

# Employability of Erasmus Mundus alumni and new approaches of Erasmus +

**Interactive workshop**

## Lessons Learnt & Recommendations

**Agriculture**  
**Skills**  
**Knowledge**  
**Asia**

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# Outline

- **Project background**
- **Objective of the study**
- **Methodology**
- **Lessons learnt**
- **Recommendations**



ASK Asia Consortium

## ASK Asia

Erasmus Mundus Alumni Employability Study in the  
Field of Agriculture and Related Life Sciences

Agriculture  
Skills  
Knowledge  
Asia



With the support of the  
Erasmus Mundus programme  
of the European Union

# What is it?

## **Agriculture, Skills, Knowledge in Asia: Competences and Employability of Erasmus Mundus Graduates in Agriculture on the Asian Professional Market**

**Erasmus Mundus Action 3 project  
Funded by European Commission (EACEA)  
2013-2015**

# Who we are?

## European partners:

- Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, **Czech Republic**
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, **Austria**
- Ghent University, **Belgium**
- Agreenium, **France**
- The European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development (**AGRINATURA**)
- Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (**EMA**)

## Asian partners:

- Royal University of Agriculture, **Cambodia**
- Nanjing Agricultural University, **China**
- Tadulako University, **Indonesia**
- Mongolian University of Life Sciences, **Mongolia**
- Prince of Songkla University, **Thailand**
- Hue University, **Vietnam**

# What we aimed to do?

- To assess **performance of EM alumni** on the agricultural labour market
- To identify **specific skills and competences** that provide alumni with advantage
- To draw **lessons learnt** to be adopted by Erasmus + programmes
- Share **good practices in European-Asian partnership** in higher education

# How we got the results?

- A quantitative online survey among **Erasmus Mundus alumni** (352 respondents)
- Qualitative semi-structured **interviews** with employers from private and public institutions
- **National workshop** organized in each of six countries  
**Focus group discussions** with selected representatives
- **Regional workshop** organized to finalize the lessons learnt

# What we did?

- **Joint study & 6 country studies**
- **Brochure with main results**
- **Online version**



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**CAMBODIA**



**CHINA**



**INDONESIA**



**VIETNAM**



**THAILAND**



**MONGOLIA**

# Lessons learnt

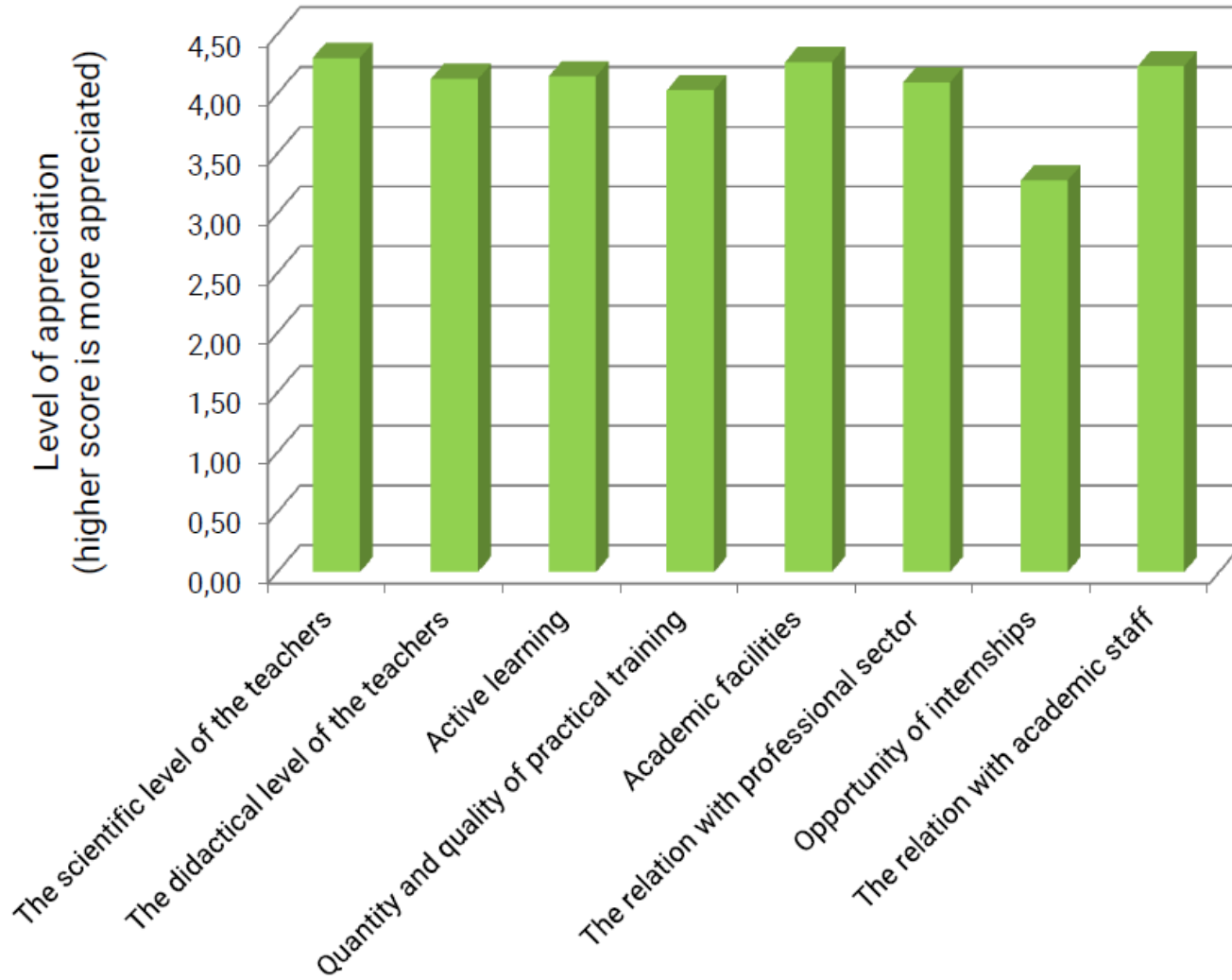
## Studying in Europe – positive impact

- Experience of studying abroad is highly valued by employers and alumni

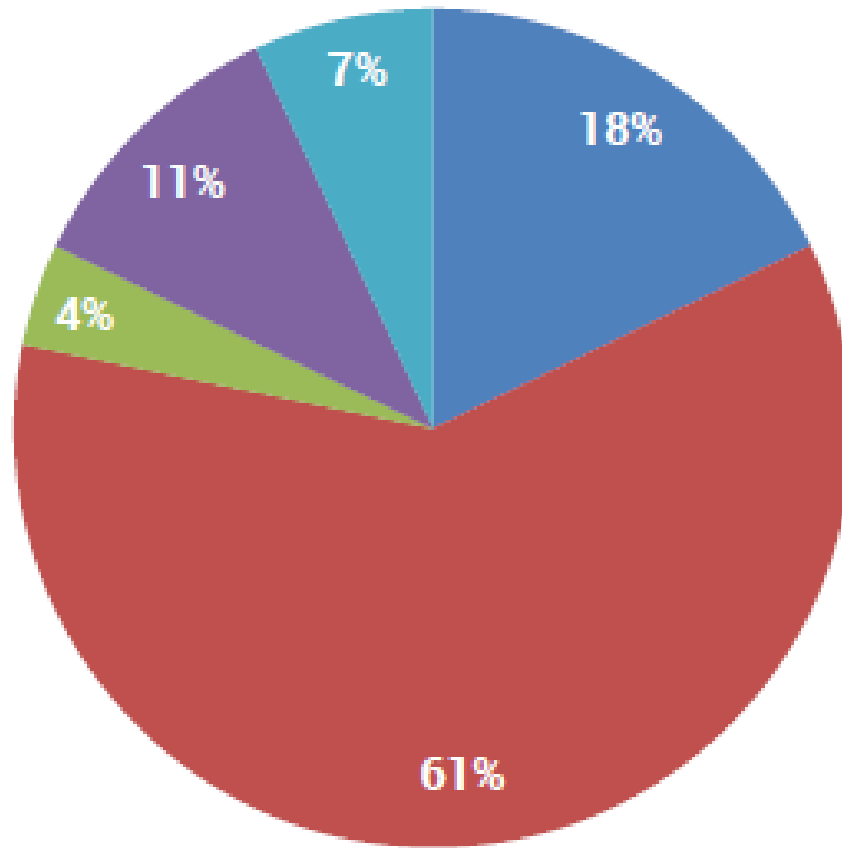




# Appreciation by alumni of EU teaching and learning



# Reasons for choosing particular university (Indonesia)



■ selected EU university was offered by home university

■ offer of the study programmes at the selected university

■ recommended by schoolmate/tutor/friend

■ found on websites

■ ranking of selected university

# Lessons learnt

## Internationalization of EU Universities

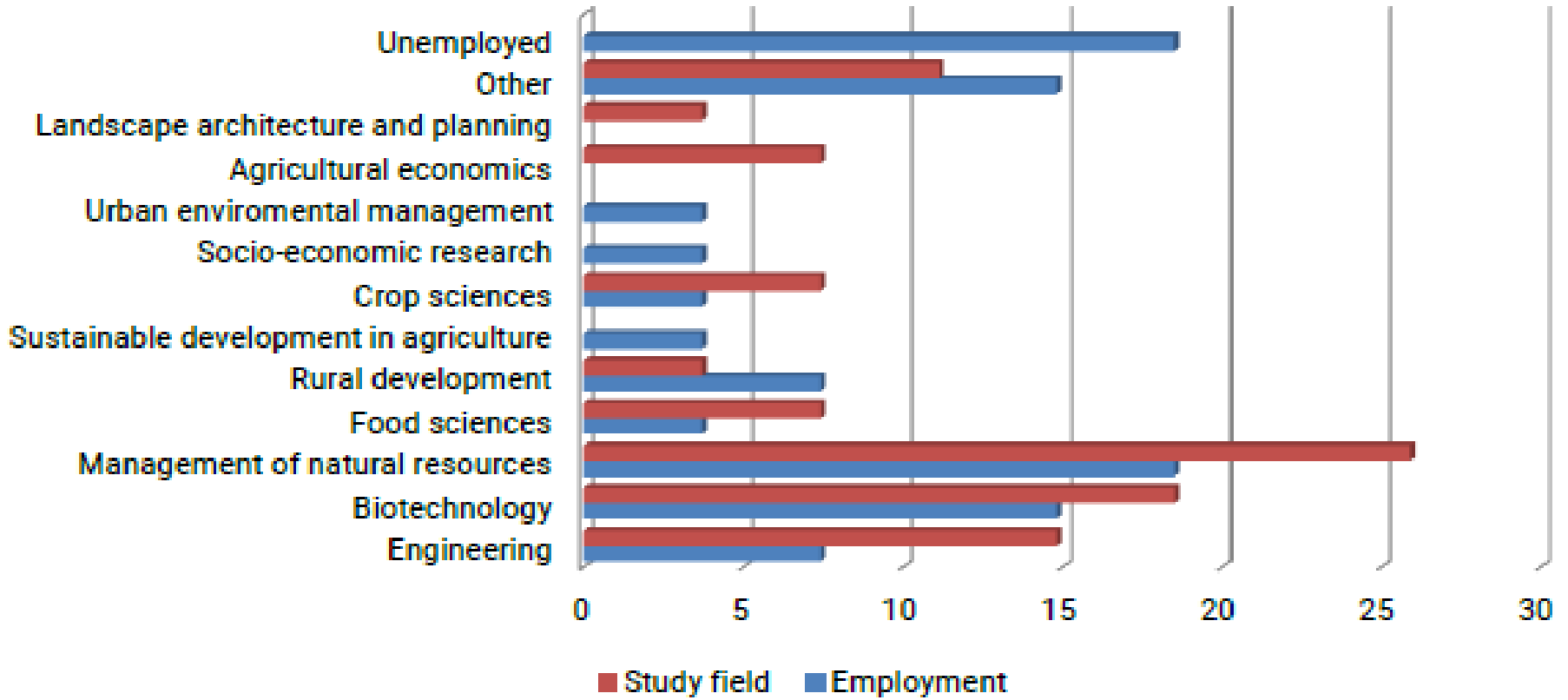
- EU universities themselves remain poorly known
- Access to information in local languages, enrolment in EU universities and visa procedures are considered complicated.

## Advantages offered by training locally

- EU = research and academic orientation
- Asian universities = business environment, labour market dynamics and the local culture



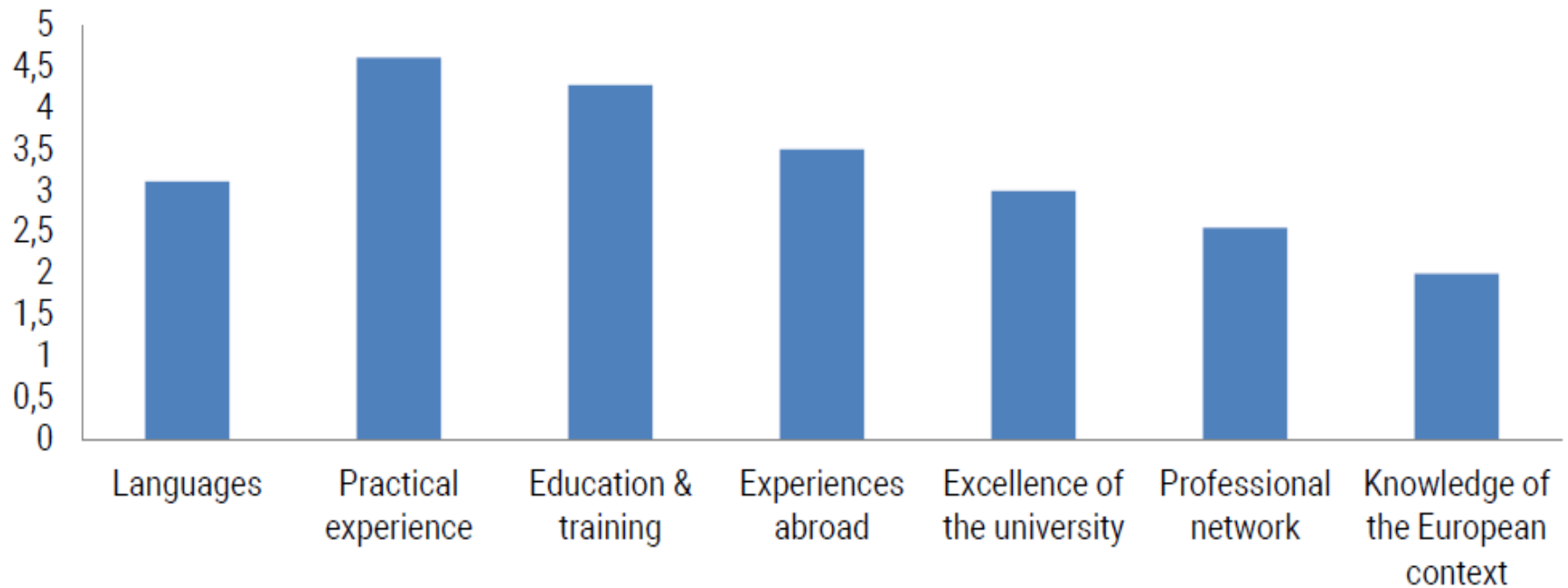
# Field of studies and current employment (Vietnam)



# Lessons learnt

- **The capacity to learn and adapt**
- **English: essential**
- **Technical Skills: not a priority**
- **Horizontal and Soft Skills: Must**
- **Practical experience: the skill often demanded**

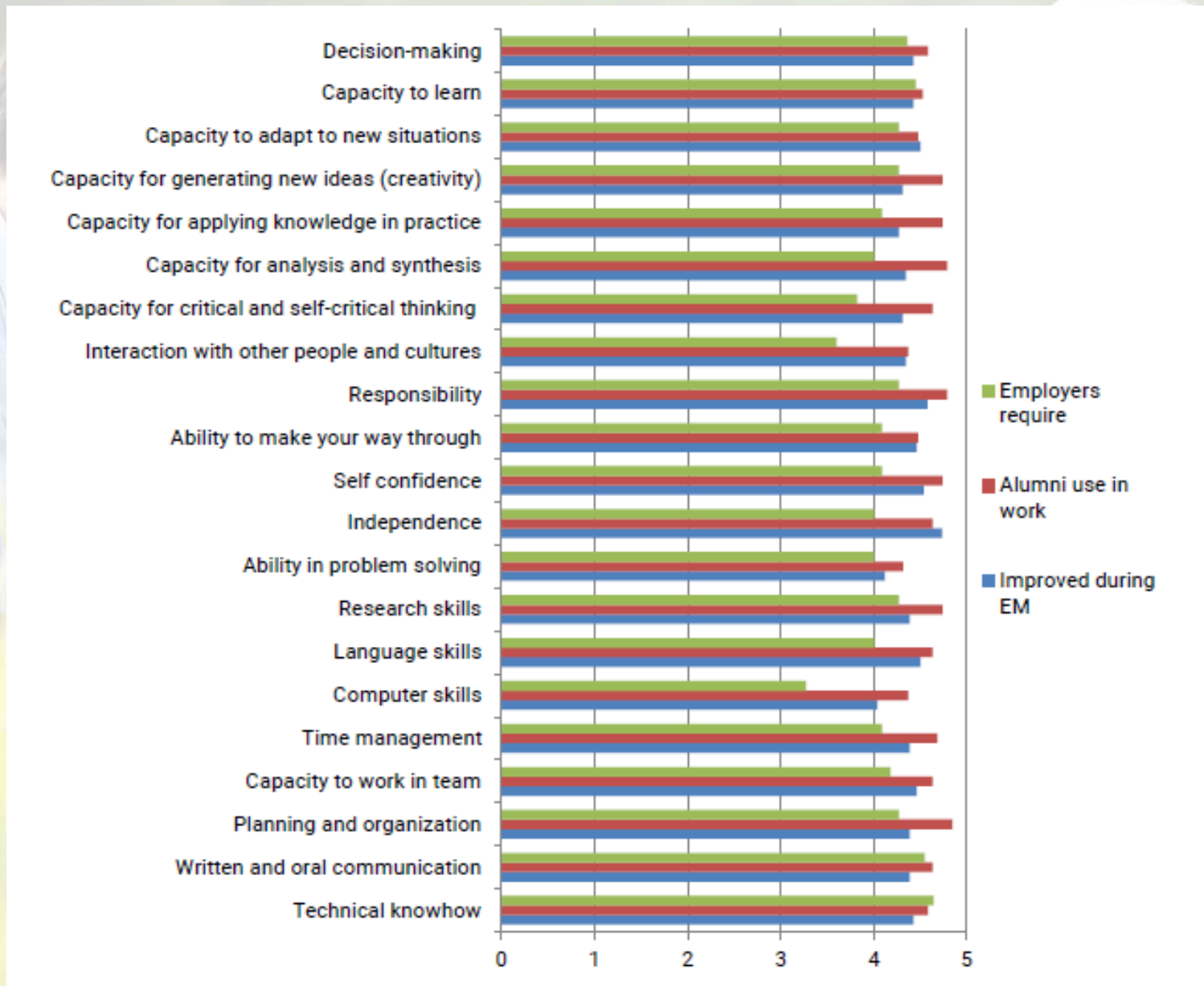
# Most important point for candidate background evaluated by employers (China)



# Recommendations

- **Focus on horizontal soft skills** = biggest advantage of EU mobility (communication, management capacities, critical mind, capacity to work in teams, etc.)
- **Reintegration and re-adaptation** is needed for alumni with long-term stay abroad
- **Efforts towards better public relations** highlighting the quality of EU higher education

# Importance of skills and competences (Cambodia)





# Recommendations

- **Practical experience** linked to industry and the private sector (internships, summer assignments)
- **Pre-departure courses** for outgoing students on EU culture, English training, orientation weeks
- **Promoting European Higher Education**

# Recommendations



- **An alumni association**

  - promotion of EU education

  - information/selection to/of new candidates

  - scientific exchanges between alumni and relationship within disciplines

- **Joint research** between European and Asian universities should be supported

- **Visa procedures** for Erasmus Mundus grantees should be simplified



**Agriculture**  
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**Thank you**  
**for your attention**