands of students in the field of life sciences in its global network
 - IAAS is active specifically in the field of life sciences
 - Young, innovative, open-minded, forward-thinking – this describes the typical IAAS student
- Competent professionals and employees of tomorrow
- IAAS is represented at >80 universities, in >40 countries, in five continents;
- many potential new members in Latin America, Africa and Asia

IAAS World Coverage:



Example 1: Archimedes Program in Finland

IAAS Finland offers Archimedes placement with "Valio", the well-known, largest Finish dairy.

Experience:

"Valio offered the internship place in a sliced cheese line, but when they realised that the trainee had much more to give to the company, they gave the trainee more challenging missions, which would benefit the company more as well. Soon, she began making some analysis for packaging and product scrap to identify areas that could be optimized, to save money.

Valio was very satisfied about the internship experience, and they are very willing to have a new trainee in future."



Example 2: Archimedes Program in Norway

Slobodanka Dimitrijevic from Serbia was one of the first to participate in the Archimedes program. She spent her 3,5 months training period in the Norwegian Crop Research Institute (Planteforsk).

"My traineeship was a useful opportunity, to gain working experience, and to live and work with people from all around the world..."

"IAAS Expro was more to us than just professional experience – we also travelled... and got acquainted with the local culture, food, beautiful nature..."

"To other students I can only recommend to take the initiative and enlarge your circle of thrust and explore the world."



Example 3: Ceres Program in Togo

Roman Matthessen, from Belgium, went to Togo with the IAAS Ceres Program in 2008:

"I learned a lot about tropical agriculture, the best methods to plant, where and when to add fertilizer, but most about the way of living, about the view on life of the people of Togo. I would definitely advise everyone to go to Togo if they have the chance, it's a great experience, you see Africa in a way that isn't possible as a normal tourist. You learn about the agricultural problems and (attempted) solutions, it's a trip you will never want to forget! "



Challenges faced

- Lacking "professionalism" to some extent, due to being a student-run organization
- Difficulties in assuring continuity and long-term planning due to one-year terms at international level.
- Communication between countries and continents always a challenge, e.g. when having to fulfill offers



Solutions employed by IAAS:

- Experienced members in responsible positions
- Partners from universities and partner institutions giving advice for human resources management
- Thorough handover between IAAS officials
- Weekly online EC meetings, face-to-face meetings when possible
- The IAAS "family"

What can universities do?

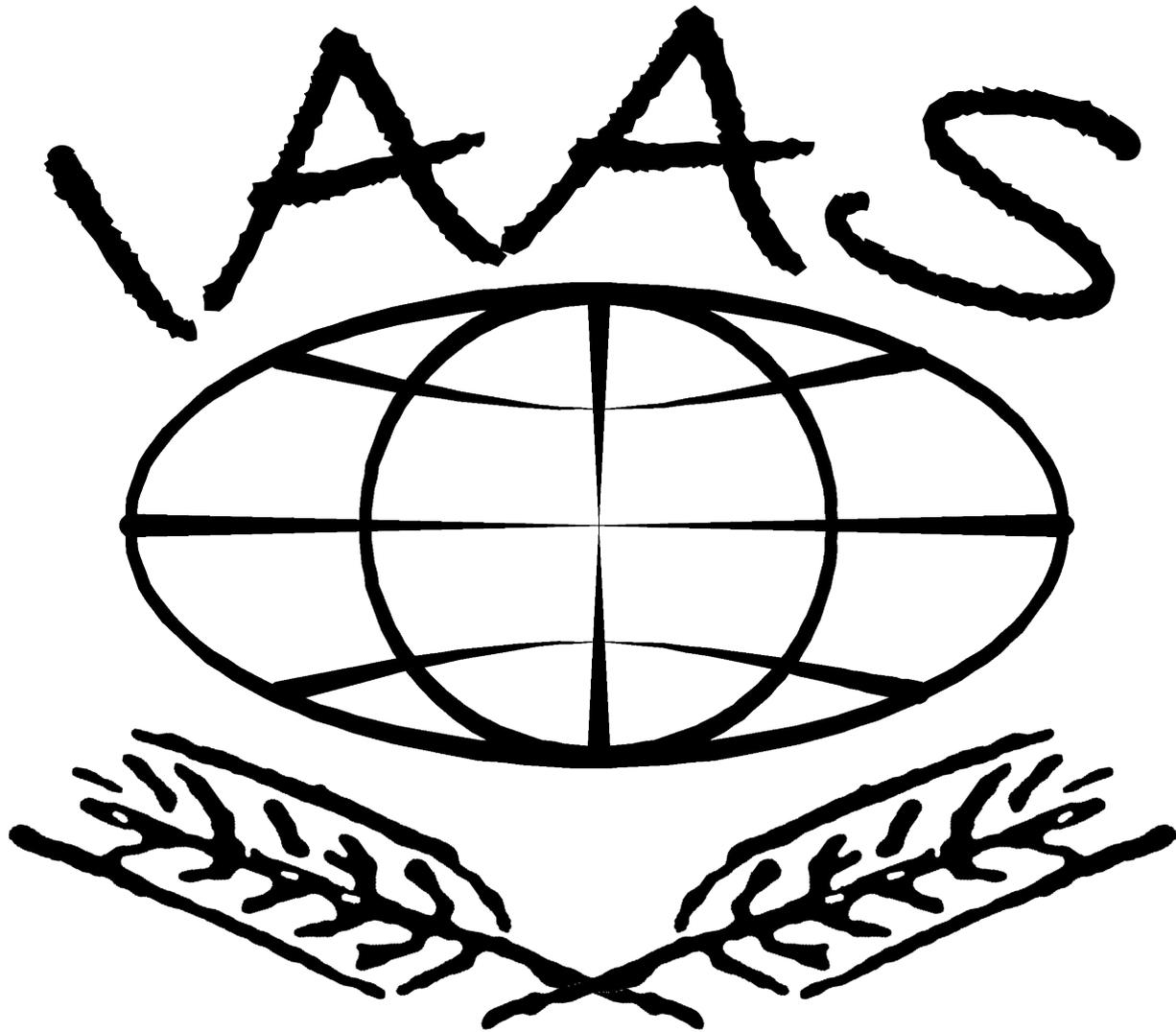
- Support IAAS "officially", e.g. in form of recommendation letters
- Enable researchers to accept international student-trainees
- Accept IAAS learning outcomes within the university curricula – accredited excursions, ECTS credits, ...
- Enable students to engage in student initiatives through flexible structures in the academic curricula

In short...

- IAAS has a lot to gain from cooperation with industry, but also to offer to companies
- IAAS involves the private sector in several of its activities, mainly the ExPro, but industry involvement can be intensified further
- Partnerships with industry need to be established in a long-term approach
- Challenges can be managed with increasing experience, thorough overlaps and, to some extent, by involving partners from industry in the the process







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