



Erasmus+

Programme Guide

*In the case of conflicting meanings between language versions,
the English version prevails.*

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Erasmus+

PART A - GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

Erasmus+ is the EU Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020¹. Education, training, youth and sport can make a major contribution to help tackle socio-economic changes, the key challenges that Europe will be facing until the end of the decade and to support the implementation of the European policy agenda for growth, jobs, equity and social inclusion.

Fighting rising levels of unemployment - particularly among young people - has become one of the most urgent tasks for European governments. Too many young people leave school prematurely running a high risk of being unemployed and socially marginalised. The same risk threatens many adults with low skills. Technologies are changing the way in which society operates, and there is a need to ensure the best use is made of them. EU businesses need to become more competitive through talent and innovation.

Europe needs more cohesive and inclusive societies which allow citizens to play an active role in democratic life. Education and youth work are key to prevent violent radicalisation by promoting common European values, fostering social integration, enhancing intercultural understanding and a sense of belonging to a community. Erasmus+ is an important instrument to promote the inclusion of people with disadvantaged backgrounds, especially newly arrived migrants, in response to critical events affecting European countries.

Another challenge relates to the development of social capital among young people, the empowerment of young people and their ability to participate actively in society, in line with the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty to "encourage the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe". This issue can also be targeted through non-formal learning activities, which aim at enhancing the skills and competences of young people as well as their active citizenship. Moreover, there is a need to provide youth organisations and youth workers with training and cooperation opportunities, to develop their professionalism and the European dimension of youth work.

Well-performing education and training systems and youth policies can help to tackle these challenges by providing people with the skills required by the labour market and the economy, while allowing them to play an active role in society and achieve personal fulfilment. Reforms in education, training and youth can strengthen progress towards these goals, on the basis of a shared vision between policy makers and stakeholders, sound evidence and cooperation across different fields and levels.

The Erasmus+ Programme is designed to support Programme Countries' efforts to efficiently use the potential of Europe's talent and social assets in a lifelong learning perspective, linking support to formal, non-formal and informal learning throughout the education, training and youth fields. The Programme also enhances the opportunities for cooperation and mobility with Partner Countries, notably in the fields of higher education and youth.

In accordance with one of the new elements introduced in the Lisbon Treaty, Erasmus+ also supports activities aiming at developing the European dimension in sport, by promoting cooperation between bodies responsible for sports. The Programme promotes the creation and development of European networks, providing opportunities for cooperation among stakeholders and the exchange and transfer of knowledge and know-how in different areas relating to sport and physical activity. This reinforced cooperation will notably have positive effects in developing the potential of Europe's human capital by helping reduce the social and economic costs of physical inactivity.

The Programme supports actions, cooperation and tools consistent with the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and its flagship initiatives, such as Youth on the Move and the Agenda for new skills and jobs. The Programme also contributes to achieve the objectives of the Education and Training Strategic Framework for European cooperation in Education and Training and of the European Youth Strategy through the Open Methods of Coordination.

This investment in knowledge, skills and competences will benefit individuals, institutions, organisations and society as a whole by contributing to growth and ensuring equity, prosperity and social inclusion in Europe and beyond.

¹ REGULATION (EU) No 1288/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:347:0050:0073:EN:PDF>)

The Erasmus+ Programme Guide is drafted in accordance with the Erasmus+ annual Work Programme adopted by the European Commission, and therefore may be revised to reflect the priorities and lines of action defined in the Work Programmes adopted in the following years. The implementation of this Guide is also subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget after the adoption of the budget for the year by the Budgetary Authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

BUILDING ON PAST EXPERIENCE, LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

The Erasmus+ Programme builds on the achievements of more than 25 years of European programmes in the fields of education, training and youth, covering both an intra-European as well as an international cooperation dimension. Erasmus+ is the result of the integration of the following European programmes implemented by the Commission during the period 2007-2013:

- The Lifelong Learning Programme
- The Youth in Action Programme
- The Erasmus Mundus Programme
- Tempus
- Alfa
- Edulink
- Programmes of cooperation with industrialised countries in the field of higher education

These programmes have been supporting Actions in the fields of higher education (including its international dimension), vocational education and training, school education, adult education and youth (including its international dimension).

Erasmus+ aims at going beyond these programmes, by promoting synergies and cross-fertilisation throughout the different fields of education, training and youth, removing artificial boundaries between the various Actions and project formats, fostering new ideas, attracting new actors from the world of work and civil society and stimulating new forms of cooperation.

It is therefore crucial that the Programme is associated with a strong brand name that is widely recognised. For this reason, all the Actions and activities supported under the Programme will have to be communicated first and foremost by using the "Erasmus+" brand name. However, to help participants and beneficiaries of former programmes to find their way into Erasmus+, for the purpose of communication and dissemination, the following names may be used for those Actions targeting a specific sector, in addition to the common "Erasmus+" brand name, as follows:

- "Erasmus+: Comenius", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively related to the field of school education;
- "Erasmus+: Erasmus", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively related to the field of higher education and targeting Programme Countries;
- "Erasmus+: Erasmus Mundus", in relation to the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degrees;
- "Erasmus+: Leonardo da Vinci", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively related to the field of vocational education and training;
- "Erasmus+: Grundtvig", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively related to the field of adult learning;
- "Erasmus+: Youth in Action", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively related to the field of youth non-formal and informal learning;
- "Erasmus+: Jean Monnet", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively associated with the field of European Union studies;
- "Erasmus+: Sports", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively related to the field of sport.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES AND IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME?

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- The Erasmus+ Programme shall contribute to the achievement of:
 - the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, including the headline education target²;
 - the objectives of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020), including the corresponding benchmarks;
 - the sustainable development of Partner Countries in the field of higher education;
 - the overall objectives of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018);
 - the objective of developing the European dimension in sport, in particular grassroots sport, in line with the EU work plan for sport;
 - the promotion of European values in accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union³.

IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

The following features of the Programme deserve special attention. Some of them are presented in more detail on the Commission website.

RECOGNITION AND VALIDATION OF SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Erasmus+ supports EU transparency and recognition tools for skills and qualifications – in particular Europass, Youthpass, the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET), the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework (EQAVET), the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR), the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) – as well as EU-wide networks in the field of education and training supporting these tools, in particular the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC), Euroguidance networks, the National Europass Centres and the EQF National Coordination Points.

A common purpose of these tools is to ensure that skills and qualifications can be more easily recognised and are better understood, within and across national borders, in all sub-systems of education and training as well as in the labour market, no matter whether these were acquired through formal education and training or through other learning experiences (e.g. work experience; volunteering, online learning). The tools also aim to ensure that education, training and youth policies further contribute to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and its education and employment headline targets through better labour market integration and mobility.

In order to fulfil these objectives, the tools available should be able to cater for new phenomena such as internationalisation of education and growing use of digital learning, and support the creation of flexible learning pathways in line with learners' needs and objectives. The tools may also need to evolve in the future, leading to enhanced coherence and simplification that allow learners and workers to move freely for learning or working.

More information available at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/skills-qualifications_en.htm

DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Dissemination and exploitation of results are crucial areas of the Erasmus+ project lifecycle. They give participating organisations the opportunity to communicate and share outcomes and deliverables, thus extending the impact of their projects, improving their sustainability and justifying the European added value of Erasmus+. In order to successfully disseminate and exploit project results, organisations involved in Erasmus+ projects are asked to give the necessary thought to dissemination and exploitation activities when designing and implementing their project. The level and intensity of such activities should be proportional to the objectives, the scope and the targets of the different Actions of Erasmus+. Results achieved in a particular project may be highly relevant and interesting also in fields not covered by the project and it is up to

² The headline education target is to reduce early school leaving to less than 10% and increase attainment in tertiary education to at least 40% by 2020.

³ The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.

the individual projects to develop strategies and methods ensuring that others can easily access what has been developed and produced. Specific guidelines in this respect can be found in Annex II to this Programme Guide.

OPEN ACCESS REQUIREMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, DOCUMENTS AND MEDIA PRODUCED THROUGH ERASMUS+

Erasmus+ promotes the open access to materials, documents and media that are useful for learning, teaching, training, youth work and are produced by projects funded by the Programme. Beneficiaries of Erasmus+ grants producing any such materials, documents and media in the scope of any funded project must make them available for the public, in digital form, freely accessible through the Internet under open licences. Beneficiaries are nonetheless allowed to define the most appropriate level of open access, including limitations (e.g. interdiction of commercial exploitation by third parties) if appropriate in relation to the nature of the project and to the type of material. The open access requirement is without prejudice to the intellectual property rights of the grant beneficiaries.

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

Erasmus+ includes a strong international dimension (i.e. cooperation with Partner Countries) notably in the fields of higher education and youth.

In the field of higher education, Erasmus+ supports the following main Actions targeting cooperation with Partner Countries:

- **International credit mobility of individuals and Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees** (under Key Action 1) promoting the mobility of learners and staff from and to Partner Countries;
- **Capacity-building** projects in higher education (under Key Action 2) promoting cooperation and partnerships that have an impact on the modernisation and internationalisation of higher education institutions and systems in Partner Countries, with a special focus on Partner Countries neighbouring the EU;
- Support to **policy dialogue** (under Key Action 3) through the network of Higher Education Reform Experts in Partner Countries neighbouring the EU, the international alumni association, policy dialogue with Partner Countries and international attractiveness and promotion events;
- **Jean Monnet** activities with the aim of stimulating teaching, research and reflection in the field of European Union studies worldwide.

In the field of youth, Erasmus+ supports the following main Actions:

- **Mobility for young people and youth workers** (under Key Action 1) promoting Youth Exchanges, European Voluntary Service and mobility of youth workers in cooperation with Partner Countries neighbouring the EU;
- **Capacity-building** projects in the field of youth (under Key Action 2) promoting cooperation and mobility activities that have a positive impact on the qualitative development of youth work, youth policies and youth systems as well as on the recognition of non-formal education in Partner Countries, notably in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP), Asian and Latin American countries;
- Involvement of young people and youth organisations from Partner Countries neighbouring the EU in the youth **Structured Dialogue** (under Key Action 3) through their participation in international meetings, conferences and events that promote dialogue between young people and decision-makers.

In addition, other Actions of the Programme (Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances, Sectors Skills Alliances, Collaborative Partnerships) are also open to organisations from Partner Countries in so far as their participation brings an added value to the project (for more information, please consult Part B of this Guide).

MULTILINGUALISM

Multilingualism is one of the cornerstones of the European project and a powerful symbol of the EU's aspiration to be united in diversity. Foreign languages have a prominent role among the skills that will help equip people better for the labour market and make the most of available opportunities. The EU has set the goal that every citizen should have the opportunity to acquire at least two foreign languages, from an early age.

The promotion of language learning and linguistic diversity is one of the specific objectives of the Programme. The lack of language competences is one of the main barriers to participation in European education, training and youth programmes.

The opportunities put in place to offer linguistic support are aimed to make mobility more efficient and effective, to improve learning performance and therefore contribute to the specific objective of the Programme.

Linguistic support is available for the language used by participants for studying, carrying out a traineeship or volunteering abroad in the framework of long-term mobility activities supported under Key Action 1. Linguistic support will mainly be offered via the Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support, as e-learning offers advantages for language learning in terms of access and flexibility. The Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support includes a mandatory assessment of language competences and voluntary language courses. Language assessment is a crucial aspect of the initiative in order to provide the right preparation for each participant and collect evidence on language skills of EU mobility participants. Therefore, a language assessment will be undertaken by participants before mobility and another assessment will be carried out at the end of the mobility period to monitor progress in language competences. The results of the language assessment test carried out by participants before their departure will not preclude them from taking part in the mobility activity, whatever the result is.

Before the capacity of the online tools can be developed to cover all languages, funding will be provided to beneficiaries of mobility projects with a view to provide linguistic support in the languages not available through the online service offered by the Commission.

Under Key Action 2, Strategic Partnerships in the area of language teaching and learning will be encouraged. Innovation and good practices aiming to promote language skills can include for example teaching and assessment methods, development of pedagogical material, research, computer assisted language learning and entrepreneurial ventures using foreign languages. Furthermore, funding for linguistic support can be provided when necessary to beneficiaries of Strategic Partnerships who organise long-term training and teaching activities for staff, youth workers and learners.

As regards the European Language Label (ELL) awards, National Agencies are encouraged to organise - on a voluntary basis - regular (annual or biennial) national competitions in the Programme Countries. The ELL award should function as a stimulus to exploit and disseminate the results of excellence in multilingualism, and promote public interest in language learning.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The Erasmus+ Programme aims at promoting equity and inclusion by facilitating the access to participants with disadvantaged backgrounds and fewer opportunities compared to their peers whenever disadvantage limits or prevents participation in transnational activities for reasons such as:

- disability (i.e. participants with special needs): people with mental (intellectual, cognitive, learning), physical, sensory or other disabilities;
- educational difficulties: young people with learning difficulties; early school-leavers; low qualified adults; young people with poor school performance;
- economic obstacles: people with a low standard of living, low income, dependence on social welfare system or homeless; young people in long-term unemployment or poverty; people in debt or with financial problems;
- cultural differences: immigrants or refugees or descendants from immigrant or refugee families; people belonging to a national or ethnic minority; people with linguistic adaptation and cultural inclusion difficulties;
- health problems: people with chronic health problems, severe illnesses or psychiatric conditions;
- social obstacles: people facing discrimination because of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, etc.; people with limited social skills or anti-social or risky behaviours; people in a precarious situation; (ex-)offenders, (ex-)drug or alcohol abusers; young and/or single parents; orphans;
- geographical obstacles: people from remote or rural areas; people living in small islands or in peripheral regions; people from urban problem zones; people from less serviced areas (limited public transport, poor facilities).

In the field of youth, an Inclusion and Diversity Strategy has been designed as a common framework to support the participation and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in Erasmus+. The Strategy is available on the website⁴ of the European Commission.

PROTECTION AND SAFETY OF PARTICIPANTS

Protection and safety of participants involved in the Erasmus+ projects are important principles of the Programme. All persons participating in the Erasmus+ Programme should have the opportunity to take full advantage of the possibilities for personal and professional development and learning. This should be assured in a safe environment which respects and protects the rights of all persons.

⁴ The Erasmus+ Inclusion and Diversity Strategy in the field of youth: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/library/reports/inclusion-diversity-strategy_en.pdf

To this end each organisation participating in the Erasmus+ Programme must have in place effective procedures and arrangements to promote and guarantee the safety and protection of the participants in their activity. With this regard, all students, trainees, apprentices, pupils, adult learners, young people, staff and volunteers, involved in a mobility activity under the Key Actions 1 or 2 of the Erasmus+ Programme, must be insured against the risks linked to their participation in these activities. Apart from the European Voluntary Service which foresees a specific insurance policy (see Annex I of this Guide), the Erasmus+ Programme does not define a unique format of insurance, nor does it recommend specific insurance companies. The Programme leaves it up to project organisers to seek the most suitable insurance policy according to the type of project carried out and to the insurance formats available at national level. Furthermore, it is not necessary to subscribe to a project-specific insurance, if the participants are already covered by existing insurance policies of the project organisers.

In either case, the following areas must be covered:

- wherever relevant, travel insurance (including damage or loss of luggage);
- third party liability (including, wherever appropriate, professional indemnity or insurance for responsibility);
- accident and serious illness (including permanent or temporary incapacity);
- death (including repatriation in case of projects carried out abroad).

If applicable, it is strongly recommended that participants in transnational activities are in possession of a European Health Insurance Card. This is a free card that gives access to medically necessary, state-provided healthcare during a temporary stay in any of the 28 EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, under the same conditions and at the same cost (free in some countries) as people insured in that country. More information on the card and on how to obtain it is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559>.

Finally, if projects involve young people under 18, participating organisations are required to obtain the prior authorisation of participation from their parents or those acting on their behalf.

WHO IMPLEMENTS THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME?

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission is ultimately responsible for the running of the Erasmus+ Programme. It manages the budget and sets priorities, targets and criteria for the Programme on an on-going basis. Furthermore, it guides and monitors the general implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Programme at European level. The European Commission also bears the overall responsibility for the supervision and coordination of the structures in charge of implementing the Programme at national level.

At European level, the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (Executive Agency) is responsible for the implementation of the centralised Actions of the Erasmus+ Programme. The Executive Agency is in charge of the complete life-cycle management of these projects, from the promotion of the Programme, the analysis of the grant requests, the monitoring of projects on the spot, up to the dissemination of the project and Programme results. It is also responsible for launching specific calls for proposals relating to some Actions of the Programme which are not covered through this Guide.

The European Commission, notably through the Executive Agency, is also responsible for:

- carrying out studies in the fields supported by the Programme;
- carrying out research and evidence-based activities through the Eurydice network;
- improving the visibility and the systemic impact of the Programme through dissemination and exploitation activities of the Programme's results;
- ensuring the contractual management and financing of bodies and networks supported by the Erasmus+ Programme;
- managing calls for tenders to provide services within the framework of the Programme.

The National Agencies

The implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme is mainly implemented as Indirect Management, meaning that the European Commission entrusts budget implementation tasks to National Agencies; the rationale of this approach is to bring Erasmus+ as close as possible to its beneficiaries and to adapt to the diversity of national education, training and youth systems. For this purpose, each Programme Country has appointed one or more National Agencies (for the contact details, please consult Annex IV of this Guide). These National Agencies promote and implement the Programme at national level and act as the link between the European Commission and participating organisations at local, regional and national level. It is their task to:

- provide appropriate information on the Erasmus+ Programme;
- administer a fair and transparent selection process for project applications to be funded in their country;
- monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Programme in their country;
- provide support to project applicants and participating organisations throughout the project life-cycle;
- collaborate effectively with the network of all National Agencies and the European Commission;
- ensure the visibility of the Programme;
- promote the dissemination and exploitation of the results of the Programme at local and national level.

In addition, National Agencies play an important role as intermediate structures for the qualitative development of the Erasmus+ Programme by:

- carrying out activities - outside the tasks of project life-cycle management - that support the qualitative implementation of the Programme and/or trigger policy developments in the fields supported by the Programme;
- providing a supportive approach to newcomers and less advantaged target groups in order to remove the obstacles to full participation in the Programme;
- seeking cooperation with external bodies in order to increase the impact of the Programme in their country.

The supportive approach of National Agencies aims at guiding the users of the Programme through all phases, from the first contact with the Programme through the application process to the realisation of the project and the final evaluation. This principle is not in contradiction with the fairness and the transparency of selection procedures. Rather, it is based on the idea that in order to guarantee equal opportunities for everybody, it is necessary to give more assistance to some Programme target groups through advising, counselling, monitoring, and coaching systems tailored to their needs.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME?

Individuals - students, trainees, apprentices, pupils, adult learners, young people, volunteers, professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, professionals of organisations active in the fields of education, training and youth constitute the main target population of the Programme. However, the Programme reaches these individuals through organisations, institutions, bodies or groups that organise such activities. The conditions of access to the Programme therefore relate to these two actors: the "participants" (individuals participating in the Programme) and the "participating organisations" (including groups of at least four young people active in youth work but not necessarily in the context of youth organisations, also referred to as informal groups of young people). For both participants and participating organisations, the conditions for participation depend on the country in which they are based.

PARTICIPANTS

As a general rule, participants in Erasmus+ projects must be established in a Programme Country. Some Actions, notably in the fields of higher education and youth, are also open to participants from Partner Countries.

The specific conditions for participating in an Erasmus+ project depend on the type of Action concerned.

In general terms:

- For projects relevant for the field of higher education, the main targets are: higher education students (short cycle, first, second or third cycle), higher education teachers and professors, staff of higher education institutions, trainers and professionals in enterprises;
- For projects relevant for the field of vocational education and training, the main targets are: apprentices and students in vocational education, professionals and trainers in vocational training, staff of initial vocational education organisations, trainers and professionals in enterprises;
- For projects relevant for the field of school education, the main targets are: school leaders, school teachers and school staff, pupils in pre-primary, primary and secondary education;
- For projects relevant for the field of adult education, the main targets are: members of adult education organisations, trainers, staff and learners in adult education;
- For projects relevant for the youth field the main targets are: young people from 13 to 30⁶, youth workers, staff and members of organisations active in the youth field;
- For projects relevant to the field of sport, the main targets are: professionals and volunteers in the field of sport, athletes and coaches.

For more details on the conditions for participation in each specific Action, please consult Part B and Annex I of this Guide.

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Erasmus+ projects are submitted and managed by participating organisations representing the participants. If a project is selected, the applicant participating organisation becomes a beneficiary of an Erasmus+ grant. Beneficiaries sign a grant agreement or are notified of a grant decision which entitles them to receive financial support for the realisation of their project (grant agreements are not signed with individual participants). Some Actions of the Programme are also open to informal groups of young people.

As a general rule, organisations participating in Erasmus+ projects must be established in a Programme Country. Some Actions are also open to participating organisations from Partner Countries, notably in the field of higher education and youth.

The specific conditions for participating in an Erasmus+ project depend on the type of Action supported by the Programme. In general terms, the Programme is open to any organisation active in the fields of education, training, youth or sport. Several Actions are also open to the participation of other players in the labour market.

For more details, please consult Part B and Annex I of this Guide.

⁶ Different age limits apply depending on the different types of activities. For more information please consult Part B and Annex I of this Guide. Please also consider the following:

lower age limits - participants must have reached the minimum age at the start date of the activity.

upper age limits - participants must not be older than the indicated maximum age at the application deadline.

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

The Erasmus+ Programme is open to the following countries:

PROGRAMME COUNTRIES

The following countries can fully take part in all the Actions of the Erasmus+ Programme:

Member States of the European Union (EU) ⁷			
Belgium	Greece	Lithuania	Portugal
Bulgaria	Spain	Luxembourg	Romania
Czech Republic	France	Hungary	Slovenia
Denmark	Croatia	Malta	Slovakia
Germany	Italy	Netherlands	Finland
Estonia	Cyprus	Austria	Sweden
Ireland	Latvia	Poland	United Kingdom
Non EU Programme Countries			
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Iceland	Norway	Turkey
	Liechtenstein		

PARTNER COUNTRIES

The following countries can take part in certain Actions of the Programme, subject to specific criteria or conditions (for more information, please consult Part B of this Guide). Funding will be allocated to organisations in the countries within their territories as recognised by international law. Applicants and participants must respect any restrictions placed on EU external assistance imposed by the European Council. Applications have to be in line with the overall EU values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities as foreseen in art 2 of the Treaty of the European Union.

⁷ According to Article 33.3 of the Council Decision 2013/755/EU* on the Association of the OCTs with the European Union adopted on 25 November 2013 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:344:0001:0118:EN:PDF>), the Union shall ensure that individuals and organisations from or to Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) shall be eligible for the Erasmus+, subject to the rules of the Programme and the arrangements applicable to the Member State with which these OCTs they are connected. This means that individuals and organisations from the OCTs are participating in the programme on a 'Programme country' status, the 'Programme country' being the Member State with which they are connected. The list of OCTs can be found at: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/overseas-countries-and-territories-octs/eu-oct-dialogue_en

**PARTNER COUNTRIES NEIGHBOURING THE EU⁸**

Western Balkans (Region 1)	Eastern Partnership countries (Region 2)	South-Mediterranean countries (Region 3)	Russian Federation (Region 4)
Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina Kosovo ⁹ Montenegro Serbia	Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus Georgia Moldova Territory of Ukraine as recognised by international law	Algeria Egypt Israel Jordan Lebanon Libya Morocco Palestine ¹⁰ Syria Tunisia	Territory of Russia as recognised by international law

OTHER PARTNER COUNTRIES

Some Actions of the Programme are open to any Partner Country of the world listed below. For some other Actions the geographical scope is less broad.

The Partner Countries below are regrouped according to the financial instruments of the EU external action.

Region 5	Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City State, Switzerland
Region 6¹¹ Asia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam
Region 7¹² Central Asia	Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
Region 8¹³ Latin America	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela
Region 9¹⁴	Iran, Iraq, Yemen
Region 10¹⁵	South Africa
Region 11¹⁶ ACP	Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo - Democratic Republic of the, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia- Federated States of, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts And Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent And The Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Timor Leste - Democratic Republic of, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
Region 12¹⁷	Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates.

⁸ The eligibility criteria formulated in commission notice Nr.2013/C-205/05 (OJEU C-205 of 19/07/2013, pp. 9-11) shall apply for all actions implemented through this Programme Guide, including with respect to third parties receiving financial support in the cases where the respective action involves financial support to third parties by grant beneficiaries in accordance with article 137 of the EU's Financial Regulation.

⁹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

¹⁰ This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

¹¹ Classification used in the framework of the Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI).

¹² As above.

¹³ As above.

¹⁴ As above.

¹⁵ As above.

¹⁶ Indicative only. Subject to the provisions of the revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement and multiannual financial framework 2014-2020.

Industrialised: Gulf Cooperation countries	
Region 13¹⁸ Other Industrialised countries	Australia, Brunei, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, (Republic of) Korea, Macao, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, United States of America.

For more information, please consult the detailed description of the Actions of the Programme in the Part B of this Guide.

REQUIREMENTS REGARDING VISA AND RESIDENCE PERMITS

Participants in Erasmus+ projects may need to obtain a visa for staying abroad in the Programme or Partner Country hosting the activity. It is a responsibility of all the participating organisations to ensure that the authorisations required (short or long-term stay visas or residence permits) are in order before the planned activity takes place. It is strongly recommended that the authorisations are requested from the competent authorities well in advance, since the process may take several weeks. National Agencies and the Executive Agency may give further advice and support concerning visas, residence permits, social security, etc. The EU Immigration Portal contains general information on visa and residence permits, for both short-term and long-term stays: [http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/tab2.do?subSec=11&language=7\\$en](http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/tab2.do?subSec=11&language=7$en).

¹⁷ Classification used in the framework of the Partnership Instrument (PI).

¹⁸ Classification used in the framework of the Partnership Instrument (PI).

YOUTH

Non-formal and informal learning opportunities in the youth field.

WHICH ACTIONS ARE SUPPORTED?

The following sections "Key Action 1", Key Action 2" and "Key Action 3" present concrete Actions that are designed to achieve the Programme objectives in the field of youth. Among these Actions, the ones mainly - but not exclusively - connected with the field of youth (non-formal and informal learning) are:

- Mobility projects for young people (Youth Exchanges and European Voluntary Service) and youth workers;
- Large-scale European Voluntary Service events;
- Strategic Partnerships;
- Capacity Building in the field of youth;
- Meetings between young people and decision-makers in the field of youth.

The Key Action 3 section also provides information about Erasmus+ Actions in support of youth policies, involving policy analysis and peer learning, prospective initiatives, tools and networks, cooperation with international organisations, dialogue with stakeholder organisations, which will be promoted under Erasmus+ in support of youth systems. These Actions are implemented through specific calls for proposals managed by the European Commission's Executive Agency or directly by the European Commission. For more information, visit the websites of the Commission and of the Executive Agency.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THESE ACTIONS?

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives pursued by the Erasmus+ Programme in the field of youth are to:

- improve the level of key competences and skills of young people, including those with fewer opportunities, as well as to promote participation in democratic life in Europe and the labour market, active citizenship, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and solidarity, in particular through increased learning mobility opportunities for young people, those active in youth work or youth organisations and youth leaders, and through strengthened links between the youth field and the labour market;
- foster quality improvements in youth work, in particular through enhanced cooperation between organisations in the youth field and/or other stakeholders;
- complement policy reforms at local, regional and national level and to support the development of knowledge and evidence-based youth policy as well as the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, in particular through enhanced policy cooperation, better use of EU transparency and recognition tools and the dissemination of good practices;
- enhance the international dimension of youth activities and enhance the capacity of youth workers and organisations in their support for young people in complementarity with the European Union's external action, in particular through the promotion of mobility and cooperation between stakeholders from Programme and Partner Countries and international organisations.

Over the 2014-2020 period, 10% of the budget will be allocated in support of non-formal and informal learning opportunities in the youth field.

KEY ACTION 1: LEARNING MOBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS

WHICH ACTIONS ARE SUPPORTED?

This Key Action supports:

- Mobility projects in the field of education, training and youth;
- Large scale European Voluntary Service events;
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees;
- Erasmus+ Master Loans.

The Actions supported under this Key Action are expected to bring positive and long-lasting effects on the participants and participating organisations involved, as well as on the policy systems in which such activities are framed.

As regards students, trainees, apprentices, young people and volunteers, the mobility activities supported under this Key Action are meant to produce the following outcomes:

- improved learning performance;
- enhanced employability and improved career prospects;
- increased sense of initiative and entrepreneurship;
- increased self-empowerment and self-esteem;
- improved foreign language competences;
- enhanced intercultural awareness;
- more active participation in society;
- better awareness of the European project and the EU values;
- increased motivation for taking part in future (formal/non-formal) education or training after the mobility period abroad.

As regards staff, youth workers and professionals involved in education, training and youth, the mobility activities are expected to produce the following outcomes:

- improved competences, linked to their professional profiles (teaching, training, youth work, etc.);
- broader understanding of practices, policies and systems in education, training or youth across countries;
- increased capacity to trigger changes in terms of modernisation and international opening within their educational organisations;
- greater understanding of interconnections between formal and non-formal education, vocational training and the labour market respectively;
- better quality of their work and activities in favour of students, trainees, apprentices, pupils, adult learners, young people and volunteers;
- greater understanding and responsiveness to social, linguistic and cultural diversity;
- increased ability to address the needs of the disadvantaged;
- increased support for and promotion of mobility activities for learners;
- increased opportunities for professional and career development;
- improved foreign language competences;
- increased motivation and satisfaction in their daily work.

Activities supported under this Action are also expected to produce the following outcomes on participating organisations:

- increased capacity to operate at EU/international level: improved management skills and internationalisation strategies; reinforced cooperation with partners from other countries; increased allocation of financial resources (other than EU funds) to organise EU/international projects; increased quality in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and follow up of EU/international projects;
- innovative and improved way of operating towards their target groups, by providing for example: more attractive programmes for students, trainees, apprentices, young people and volunteers in line with their needs and expectations; improved qualifications of teaching and training staff; improved processes of recognition and validation of competences gained during learning periods abroad; more effective activities for the benefit of local communities, improved youth work methods and practices to actively involve young people and/or to address disadvantaged groups, etc.;



- more modern, dynamic, committed and professional environment inside the organisation: ready to integrate good practices and new methods into daily activities; open to synergies with organisations active in different social, educational and employment fields; planning strategically the professional development of their staff in relation to individual needs and organisational objectives; if relevant, capable of attracting excellent students and academic staff from all over the world.

In the long run, the combined effect of the several thousands of projects supported under this Key Action is expected to have an impact on the systems of education, training and youth in the participating countries, thus stimulating policy reforms and attracting new resources for mobility opportunities in Europe and beyond.

MOBILITY PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF A MOBILITY PROJECT?

Education, training and youth activities play a key role in providing people of all ages with the necessary means to participate actively in the labour market and in society at large. Projects under this Action promote transnational mobility activities targeting learners (students, trainees, apprentices, young people and volunteers), and staff (professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, and people working in organisations active in the education, training and youth fields) and aiming to:

- support learners in the acquisition of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and competences) with a view to improving their personal development, their involvement as considerate and active citizens in society and their employability in the European labour market and beyond;
- support the professional development of those who work in education, training and youth with a view to innovating and improving the quality of teaching, training and youth work across Europe;
- enhance notably the participants' foreign languages competence;
- raise participants' awareness and understanding of other cultures and countries, offering them the opportunity to build networks of international contacts, to actively participate in society and develop a sense of European citizenship and identity;
- increase the capacities, attractiveness and international dimension of organisations active in the education, training and youth fields so that they are able to offer activities and programmes that better respond to the needs of individuals, within and outside Europe;
- reinforce synergies and transitions between formal, non-formal education, vocational training, employment and entrepreneurship;
- ensure a better recognition of competences gained through the learning periods abroad.

This Action also supports international mobility activities from or to Partner Countries in the fields of higher education and youth. This action also contributes to cooperation between the EU and eligible Partner Countries and reflects the EU external action objectives, priorities and principles:

- enhance the attractiveness of higher education in Europe and support European higher education institutions in competing on the higher education market worldwide;
- support the priorities identified in the Communications "Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change"¹⁹ and "European Higher Education in the World"²⁰;
- support the internationalisation, attractiveness quality, equity of access and modernisation of higher education institutions outside Europe in view of promoting the development of Partner Countries;
- promote the development and external policy objectives and principles including national ownership, social cohesion, equity, proper geographical balance and diversity. Special attention will be given to the least developed countries as well as to disadvantaged students from poor socio-economic backgrounds and to students with special needs;
- promote non-formal learning and cooperation in the field of youth with Partner Countries.

WHAT IS A MOBILITY PROJECT?

Organisations active in the fields of education, training and youth will receive support from the Erasmus+ Programme to carry out projects promoting different types of mobility. A mobility project will consist of the following stages:

- Preparation (including practical arrangements, selection of participants, set up of agreements with partners and participants, linguistic/intercultural/task-related preparation of participants before departure);
- Implementation of the mobility activities;
- Follow-up (including the evaluation of the activities, the formal recognition - where applicable - of the learning outcomes of participants during the activity, as well as the dissemination and use of the project's outcomes).

An important innovation introduced in Erasmus+ compared to many actions of mobility supported under past European programmes is that Erasmus+ reinforces the support offered to the participants of mobility activities in improving their

¹⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Brussels, 13.10.2011, COM(2011) 637 Final.

²⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Brussels, 11.07.2013 COM(2013) 499 final.

foreign language competences before and during their stay abroad. A European online linguistic support service was gradually introduced by the European Commission starting from the year 2014. The service provides the participants in long-term mobility activities with the opportunity to assess their knowledge of the language they will use to study, work or volunteer abroad as well as to follow an online language course to improve their competences (more details on the support to language learning can be found in Annex I).

Furthermore, Erasmus+, more than in the past programmes, offers space for developing mobility activities that involve partner organisations with different backgrounds and active in different fields or socio-economic sectors (e.g. traineeships of university students or VET learners in enterprises, NGOs, public bodies; teachers in schools following professional development courses in companies or training centres; business experts giving lectures or training in higher education institutions, companies active in Corporate Social Responsibility developing volunteering schemes with associations and social enterprises, etc.).

A third important element of innovation and quality of mobility activities is that Erasmus+ participating organisations have the possibility to organise mobility activities within a broader strategic framework and in the medium term. Through a single grant application, covering a period of up to two years, the coordinator of a mobility project will be able to organise several mobility activities, allowing many individuals to go abroad to different countries. As a consequence, under Erasmus+ the applicant organisations will be able to conceive their project in line with the needs of participants, but also according to their internal plans for internationalisation, capacity building and modernisation.

Depending on the profile of participants involved, the following types of mobility projects are supported under Key Action 1 of the Erasmus+ Programme:

- in the field of Education and Training:
 - mobility project for higher education students and staff;
 - mobility project for VET learners and staff;
 - mobility project for school staff;
 - mobility project for adult education staff.

- in the field of Youth
 - mobility project for young people and youth workers.

Long-term mobility of staff, the short and long-term mobility of pupils as well as the blended mobility of adult learners can be supported under Key Action 2 Strategic Partnerships.

The sections below provide the detailed information about the criteria and conditions applying to each typology of mobility project.

MOBILITY PROJECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUTH WORKERS

The main budget of this Action is allocated to support transnational activities involving organisations and participants from Programme Countries. However, around 25% of the budget available for this Action can fund international activities including organisations and participants from Programme and Partner Countries neighbouring the EU (regions 1 to 4; see section "Eligible countries" in Part A of this Guide).

A mobility project can comprise of one or more of the following activities:

Mobility of young people:

▪ **Youth Exchanges:**

Youth Exchanges allow groups of young people from at least two different countries to meet and live together for up to 21 days. During a Youth Exchange, participants, supported by group leaders, jointly carry out a work programme (a mix of workshops, exercises, debates, role-plays, simulations, outdoor activities, etc.) designed and prepared by them before the Exchange. Youth Exchanges allow young people to: develop competences; become aware of socially relevant topics/thematic areas; discover new cultures, habits and life-styles, mainly through peer-learning; strengthen values like solidarity, democracy, friendship, etc. The learning process in Youth Exchanges is triggered by methods of non-formal education. The rather short duration makes the involvement of young people with fewer opportunities appropriate; as such a Youth Exchange offers an international mobility experience in the safety of a group with the possibility of having an adequate number of group leaders to take care of the participants. A Youth Exchange can also be a good setting for discussing and learning about inclusion and diversity issues. Youth Exchanges are based on a transnational cooperation between two or more participating organisations from different countries within and outside the European Union.

The following activities are not eligible for grants under Youth Exchanges: academic study trips; exchange activities which aim to make financial profit; exchange activities which can be considered as tourism; festivals; holiday travel; performance tours.

▪ **European Voluntary Service:**

This activity allows young people aged 17-30 to express their personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary service for up to 12 months in another country within or outside the European Union. Young volunteers are given the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations dealing with youth information and policies, young people's personal and socio-educational development, civic engagement, social care, inclusion of disadvantaged, environment, non-formal education programmes, ICTs and media literacy, culture and creativity, development cooperation, etc. Young people with fewer opportunities can receive additional support to enable their participation and would also be allowed to go on EVS for a shorter duration of time (from 2 weeks and up).

A project can include between 1 and 30 volunteers who can do their voluntary service either individually or in group.

Participating organisations are responsible for:

- arranging subsistence, lodging and local transports of volunteers;
- envisaging tasks and activities for volunteers that respect the qualitative principles of the European Voluntary Service, as described in the EVS Charter;
- providing to volunteers an on-going task-related, linguistic, personal and administrative support throughout the duration of the activity.

The participation in an EVS activity must be free of charge for volunteers, with the exception of a possible contribution for travel costs (if the Erasmus+ grant does not fully cover these costs) and additional expenses not linked to the implementation of the activity. The essential costs for volunteers' participation in the EVS activity are covered by the Erasmus+ grant or through other means afforded by the participating organisations.

Besides the support provided to the volunteers by the participating organisations, the National Agencies or regional SALTOS organise a Training and Evaluation Cycle⁴⁸ to be attended by each volunteer and consisting of: a) an on-arrival training for voluntary services lasting 2 months and longer; b) a mid-term evaluation, for voluntary services lasting 6 months and longer.

⁴⁸ Detailed information can be found in the document "EVS Training and Evaluation Cycle Guidelines and minimum quality standards":

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/programme/mobility/documents/evs-training-evaluation-guidelines_en.pdf

The following activities are not considered as a European Voluntary Service within the framework of Erasmus+: occasional, unstructured, part-time volunteering; a work placement in an enterprise; a paid job; a recreation or tourist activity; a language course; exploitation of a cheap workforce; a period of study or vocational training abroad.

Mobility of youth workers:

▪ **Youth workers' training and networking:**

This activity supports the professional development of youth workers, through the implementation of activities such as transnational/international seminars, training courses, contact-making events, study visits, etc. or job shadowing/observation periods abroad in an organisation active in the youth field. All these activities are arranged by the organisations participating in the project. The participation of youth workers in such activities contributes to capacity building of their organisation. The learning outcomes should be further disseminated.

In 2016, in the selection of projects emphasis will be put on:

- reaching out to marginalised young people, promoting diversity, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, common values of freedom, tolerance and respect of human rights as well as on projects enhancing media literacy, critical thinking and sense of initiative of young people as well as
- equipping youth workers with competences and methods needed for transferring the common fundamental values of our society particularly to the hard to reach young people and preventing violent radicalisation of young people as well.

In this regard, taking into account the critical context in Europe - and considering the fact that youth work, non-formal learning activities and volunteering can significantly contribute to address the needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and/or increase awareness about this issue within local communities – particular attention will also be given to support youth mobility projects involving or focussing on the refugees/asylum seekers and migrants.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROJECT?

Participating organisations involved in the mobility project assume the following roles and tasks:

- Coordinator of a youth mobility project: applying for the whole project on behalf of all the partner organisations.
- Sending organisation: in charge of sending young people and youth workers abroad (this includes: organising practical arrangements; preparing participants before departure; providing support to participants during all the phases of the project).
- Receiving organisation: in charge of hosting the activity, developing a programme of activities for participants in cooperation with participants and partner organisations, providing support to participants during all the phases of the project.

Young volunteers doing a European Voluntary Service lasting two months or longer are eligible to receive linguistic support. Online linguistic support is being gradually implemented in the course of the Programme. It is made available by the European Commission to eligible participants to assess their foreign language competences and to offer, where necessary, the most appropriate language learning before and/or during mobility (for more details, see Annex I of this Guide).

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA USED TO ASSESS THIS PROJECT?

Here below are listed the formal criteria that the mobility project must respect in order to be eligible for an Erasmus+ grant:

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible activities	<p>A youth mobility project must comprise one or more of the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth Exchanges; ▪ European Voluntary Service; ▪ Youth workers' training and networking.
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Eligible participating organisations	<p>A participating organisation can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a non-profit organisation, association, NGO; ▪ a European Youth NGO; ▪ a social enterprise; ▪ a public body at local level; ▪ a group of young people active in youth work but not necessarily in the context of a youth organisation (i.e. informal group of young people). <p>as well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a public body at regional or national level⁴⁹; ▪ an association of regions ; ▪ a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation; ▪ a profit-making body active in Corporate Social Responsibility. <p>established in a Programme Country or in a Partner Country neighbouring the EU (regions 1 to 4; see section "Eligible Countries" in Part A of this Guide).</p>
Who can apply?	<p>Any participating organisation or group⁵⁰ established in a Programme Country can be the applicant. This organisation applies on behalf of all participating organisations involved in the project.</p> <p>A youth mobility project is funded in a specific way (see the section "funding rules") if the applicant is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a public body at regional or national level⁵¹; ▪ an association of regions; ▪ a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation; ▪ a profit-making body active in Corporate Social Responsibility.
Number and profile of participating organisations	<p>A mobility activity is transnational and involves at least two participating organisations (sending and receiving organisation) from different countries. If a Youth mobility project foresees only one activity, the coordinator must also act either as sending or receiving organisation except if the activity is a European Voluntary Service. If a youth mobility project foresees more than one activity, the project coordinator can – but not necessarily has to – act as sending organisation or receiving organisation. In all cases, the coordinator cannot be an organisation from a Partner Country neighbouring the EU.</p> <p>Activities within Programme Countries: all participating organisations must be from a Programme Country.</p> <p>Activities with Partner Countries neighbouring the EU: the activity must involve at least one participating organisation from a Programme Country and one participating organisation from a Partner Country neighbouring the EU.</p>
Duration of project	<p>From 3 to 24 months.</p>
Where to apply?	<p>To the National Agency of the country in which the applicant organisation is established.</p>
When to apply?	<p>Applicants have to submit their grant application by the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 February at 12:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting between 1 May and 30 September of the same year; ▪ 26 April at 12:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting between 1 August and 31 December of the same year; ▪ 4 October at 12:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting between 1 January and 31 May of the following year.

⁴⁹ In this context a public body at national or regional level is considered a public body that 1) provides services or has an administrative area of competence that covers the whole national or regional territory and b) has a monopoly, in the sense that there are no other bodies that carry out the same functions in the country or region (typical examples: Ministries, State Agencies, Regional public authorities, etc.). In this sense, schools, universities or other bodies, even if they are established by national law, are excluded from this category and qualify as public bodies at local level.

⁵⁰ In case of an informal group, one of the members of the group who is at least 18-years old assumes the role of representative and takes responsibility on behalf of the group).

⁵¹ See previous note.

How to apply?	Please see Part C of this Guide for details on how to apply.
Other criteria	A timetable for each of the activities planned in the project must be annexed to the application form.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR YOUTH EXCHANGES

Duration of activity	From 5 to 21 days, excluding travel time.
Venue(s) of the activity	The activity must take place in the country of one of the participating organisations.
Eligible participants	Young people aged between 13 and 30 ⁵² resident in the countries of the sending and receiving organisations. Group leaders ⁵³ involved in the Youth Exchange must be at least 18-years old.
Number of participants and composition of national groups	Minimum 16 and maximum of 60 participants (group leader(s) not included). Minimum 4 participants per group (group leader(s) not included). Each national group must have at least one group leader.
Other criteria	<p>Link with the country funding the Youth Exchange:</p> <p>In order to maintain a clear link to the country where the National Agency is based, at least one of the sending organisations or the receiving organisation in each activity must be from the country of the National Agency to which the application is submitted.</p> <p>Advance Planning Visit (APV):</p> <p>If the project foresees an APV, then the following eligibility criteria must be respected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ duration of the APV: maximum 2 days (travel days excluded); ▪ number of participants: 1 participant per group. The number of participants can be raised to 2 under the condition that at least 1 of the participants is a young person taking part in the activity.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Accreditation	All participating organisations involved in a European Voluntary Service activity must hold a valid EVS accreditation (for more information, please consult the EVS section of the Annex I of this Guide).
Duration of activity	Long-term EVS: From 2 to 12 months, excluding travel time. Short-term EVS: From 2 weeks to 2 months, excluding travel time. Condition: short-term EVS can be organised for activities involving at least 10 volunteers who are doing their service together (group service) or where there is an equal participation or majority of young people with fewer opportunities in the activity.
Venue(s) of the activity	<p>A volunteer from a Programme Country must carry out her/his activity in another Programme Country or in a Partner Country neighbouring the EU.</p> <p>A volunteer from a Partner Country neighbouring the EU must carry out her/his activity in a Programme Country.</p>
Eligible participants	Young people aged between 17 and 30 ⁵⁴ , resident in the country of their sending organisation. A volunteer can take part in only one European Voluntary Service ⁵⁵ . Exception: volunteers who carried out an EVS activity lasting maximum 2 months, excluding travel time can take part in an additional European Voluntary Service.

⁵² Please consider the following:

- lower age limits - participants must have reached the minimum age at the start date of the activity.
- upper age limits - participants must not be older than the indicated maximum age at the application deadline.

⁵³ A group leader is an adult who joins the young people participating in a Youth Exchange in order to ensure their effective learning, protection and safety.

⁵⁴ See note above on age limits.

⁵⁵ This applies for EVS under Erasmus+ and previous programmes.

Number of participants	Maximum 30 volunteers for the whole project.
Other criteria	<p>In order to maintain a clear link to the country where the National Agency is based, at least one of the sending organisations or the receiving organisation in each activity must be from the country of the National Agency to which the application is submitted.</p> <p>Advance Planning Visit (APV): only for EVS involving young people with fewer opportunities.</p> <p>If the project foresees an APV, then the following eligibility criteria must be respected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ duration of the APV: maximum 2 days (travel days excluded); ▪ number of participants: 1 participant per group. The number of participants can be raised to 2 under the condition that at least 1 of the participants is a young person taking part in the activity.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR MOBILITY OF YOUTH WORKERS

Duration of activity	<p>From 2 days to 2 months, excluding travel time.</p> <p>The minimum 2 days must be consecutive.</p>
Venue(s) of the activity	The activity must take place in the country of one of the participating organisations.
Eligible participants	No age limits. Participants must be resident in the country of their sending or receiving organisation.
Number of participants	Up to 50 participants (including, where relevant, trainers and facilitators) in each activity planned by the project.
Other criteria	In order to maintain a clear link to the country where the National Agency is based, at least one of the sending organisations or the receiving organisation in each activity must be from the country of the National Agency to which the application is submitted

Applicant organisations will be assessed against the relevant **exclusion and selection criteria**. For more information please consult Part C of this Guide.

AWARD CRITERIA

Projects will be assessed against the following criteria:

Relevance of the project (maximum 30 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The relevance of the proposal to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the objectives of the Action (see section "What are the aims of a mobility project"); - the needs and objectives of the participating organisations and of the individual participants. ▪ The extent to which the proposal is suitable of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reaching out to young people with fewer opportunities including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants; - promoting diversity, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, common values of freedom, tolerance and respect of human rights as well as on projects enhancing media literacy, critical thinking and sense of initiative of young people; - equipping youth workers with competences and methods needed for transferring the common fundamental values of our society particularly to the hard to reach young people and preventing violent radicalisation of young people. ▪ The extent to which the proposal is suitable of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - producing high-quality learning outcomes for participants; - reinforcing the capacities and international scope of the participating organisations.
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<p>Quality of the project design and implementation (maximum 40 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The clarity, completeness and quality of all the phases of the project proposal (preparation, implementation of mobility activities and follow-up); ▪ The consistency between project objectives and activities proposed; ▪ The quality of the practical arrangements, management and support modalities; ▪ The quality of the preparation provided to participants; ▪ The quality of the non-formal learning participative methods proposed and active involvement of young people at all levels of the project; ▪ The quality of arrangements for the recognition and validation of participants' learning outcomes, as well as the consistent use of European transparency and recognition tools; ▪ The appropriateness of measures for selecting and/or involving participants in the mobility activities; ▪ In case of activities with Partner Countries neighbouring the EU, the balanced representation of organisations from Programme and Partner Countries; • The quality of cooperation and communication between the participating organisations, as well as with other relevant stakeholders.
<p>Impact and dissemination (maximum 30 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The quality of measures for evaluating the outcomes of the project. ▪ The potential impact of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on participants and participating organisations during and after the project lifetime; - outside the organisations and individuals directly participating in the project, at local, regional, national and/or European levels. ▪ The appropriateness and quality of measures aimed at disseminating the outcomes of the project within and outside the participating organisations.

To be considered for funding, proposals must score at least 60 points. Furthermore, they must score at least half of the maximum points in each of the categories of award criteria mentioned above (i.e. minimum 15 points for the categories "relevance of the project" and "impact and dissemination"; 20 points for the category "quality of the project design and implementation").

WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS ACTION?

PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTERMOST REGIONS AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

In line with the Regulation establishing the Erasmus+ Programme, which calls on taking into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of the outermost regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) of the Union when implementing the Programme, special funding rules are set in order to support expensive travel costs of participants from outermost regions and OCTs insufficiently covered by the the standard funding rules (based on contribution to unit costs per travel distance band).

Applicants of mobility projects will be allowed to claim financial support for travel costs of participants from outermost regions and OCTs under the budget heading "exceptional costs" (up to a maximum of 80% of total eligible costs: see "What are the funding rules?"). This would be allowed provided that applicants can justify that the standard funding rules (based on contribution to unit costs per travel distance band) do not cover at least 70% of the travel costs of participants.

OTHER INFORMATION

More compulsory criteria and additional useful information relating to this Action can be found in Annex I of this Guide. Interested organisations are invited to read carefully the relevant sections of this Annex before applying for financial support.

WHAT ARE THE FUNDING RULES?

The budget of the mobility project must be drafted according to the following funding rules (in euro):

A) YOUTH EXCHANGES

	Eligible costs	Financing mechanism	Amount	Rule of allocation
Travel	Contribution to the travel costs of participants, including accompanying persons, from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and return. In addition, if applicable, travel costs for a possible Advance Planning Visit.	Contribution to unit costs	For travel distances between 10 and 99KM: 20 EUR per participant	Based on the travel distance per participant. Travel distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission ⁵⁶ . The applicant must indicate the distance of a one-way travel to calculate the amount of the EU grant that will support the round trip ⁵⁷ .
			For travel distances between 100 and 499 KM: 80 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances between 500 and 1999 KM: 170 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances between 2000 and 2999 KM: 270 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances between 3000 and 3999 KM: 400 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances between 4000 and 7999 KM: 620 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances of 8000 KM or more: 830 EUR per participant	
Organisational Support	Costs directly linked to the implementation of mobility activities	Contribution to unit costs	A5.1 per day of activity per participant ⁵⁸	Based on the duration of the activity per participant (if necessary, including also one travel day before the activity and one travel day following the activity).

⁵⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_en.htm

⁵⁷ For example, if a person from Madrid (Spain) is taking part in an activity taking place in Rome (Italy), the applicant will a) calculate the distance from Madrid to Rome (1365,28 KM); b) select the applicable travel distance band (i.e. between 500 and 1999 KM) and c) calculate the EU grant that will provide a contribution to the costs of travel of the participant from Madrid to Rome and return (170 EUR).

⁵⁸ Including group leaders and accompanying persons.

B) EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Eligible costs		Financing mechanism	Amount	Rule of allocation
Travel	Contribution to the travel costs of participants, including accompanying persons, from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and return In addition, if applicable, travel costs for a possible Advance Planning Visit.	Contribution to unit costs	For travel distances between 100 and 499 KM: 180 EUR per participant	Based on the travel distance per participant. Travel distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission ⁵⁹ . The applicant must indicate the distance of a one-way travel to calculate the amount of the EU grant that will support the round trip ⁶⁰ .
			For travel distances between 500 and 1999 KM: 275 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances between 2000 and 2999 KM: 360 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances between 3000 and 3999 KM: 530 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances between 4000 and 7999 KM: 820 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances of 8000 KM or more: 1100 EUR per participant	
Organisational Support	Costs directly linked to the implementation of mobility activities.	Contribution to unit costs	EVS lasting less than 2 months: <input type="text" value="A5.2"/> per day per volunteer + EVS lasting from 2 to 12 months: <input type="text" value="A5.3"/> per month per volunteer	Based on the duration of the stay per participant (if necessary, including also one travel day before the activity and one travel day following the activity).
Individual support	"Pocket money" to the volunteer for additional personal expenses.	Contribution to unit costs	EVS lasting less than 2 months: <input type="text" value="A5.4"/> per day per volunteer + EVS lasting from 2 to 12 months: <input type="text" value="A5.5"/> per month per volunteer	Based on the duration of the stay per participant
Linguistic support	Costs linked to the support offered to participants - prior to departure or during the activity – in order to improve the knowledge of the language they will use to	Contribution to unit costs	Only for activities lasting between 2 and 12 months: 150 EUR per participant needing linguistic support	Conditional: applicants must request the support in the instruction language of the activity, on the basis of participants' needs for languages not offered by the Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support.

⁵⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_en.htm

⁶⁰ For example, if a person from Madrid (Spain) is taking part in an activity taking place in Rome (Italy), the applicant will a) calculate the distance from Madrid to Rome (1365,28 KM); b) select the applicable travel distance band (i.e. between 500 and 1999 KM) and c) calculate the EU grant that will provide a contribution to the costs of travel of the participant from Madrid to Rome and return (275 EUR).

	carry out their volunteering tasks.			
Special needs support	Costs for subsistence of accompanying persons and costs related to travel if justified and as long as a grant for these participants is not requested through budget category "travel". Additional costs directly related to participants with disabilities (including costs related to travel and subsistence, if justified and as long a grant for these participants is not requested through budget categories "travel" and "organisational support").	Real costs	100% of eligible costs	Conditional: the request for financial support to cover special needs support must be motivated in the application form.
Exceptional costs	<p>Visa and visa-related costs, residence permits, vaccinations.</p> <p>Costs to support the participation of young people with fewer opportunities on equal terms as others, including for specific preparation and reinforced mentorship (excluding costs for travel and organisational support for participants and accompanying persons).</p> <p>Costs connected to lodging of participants during an Advance Planning Visit.</p> <p>Costs for providing a financial guarantee, if the National Agency asks for it.</p> <p>Expensive travel costs of participants from outermost regions and Overseas Countries and Territories (for details, see section "what else you should know about this action").</p>	Real costs	<p>Costs for financial guarantee: 75% of eligible costs Other costs: 100% of eligible costs</p> <p>Expensive travel costs: maximum up to 80% of eligible costs</p>	Conditional: the request for financial support to cover exceptional costs must be motivated in the application form.

C) MOBILITY OF YOUTH WORKERS

Eligible costs	Financing mechanism	Amount	Rule of allocation
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Travel	Contribution to the travel costs of participants, including accompanying persons, from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and return	Contribution to unit costs	For travel distances between 100 and 499 KM: 180 EUR per participant	Based on the travel distance per participant. Travel distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission ⁶¹ . The applicant must indicate the distance of a one-way travel to calculate the amount of the EU grant that will support the round trip ⁶² .
			For travel distances between 500 and 1999 KM: 275 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances between 2000 and 2999 KM: 360 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances between 3000 and 3999 KM: 530 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances between 4000 and 7999 KM: 820 EUR per participant	
			For travel distances of 8000 KM or more: 1100 EUR per participant	
Organisational Support	Costs directly linked to the implementation of mobility activities	Contribution to unit costs	A5.6 per day of activity per participant. Maximum 1 100 EUR per participant ⁶³	Based on the duration of the stay per participant (if necessary, including also one travel day before the activity and one travel day following the activity).
Special needs support	Additional costs directly related to participants with disabilities and accompanying persons (including costs related to travel and subsistence, if justified and as long as a grant for these participants is not requested through budget categories "travel" and "organisational support").	Real costs	100% of eligible costs	Conditional: the request for financial support to cover special needs support and exceptional costs must be motivated in the application form

⁶¹ http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_en.htm

⁶² For example, if a person from Madrid (Spain) is taking part in an activity taking place in Rome (Italy), the applicant will a) calculate the distance from Madrid to Rome (1365,28 KM); b) select the applicable travel distance band (i.e. between 500 and 1999 KM) and c) calculate the EU grant that will provide a contribution to the costs of travel of the participant from Madrid to Rome and return (275 EUR).

⁶³ including trainers, facilitators and accompanying persons.



Exceptional costs	Visa and visa-related costs, residence permits, vaccinations Costs for providing a financial guarantee, if the National Agency asks for it. Expensive travel costs of participants from outermost regions and Overseas Countries and Territories (for details, see section "what else you should know about this action").	Real costs	Costs for financial guarantee: 75% of eligible costs Other costs: 100% of eligible costs Expensive travel costs: maximum up to 80% of eligible costs	
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D) ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT (AMOUNTS IN EURO PER DAY/MONTH)

The amounts depend on the country where the mobility activity takes place. For projects submitted by: a public body at regional or national level; an association of regions; a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation; a profit-making body active in Corporate Social Responsibility, the below amounts are reduced by 50%.

	Youth Exchanges (euro per day)	European Voluntary Service		Mobility of youth workers (euro per day)
		14 to 59 days (euro per day)	2 to 12 months (euro per month)	
	A5.1	A5.2	A5.3	A5.6
Belgium	37	20	590	65
Bulgaria	32	17	500	53
Czech Republic	32	17	490	54
Denmark	40	21	630	72
Germany	33	18	520	58
Estonia	33	18	520	56
Ireland	39	21	610	74
Greece	38	21	610	71
Spain	34	18	530	61
France	37	19	570	66
Croatia	35	19	570	62
Italy	39	21	610	66
Cyprus	32	21	610	58
Latvia	34	19	550	59
Lithuania	34	18	540	58
Luxembourg	36	21	610	66
Hungary	33	17	510	55
Malta	37	20	600	65
Netherlands	39	21	620	69
Austria	39	18	540	61
Poland	34	18	540	59
Portugal	37	20	600	65
Romania	32	17	500	54
Slovenia	34	20	580	60
Slovakia	35	19	550	60
Finland	39	21	630	71
Sweden	39	21	630	70
United Kingdom	40	21	630	76
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	28	15	440	45
Iceland	39	21	610	71
Liechtenstein	39	21	610	74
Norway	40	21	630	74
Turkey	32	17	500	54
Partner Country	29	15	440	48

E) INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT (AMOUNTS IN EURO PER DAY/MONTH)

The amounts depend on the country where the mobility activity takes place.

	EVS	
	14 to 59 days (euro per day)	2 to 12 months (euro per month)
	A5.4	A5.5
Belgium	4	110
Bulgaria	3	70
Czech Republic	4	90
Denmark	5	145
Germany	4	110
Estonia	3	85
Ireland	5	125
Greece	4	100
Spain	4	105
France	5	115
Croatia	4	90
Italy	4	115
Cyprus	4	110
Latvia	3	80
Lithuania	3	80
Luxembourg	4	110
Hungary	4	90
Malta	4	110
Netherlands	4	110
Austria	4	115
Poland	3	85
Portugal	4	100
Romania	2	60
Slovenia	3	85
Slovakia	4	95
Finland	4	125
Sweden	4	115
United Kingdom	5	140
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2	60
Iceland	5	135
Liechtenstein	5	120
Norway	5	135
Turkey	3	80
Partner Country	2	55

PART C - INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

All those organisations (including informal groups) who intend to submit a project proposal in order to receive financial support from the EU under the Erasmus+ Programme are invited to read carefully this section which is drafted in accordance with the provisions of the Title VI of the Financial Regulation¹⁴³ applicable to the general budget of the European Union (hereafter defined "EU Financial Regulation") and with its rules of application.

Individuals are not entitled to submit project proposals in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme, except for individuals applying on behalf of a group of (at least four) young people active in youth work but not necessarily in the context of a youth organisation (hereafter defined "informal group of young people").

WHAT TO DO IN ORDER TO SUBMIT AN ERASMUS+ APPLICATION?

To submit an Erasmus+ project, applicants must follow the four steps described below:

- Each organisation involved in the application must register in the Participant Portal and receive a Participant Identification Code (PIC). Organisations/groups that have already obtained a PIC through their participation in other EU programmes do not need to register again. The PIC obtained from this previous registration is valid also for applying under Erasmus+;
- check the compliance with the Programme criteria for the relevant Action/field;
- check the financial conditions;
- fill in and submit the application form.

STEP 1: REGISTER IN THE PARTICIPANT PORTAL

All organisations involved in the application must be registered and provide their basic legal and financial data in the Education, Audiovisual, Culture, Citizenship and Volunteering Participant Portal, if not already done.

To register in the Participant Portal, the person representing an organisation (or an informal group of young people) must carry out the following steps:

- Create an ECAS account (unless the person representing the organisation/group already has an account). New ECAS accounts can be created via the following website:
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/eim/external/register.cgi> ;
- Access the Participant Portal at <http://ec.europa.eu/education/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/register.html> and register on behalf of the organisation/group. Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions are available on the Participant Portal.

The organisation/group need to register only once in the Participant Portal. Once the registration is completed, the organisation/group will obtain a Participant Identification Code (PIC). The PIC, which is a unique identifier and is necessary for the submission of applications, enables the organisation/group to fill-in the Erasmus+ electronic application forms in a simpler manner (i.e. by inserting the PIC number in the form, all the information provided by the organisation/group at registration stage will be automatically displayed in the form).

PROOF OF LEGAL STATUS AND FINANCIAL CAPACITY

At the time of the registration, organisations must also upload the following documents in the Participant Portal:

- the Legal Entity form (this form can be downloaded from the European Commission's website at: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm);

¹⁴³ The EU Financial Regulation can be found at:
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:298:0001:0096:EN:PDF>

- the Financial Identification form. Please fill in the form relating to the country in which the bank is located, even if the applicant organisation is officially registered in another country (this form can be downloaded at: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/financial_id/financial_id_en.cfm).

For grants exceeding 60 000 EUR, applicants may need to upload specific documents to give proof of their financial capacity. For more details, see the section "Selection Criteria" below.

The Financial Identification form should be provided only for the applicant organisation, but is not required for the partner organisations.

STEP 2: CHECK THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROGRAMME CRITERIA

When developing their project and before applying for EU support, participating organisations must verify that the project respects the following criteria: eligibility, exclusion, selection and award.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligibility criteria mainly relate to the type of project and activities (including, where relevant, duration, participating organisations, etc.), the target group (e.g. status and number of participants involved) and the conditions for submitting a grant request for such a project (e.g. deadlines for submission, completeness of the application form, etc.).

To be eligible, the project must meet all the eligibility criteria relating to the Action under which the proposal is submitted. If the project does not meet these criteria at application stage, it will be rejected without being further evaluated. As an exception, in case of mobility activities and EMJMD Scholarships supported under Key Action 1 or Key Action 2, some eligibility criteria (e.g. duration, profile of participants, etc.) may only be verified during the stage of project implementation or at final report stage (not at application stage). At application stage, the applicants will be asked to declare that these criteria will be met by the project. However, if it appears at implementation or final report stage that these criteria have not been fulfilled, the participants or the activity may be considered ineligible with a consequent reduction/recovery of the EU grant initially awarded to the project.

The specific eligibility criteria applying to each of the Actions implemented through the Erasmus+ Programme Guide are described in Part B of the Guide.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

In accordance with articles 106 and 107 of the EU Financial Regulation, applicants will be excluded from participating in the Erasmus+ Programme if they are in any of the following situations:

- they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- they or persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of *res judicata*;
- they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting National or Executive Agency can justify including by decisions of the EIB and international organisations;
- they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting National or Executive Agency or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- they or persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such illegal activity is detrimental to the EU's financial interests;
- they are subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 109(1) of the Financial Regulation.

Applicants will not be granted financial assistance if, on the date of the grant award procedure, they:

- are subject to a conflict of interests;
- are guilty of misrepresenting the information required by the contracting National or Executive Agency as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure or fail to supply that information;
- find themselves in one of the situations described above.

These exclusion criteria apply to applicants under all Actions of the Erasmus+ Programme. To certify that they are not in one of the situations mentioned above, applicants for an EU grant exceeding 60 000 EUR must provide a declaration on their honour certifying that they are not in any of the situations referred to in Articles 106(1) and 107 of the Financial Regulation. This declaration on honour constitutes a specific section or an annex of the application form.

In case of proposals submitted on behalf of a consortium of partners, the criteria described above apply to all participating organisations involved in the project.

In accordance with Articles from 106 to 109 of the EU Financial Regulation, administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation or are found to have seriously failed to meet their contractual obligations under a previous grant award procedure¹⁴⁴.

Furthermore, the Commission considers that for the implementation of Actions covered by the Programme Guide, the following organisations are or could be in a situation of conflict of interest and therefore are or could be not eligible to participate:

- National Authorities in charge of supervising National Agencies and the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme in their country cannot apply or participate in any Action managed by National Agencies in any country, but may apply for participation (as applicants or partners) in Actions managed by the Executive Agency or by DG EAC unless that is explicitly excluded for the Action concerned (as indicated in Part B of the Guide);
- National Agencies (sole activity of their legal entity) or National Agencies departments of legal entities dealing with activities outside the remit of National Agencies cannot apply or participate in any Action implemented through this Guide;
- Structures and networks identified or designated in the Erasmus+ Programme or in any Annual Commission Work programme adopted for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme for specifically receiving a financial contribution from the Commission under the implementation of the Erasmus + Programme, which are hosted by the legal entity that also hosts the National Agency, cannot apply or participate in any Action managed by Erasmus + National Agencies in any country, but may apply for participation (as applicants or partners) in Actions managed by the Executive Agency or by DG EAC unless that is explicitly excluded for the Action concerned (as indicated in Part B of the Guide); they should be able to demonstrate, before being awarded a grant or a contract, that they are not in a conflict of interest either because precautionary measures are taken by them or because their internal organisation is such that there is a clear separation of interests. Furthermore, costs and revenues of each action or activity for which the EU funds are awarded must be identified. The decision for admitting there is sufficient assurance they are not in an actual conflict of interest is taken by the Executive Agency or by DG EAC, under their own responsibility and accountability, to which they apply;
- Legal entities hosting the Erasmus+ National Agencies but dealing with other activities inside or outside the remit of the Erasmus + Programme, as well as entities affiliated to these legal entities, cannot apply or participate in any Action managed by National Agencies in any country, but may in principle apply for participation in Actions managed by the Executive Agency or DG EAC unless that is explicitly excluded for the Action concerned (as indicated in Part B of the Guide). However, they have to demonstrate, before being awarded a grant or a contract, they are not in a conflict of interest either because precautionary measures are taken by them or because their internal organisation is such that there is a clear separation of interests.(e.g. a minimum separation of accounts, separation of reporting and decision making lines, measures to prevent access to privileged information). Furthermore, costs and revenues of each action or activity for which the EU funds are awarded must be identified. The decision for admitting there is sufficient assurance they are not in an actual conflict of interest is taken by the Institution, under their own responsibility and accountability, to which they apply.

Finally, as detailed in the grant agreement of grant decision, applicants and beneficiaries who have made false declarations, have made substantial errors or committed irregularities or fraud, or have been found in serious breach of their contractual obligations may be subject to financial penalties and/or be excluded from all grants financed by the European Union budget for a maximum of five years from the date on which the infringement is established as confirmed following a contradictory procedure. That period may be extended to 10 years in the event of a repeated offence within five years of the date referred to above (see also the section "financial penalties" of this Guide).

SELECTION CRITERIA

Through the selection criteria, the National or Executive Agency assesses the applicant's financial and operational capacity to complete the proposed project.

¹⁴⁴ Except for actions implemented by National Agencies

FINANCIAL CAPACITY

Financial capacity means that the applicant has stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out or the year for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding.

The verification of the financial capacity does not apply to:

- public bodies¹⁴⁵;
- international organisations.

In case of EU grant requests submitted by other types of organisations (i.e. other than those mentioned above) and not exceeding 60 000 EUR, applicants must provide a declaration on their honour certifying that they have the financial capacity to implement the project. This declaration on honour constitutes a specific section of the application form.

In case of EU grant requests submitted by other types of organisations and exceeding 60 000 EUR, the applicant must submit, in addition to the declaration on honour, the following documents through the Participant Portal:

- For Actions managed by the National Agencies: the applicant's profit and loss account and the balance sheet for the last financial year for which accounts were closed;
- For Actions managed by the Executive Agency: a Financial Capacity Form, including the applicant's profit and loss account and the balance sheet for the last two financial years for which accounts were closed;
- For entities which cannot provide the above documents because they are newly created, a financial declaration or an insurance declaration stating the applicant's professional risks may replace the above documents.

Organisations must upload these documents in the Participants Portal either at the time of their registration in the Portal (see section "Step1: Register in the Participants Portal" above) or by the deadline stipulated by the specific Erasmus+ action.

In case of doubt on the financial capacity of any of the participating organisations involved in a project if the proposal is submitted on behalf of a consortium of partners, the same documents may be requested from the participating organisations by the National Agency or the Executive Agency.

Where the application concerns grants for a project for which the amount exceeds 750 000 EUR, an audit report produced by an approved external auditor may be requested. That report shall certify the accounts for the last financial year available.

If, following the analysis of these documents, the National or Executive Agency concludes that the required financial capacity has not been proved or is not satisfactory, then they may:

- ask for further information;
- offer a grant agreement or decision with a pre-financing covered by a financial guarantee¹⁴⁶;
- offer a grant agreement or grant decision without pre-financing or with a reduced pre-financing;
- offer a grant agreement or grant decision with pre-financing based on several instalments;
- reject the application.

OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

Operational capacity means that the applicant has the necessary professional competencies and qualifications to carry out the proposed project. Applicants must provide a declaration on their honour certifying that they have the operational capacity to implement the project. In addition, if required in the application form and if the grant exceeds 60 000 EUR, applicants may be asked to submit the CVs of the key persons involved in the project to demonstrate their relevant professional experience or other supporting documents such as:

- A list of relevant publications of the main team;
- An exhaustive list of previous projects and activities performed and connected to the policy field or to this specific action.

¹⁴⁵ Including schools, higher education institutions and organisations in the fields of education, training, youth and sport that have received over 50 % of their annual revenue from public sources over the last two years shall be considered as having the necessary financial, professional and administrative capacity to carry out activities under the Programme.

¹⁴⁶ The guarantee may be replaced by a joint third-party guarantee, or from several third-party guarantees from the participating organisations who are parties to the same grant agreement.

AWARD CRITERIA

The award criteria allow the National or Executive Agency to evaluate the quality of the project proposals submitted in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme.

Within the limits of the budget available for each Action, grants will be awarded to those projects which respond to these qualitative criteria in the best way.

The full set of award criteria applying to each of the Actions implemented through the Erasmus+ Programme Guide are described in Part B of the Guide.

STEP 3: CHECK THE FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

TYPES OF GRANT

The grant may be any of the following types¹⁴⁷:

- reimbursement of a specified proportion of the eligible costs: e.g. the amount awarded under the framework of Strategic Partnerships to cover additional costs linked to the participation of persons with special needs;
- reimbursement on the basis of contribution to unit costs: e.g. the amount awarded for the individual support in the framework of mobility projects in the field of education, training and youth;
- lump sums: e.g. the amount awarded to contribute to the implementation of complementary activities under Jean Monnet Projects;
- flat-rate financing: e.g. the amount awarded to cover indirect costs for profit sport events;
- a combination of the above.

The financing mechanism applied under the Erasmus+ Programme in most cases provides grants based on the reimbursement on the basis of contribution to unit costs. These types of grant help applicants to easily calculate the requested grant amount and facilitate a realistic financial planning of the project.

To know which type of grant is applied to each funding item under each Erasmus+ Action covered by this Guide, please see the column "financing mechanism" in the "funding rules" tables in Part B.

PRINCIPLES APPLYING TO EU GRANTS

NON RETROACTIVITY

No EU grant may be awarded retroactively for projects already completed.

An EU grant may be awarded for a project which has already begun only where the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the project before the grant agreement has been signed or the grant decision has been notified. In such cases, the expenditure eligible for financing or the event generating the financing must not have been incurred prior to the date of submission of the application.

If the applicant starts implementing the project before the grant agreement is signed or the grant decision is notified, this is done at the risk of the applicant.

NON-CUMULATIVE AWARD

Each project financed by the EU is entitled to receive only one grant from the EU budget to any one beneficiary. In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the European Union budget.

To avoid the risk of double-funding, the applicant must indicate in the relevant section of the application form, the sources and the amounts of any other funding received or applied for in the year, whether for the same project or for any other project, including operating grants.

Identical or very similar applications – submitted by the same applicant or by other partners of the same consortium -will be subject to a specific assessment in order to exclude the risk of double funding. Applications which are submitted twice or more times by the same applicant or consortium, either to the same Agency or to different Agencies will all be rejected.

¹⁴⁷ COMMISSION DECISION C(2013)8550 of 04 December 2013 on "The use of lump sums, the reimbursement on the basis of unit costs and the flat-rate financing under the "Erasmus+" Programme", (http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/more_info/awp/docs/c_2013_8550.pdf)

Where the same or very similar applications are submitted by other applicants or consortia, they will be carefully checked and may also all be rejected on the same grounds.

NO-PROFIT AND CO-FINANCING

A grant from the European Union must not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the project carried out by the beneficiary. Profit is defined as surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred by the beneficiary, when the request is made for payment of the balance¹⁴⁸. The no-profit principle does not apply to grants provided in the form of a unit cost, a lump sum or a flat-rate financing, including scholarships, neither to grant requests that do not exceed 60 000 EUR. For the purpose of calculating the profit generated by the grant, co-financing in the form of contributions in kind will not be taken into account.

Furthermore, an EU grant is an incentive to carry out a project which would not be feasible without the EU financial support, and is based on the principle of co-financing. Co-financing implies that the EU grant may not finance the entire costs of the project; the project must be funded by sources of co-financing other than the EU grant.

When the EU grant is provided in the form of a unit cost, a lump sum or a flat-rate financing - this is the case for most of the Actions covered by this Guide - the principles of no-profit and co-funding are ensured by the Commission for the Action as a whole in advance when it defines the rates or percentages of such units, lump sums and flat-rates. The respect of the no-profit and co-financing principles is generally assumed and therefore, applicants do not have to provide information about sources of funding other than the EU grant, nor they have to justify the costs incurred by the project.

However, the payment of the grant based on the reimbursement on the basis of contribution to unit costs, lump sums, or flat-rate financing is without prejudice to the right of access to the beneficiaries' statutory records. Where a check or audit reveals that the generating event has not occurred (e.g. project activities not realised as approved at application stage, participants not taking part in the activities, etc.) and an undue payment has been made to the beneficiary on a grant based on the reimbursement on the basis of contribution to unit costs, lump sums, or flat-rate financing, the National or Executive Agency shall be entitled to recover up to the amount of the grant. Similarly, if the activities undertaken or the outputs produced are of insufficient quality, the grant may be reduced partly or in full even if the activities have taken place and are eligible.

In addition, for statistical and monitoring purposes the European Commission may carry out surveys on samples of beneficiaries aimed at quantifying the actual costs incurred in projects funded based on the reimbursement on the basis of contribution to unit costs, lump sums, or flat-rate financing.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS APPLYING TO GRANTS PAID ON THE BASIS OF REIMBURSEMENT OF A SPECIFIED PORTION OF ELIGIBLE COSTS

When the EU grant is provided as a reimbursement of a specified portion of eligible costs, the following provisions apply:

ELIGIBLE COSTS

An EU grant must not exceed an overall amount which is established by the National or Executive Agency at the time of the project selection on the basis of the estimated eligible costs indicated in the application form. Eligible costs are costs actually incurred by the beneficiary of a grant which meet all of the following criteria:

- they are incurred during the lifetime of the project, with the exception of costs relating to final reports and audit certificates;
- they are indicated in the estimated overall budget of the project;
- they are necessary for the implementation of the project which is the subject of the grant;
- they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the beneficiary is established and according to the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary;
- they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;

¹⁴⁸ To this aim, the receipts are limited to income generated by the project, as well as financial contributions specifically assigned by donors to the financing of eligible costs. The profit (or the loss) as defined above is then the difference between:

- the provisionally accepted amount of the grant, the income generated by the action and the financial contributions specifically assigned by donors to the financing of eligible costs, and
- the eligible costs incurred by the beneficiary.

In addition, whenever a profit is made, it will be recovered. The National Agency or Executive Agency are entitled to recover the percentage of the profit corresponding to the Union contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary to carry out the action. Further clarifications on the calculation of the profit will be provided for actions for which grants take the form of reimbursement of a specified proportion of eligible costs.

- they are reasonable, justified, and comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.
- They are not covered through EU grants in the form of contribution to unit costs, lump sums or flat-rate financing.

The following categories of costs are also considered eligible:

- costs relating to a pre-financing guarantee lodged by the beneficiary of the grant, where that guarantee is required by the National or Executive Agency;
- costs relating to external audits where such audits are required in support of the requests for payments by the National or Executive Agency;
- depreciation costs, provided they are actually incurred by the beneficiary.

The beneficiary's internal accounting and auditing procedures must permit direct reconciliation of the costs and revenue declared in respect of the project with the corresponding accounting statements and supporting documents.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

Value added tax will be considered as an eligible cost only if it is not recoverable under the applicable national VAT legislation¹⁴⁹. The only exception relates to activities or transactions in which states, regional and local government authorities and other public bodies engage as public authorities¹⁵⁰. In addition:

- deductible VAT not actually deducted (due to national conditions or to the carelessness of beneficiaries) is not eligible;
- the VAT Directive does not apply to non EU countries. Organisations from Partner Countries can be exempted from taxes (including VAT), duties and charges, if an agreement has been signed between the European Commission and the Partner Country where the organisation is established.

Eligible indirect costs

For certain types of projects (for details of the funding rules for Actions, please consult Part B of this Guide) a flat-rate amount not exceeding 7% of the eligible direct costs of the project is eligible under indirect costs, representing the beneficiary's general administrative costs (e.g. electricity or Internet bills, cost for premises, cost of permanent staff, etc.) which can be regarded as chargeable to the project.

Indirect costs may not include costs entered under another budget heading. Indirect costs are not eligible where the beneficiary already receives an operating grant from the budget of the European Union (for example in the framework of the call for proposals on Civil Society Cooperation under the Erasmus+ Programme).

INELIGIBLE COSTS

The following costs shall not be considered eligible:

- return on capital;
- debt and debt service charges;
- provisions for losses or debts;
- interest owed;
- doubtful debts;
- exchange losses;
- VAT, when it is considered as recoverable under the applicable national VAT legislation (see above paragraph on Value Added Tax);
- costs declared by the beneficiary and covered by another project or work programme receiving an EU grant (see also above paragraph on eligible indirect costs);
- excessive or reckless expenditure;
- in the case of renting or leasing of equipment, the cost of any buy-out option at the end of the lease or rental period;
- costs of opening and operating bank accounts (including costs of transfers from/to the National or Executive Agency charged by the bank of the beneficiary).

¹⁴⁹ In the Member States the VAT national legislation translates the VAT Directive 2006/112/EC.

¹⁵⁰ See article 13(1) of the Directive.

INCOME

The applicant must indicate in the application form the contribution from sources other than the EU grant. External co-financing may take the form of the beneficiary's own resources, financial contributions from third parties or income generated by the project. If, at the time of the final report and request of payment of the balance, there is evidence that there is a surplus of the income over the eligible costs incurred by the project, the National Agency or Executive Agency is entitled to recover the percentage of the profit corresponding to the Union contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary to carry out the project. This provision does not apply to projects requesting a grant that does not exceed 60 000 EUR.

Contributions in kind are not considered as a possible source of co-financing.

STEP 4: FILL IN AND SUBMIT THE APPLICATION FORM

To request an EU grant under the Erasmus+ Programme, applicants must use the forms specific for each Action and available on the websites of the European Commission, of the National Agencies or of the Executive Agency (for the contact details, see Annex IV of this Guide).

In case of projects submitted on behalf of consortia, the coordinating organisation or group submits a single application for the whole project on behalf of all the participating organisations. The application must be submitted to the appropriate National or Executive Agency (see sections "where to apply" for each Action, in Part B of this Guide).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

ONLINE E-FORMS

For most Actions of the Programme, applicants are required to submit their application online to the appropriate National or Executive Agency using the correct electronic form and including all requested annexes.

The electronic form must be completed in one of the official languages used in Programme Countries. In case of Actions managed at centralised level by the Executive Agency, applicants must fill in the form in one of the EU official languages.

For more information, consult the guidelines on how to fill in and submit an electronic form. These guidelines also provide information on what to do in case of technical problems; they are available on the websites of the National Agencies (specific for decentralised Actions), Executive Agency (specific for centralised Actions) and European Commission.

In case of multiple submissions of the same application in the same selection round to the same National Agency or the Executive Agency, the National or Executive Agency will always consider valid the last version submitted before the deadline has expired. Applications sent by post, courier service, fax or email will not be accepted. In case of multiple submissions of the same or very similar applications of the same applicant organisation or consortium to different Agencies, all applications will be automatically rejected (see section on non-cumulative award).

APPLICATION FORMS ON PAPER

Some centralised Actions of the Programme may not be supported by electronic forms. For these Actions, applications must be sent by post (date as per postmark) or courier service (date of receipt by the courier service) to the Executive Agency (see contact details in Annex IV of this Guide). Applications sent by fax or email will not be accepted.

Applicants cannot make any changes to their grant application after the submission deadline.

RESPECT THE DEADLINE

The application must be submitted by the deadline set for each Action. The deadlines for the submission of projects are specified for each Action in the Part B "Eligibility Criteria" of this Guide.

N.B.: irrespective of the day of the deadline, the deadline for submission of electronic forms is always set at 12:00 (midday Brussels time). Applicants established in countries that have a different time zone should carefully consider the time differences to avoid rejections.

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE THE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED?

All applications received by the National Agencies or by the Executive Agency undergo an evaluation procedure.

THE EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Project proposals are assessed by the National or Executive Agency receiving the application, exclusively on the basis of the criteria described in this Guide. The assessment implies:

- a formal check to verify that the eligibility and exclusion criteria are respected;
- a quality assessment to evaluate the extent to which the participating organisations meet the selection criteria (i.e. operational and financial capacity) and the project meets the award criteria. Such quality assessment is in most cases carried out with the support of independent experts. In their assessment, experts will be supported by guidelines developed by the European Commission; these guidelines will be made available on the websites of the European Commission and of the Agencies responsible for the management of Erasmus+ projects;
- a verification, that the proposal does not present risks of double funding. If necessary, such verification is carried out in cooperation with other Agencies or other stakeholders.

The National or Executive Agency will appoint an evaluation committee to oversee the management of the whole selection process. On the basis of the assessment carried out by experts, the evaluation committee will establish a list of projects proposed for selection. In the cases of Capacity Building in the field of higher education the Executive Agency establishes a ranking of eligible proposals per region of the eligible Partner Countries of the world (see section "Eligible countries" in Part A of this Guide). From the proposals ranked with the highest scores, the evaluation committee will short-list the projects on which different stakeholders in the eligible Partner Countries (such as EU Delegations, Ministries of Higher Education, National Erasmus+ Offices, national or regional organisations and bodies) will be consulted on the relevance and feasibility of the project in the local context, namely:

- relevance of the project objectives to the reform and modernisation of higher education systems in the partner country;
- relevance of the project proposal to the particular needs and feasibility constraints of the partner country/countries or region(s) (including synergy with any other initiatives and avoidance of duplication);
- the extent to which the project addresses the beneficiary's particular needs for capacity building.

For all actions covered by this Guide, during the evaluation process, applicants may be asked to provide additional information or to clarify the supporting documents submitted in connection with the application, provided that such information or clarification does not substantially change the proposal. Additional information and clarifications are particularly justified in case of obvious clerical errors made by the applicant, or in those cases where –for projects funded through multi-beneficiary agreements – one or more mandates of the partners are missing (for multi-beneficiary agreements, see section "grant agreement/decision below") .

FINAL DECISION

At the end of the evaluation procedure, the National or Executive Agency decides on the projects to be granted on the basis of:

- the ranking list proposed by the evaluation committee;
- the budget available for any given Action (or any given activity within an Action)

and in addition, for Capacity Building in higher education the decision is also made on the basis of:

- the results from the consultation process (see above);
- the budget available for any given region of the world, as defined in the financial instruments of the EU external action;
- the need to achieve a geographical balance within a region in terms of number of projects per country, within the limits of the available budget and provided that sufficient quality is guaranteed;
- the need to ensure that the overall results of the selection guarantees a sufficient coverage of the priorities of the Action.

After the completion of the selection procedure, the application files and accompanying material are not sent back to the applicant, irrespective of the outcome of the procedure.

MOBILITY PROJECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUTH WORKERS

The Actions supported by the Erasmus+ Programme in the field of youth provide many opportunities for young people to acquire competences and grow as individuals, through non-formal and informal learning.

Non-formal learning refers to the learning which takes place outside formal educational curriculum. It has a participative and learner-centred approach; it is carried out by learners on a voluntary basis and therefore is closely linked to young people's needs, aspirations and interests. By providing an additional source and new forms of learning, such activities are also important means to improve the attainment in formal education and training as well as to address young NEETs (i.e. young people not in employment, education or training) or young people with fewer opportunities and combat social exclusion.

Informal learning refers to the learning in daily life activities, in work, with peers, etc. It is mainly learning by doing. In the youth sector, informal learning can take place in youth initiatives, in peer group discussions, through voluntary activities and in a variety of other situations.

Non-formal and informal learning enable young people to acquire essential competences that contribute to their personal and socio-educational development and foster their active participation in society, thereby improving their employment prospects. Learning activities within the youth field are meant to have a significantly positive impact on young people as well as on the organisations involved, the communities in which these activities take place, the youth field itself and the European economic and societal sectors at large.

A high-quality non-formal and informal learning dimension is a key aspect of all youth projects supported under the Erasmus+ Programme. Youth projects funded by the Erasmus+ Programme must adhere to the following non-formal and informal learning principles:

- learning in non-formal contexts is intended and voluntary;
- young people and youth workers are actively participating in the planning, preparation, implementation and evaluation of the project;
- learning activities take place in a diverse range of environments and situations;
- the activities are carried out with the support of professional facilitators (such as trainers, youth workers, experts in the youth field) or volunteers (such as youth leaders, youth trainers, etc.);
- the activities usually document learning in a specific, field-oriented way.

The activities must also be planned in advance and be based on participatory methods that:

- offer space for interaction of participants, sharing of ideas, avoiding passive listening;
- allow participants to contribute to the activities with their own knowledge and skills, reversing the traditional roles of outside "experts" (a reversal of learning, from extracting to empowering);
- allow participants to undertake their own analyses, including reflections on competences acquired during the activity (i.e. their own learning outcomes);
- ensure that participants have influence over project decisions, not simply involvement.

Finally, the activities should have an intercultural/European dimension and:

- encourage participants to reflect on European topics and to involve them in the construction of Europe;
- offer participants the opportunity to identify common values with persons from different countries in spite of their cultural differences;
- challenge viewpoints that perpetuate inequality, discrimination;
- promote the respect of cultural diversity and fight against racism or xenophobia.

1. BEFORE MOBILITY

a. AGREEMENT BETWEEN PROJECT PARTNERS

All participating organisations involved in a youth mobility project are strongly recommended to sign an internal agreement between them. Such an agreement has the purpose of clearly defining responsibilities, tasks and financial contribution for all parties involved in the project. It is up to the participating organisations to jointly decide on how the EU grant will be distributed and which costs it will cover.

An internal agreement constitutes a key instrument for ensuring a solid and smooth cooperation among partners in a youth mobility project as well as to avoid or manage potential conflicts. Indicatively, it should contain at least the following information:

- project title and reference of the grant agreement between the applicant participating organisation and the granting Agency;
- names and contacts of all the participating organisations involved in the project;
- role and responsibilities of each participating organisation; division of the EU grant (according to the above responsibilities);
- modalities of payments and budget transfers among participating organisations.

Although this practice is strongly recommended to safeguard the interests of each partner in a project, such an agreement remains an internal document among partners; it will not be requested by the granting National Agency.

b. ACCREDITATION OF ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Accreditation serves to gain access to European Voluntary Service and to ensure that the principles and minimum quality standards of EVS are met. These standards are set in the EVS Charter and in the EVS Accreditation Guidelines that are published on the website¹⁵⁸ of the European Commission.

Any organisation from a Programme Country, a Western Balkan country, a Southern Mediterranean country, an Eastern Partnership country or from the Territory of Russia as recognised by international law wishing to send or receive EVS volunteers or to coordinate an EVS project must be accredited. Organisations taking part in large-scale EVS events or organisations from other Partner Countries of the world involved in Capacity-building projects can participate in EVS activities without accreditation.

To be accredited, an organisation must submit an application for accreditation. This form must be submitted to the relevant bodies responsible for accreditation (see below). The same organisation may request to be accredited for one or more purposes (as sending, as receiving and/or as coordinating organisation). If the organisation has more than one role in a project application, it must have a valid accreditation for all those roles.

The applications for accreditation can be submitted at any time (no deadline). However, these requests must be submitted within reasonable time before the submission of the project application including EVS activities (at least 6 weeks before the submission) in order to avoid that the EVS activity is rejected due to the fact that some of the organisations involved are not yet accredited.

The accreditation of EVS organisations is carried out by:

- the National Agency of the country where the organisation is located, for organisations located in Programme Countries;
- SALTO SEE for organisations located in Western Balkans countries;
- SALTO EECA for organisations located in Eastern Partnership countries and the Territory of Russia as recognised by international law;
- SALTO Euromed for organisations located in Southern Mediterranean countries.

The accreditation can be valid for the entire duration of the Erasmus+ Programme, or for a shorter period. The applicant enters the requested validity period in the accreditation form. The bodies in charge of accreditation may carry out regular or punctual controls to verify that the accredited organisations still meet the EVS quality standards. Following these controls, the accreditation may be temporarily suspended or withdrawn.

In order to facilitate partner-finding profiles of all accredited organisations are published in a database of European Voluntary Service organisations (Volunteering Database)¹⁵⁹. Accredited organisations are invited to use the Volunteering Database to advertise when they are looking for volunteers for EVS projects. The database can be consulted on the European Youth Portal.

¹⁵⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/youth/programme/mobility/european-voluntary-service_en.htm

¹⁵⁹ Available at: http://europa.eu/youth/eu/article/46/19795_en

c. SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD

If applicable, it is strongly recommended that young people and youth workers taking part in youth mobility projects are in possession of a European Health Insurance Card. This is a free card that gives access to medically necessary, state-provided healthcare during a temporary stay in any of the 28 EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, under the same conditions and at the same cost (free in some countries) as people insured in that country. More information on the card and on how to obtain it is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559>.

YOUTH EXCHANGES

All participants in a Youth Exchange must be insured against the risks linked to their participation in these activities. The Erasmus+ Programme does not define a unique format of insurance, nor does it recommend specific insurance companies. The Programme leaves it up to participating organisations to seek the most suitable insurance policy according to the type of activity carried out and to the insurance formats available at national level. Furthermore, it is not necessary to stipulate a project-specific insurance, if the participants are already covered by insurance policies previously stipulated by themselves or the participating organisations. In any circumstances, the following areas must be covered: third party liability for youth leaders (including, wherever appropriate, professional indemnity or insurance for responsibility); accident and serious illness (including permanent or temporary incapacity); death (including repatriation in case of activities carried out abroad); wherever relevant, medical assistance, including after care and special insurance for particular circumstances such as outdoor activities.

EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Every EVS volunteer must be enrolled in the EVS Insurance foreseen by the Erasmus+ Programme, which complements the coverage by the European Health Insurance Card and/or national social security systems.

Those volunteers who are not eligible for the European Health Insurance Card shall be entitled to receive a full coverage through the EVS Insurance provided by the European Commission.

The coordinating organisation, in cooperation with the sending and receiving organisations, is responsible for the enrolment of the volunteer(s). This enrolment must be done before the departure of the volunteer(s) and cover the duration of the EVS activity.

Information about the coverage and support available through the insurance for EVS volunteers, as well as instructions for enrolment, is available on the website of the Executive Agency.

d. VISA REQUIREMENTS

Young people and youth workers taking part in youth mobility projects may need to obtain a visa for staying abroad in the Programme or Partner Country hosting the activity.

It is a collective responsibility of all the participating organisations to ensure that the authorisations required (short/long stay visas or residence permits) are in order before the planned activity takes place. It is strongly recommended that the authorisations are requested from the competent authorities well in advance, since the process may take several weeks. National Agencies and the Executive Agency may give further advice and support concerning visas, residence permits, social security, etc.

e. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION OF EVS VOLUNTEERS

SELECTION

The selection of volunteers can be carried out by any of the organisations involved in the project (usually this task is carried out by the sending or coordinating organisation).

The European Voluntary Service is open to all young people, including people with fewer opportunities. Volunteers are to be selected in a fair, transparent and objective way, regardless of their ethnic group, religion, sexual orientation, political opinion, etc. No previous qualifications, educational level, specific experience or language knowledge should be required. A more specific profile of the volunteer might be drawn up if justified by the nature of the tasks of the EVS activity or by the project context.

ANNEX II – DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION OF RESULTS

A practical guide for beneficiaries

INTRODUCTION

Activities serving the dissemination and exploitation of results are a way to showcase the work that has been done as part of the Erasmus+ project. Sharing results, lessons learned and outcomes and findings beyond the participating organisations will enable a wider community to benefit from a work that has received EU funding, as well as to promote the organisation's efforts towards the objectives of Erasmus+, which attaches fundamental importance to the link between Programme and policies. Therefore each of the projects supported by the Programme is a step towards achieving the general objectives defined by the Programme to improve and modernise education, training and youth systems.

Dissemination activities will vary between projects, and it is important to consider what kinds of dissemination activities are fitted to each participating organisations. Partners in smaller projects should undertake dissemination and exploitation appropriate to the level of their activity. Dissemination activities for a mobility project will trigger different requirements than those for a partnership project. The extent of dissemination and exploitation activities will increase with the size and strategic importance of the project. When applying, applicants will be asked to explain their intentions/plans for dissemination and exploitation activities, and if successful, required to carry them out.

Section 1 defines some key terms and explains what can be achieved with dissemination and exploitation of results and how these activities will contribute to the overall objectives of the project.

Section 2 outlines the requirements for Erasmus+ beneficiaries in terms of dissemination and exploitation of results.

1. Dissemination and exploitation of project results: what, why, who, when, where and how

WHAT DO DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION MEAN?

Dissemination is a planned process of providing information on the results of programmes and initiatives to key actors. It occurs as and when the result of programmes and initiatives become available. In terms of the Erasmus+ Programme this involves spreading the word about the project successes and outcomes as far as possible. Making others aware of the project will impact on other organisations in the future and will contribute to raising the profile of the organisation carrying out the project. To effectively disseminate results, an appropriate process at the beginning of the project needs to be designed. This should cover why, what, how, when, to whom and where disseminating results will take place, both during and after the funding period.

Exploitation means to use and benefit from something. For Erasmus+ this means maximising the potential of the funded activities, so that the results are used beyond the lifetime of the project. It should be noted that the project is being carried out as part of an international programme working towards lifelong learning and supporting European policies in the field of education, training, youth and sport. Results should be developed in such a way that they can be tailored to the needs of others; transferred to new areas; sustained after the funding period has finished; or used to influence future policy and practice.

WHAT IS INTENDED BY "RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY"?

Results are the outputs of the European activity or project funded. The type of result will vary depending on the type of project. Results can be accessible products like curricula, studies, reports, materials, events, or websites; results can also mean the knowledge and experience gained by participants, partners or other stakeholders involved in the project.

WHAT DO IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY MEAN?

Impact is the effect that the activity carried out and its results have on people, practices, organisations and systems. Dissemination and exploitation of results plans can help to maximize the effect of the activities being developed so that they will impact on the immediate participants and partners for years to come. Benefits to other stakeholders should also be considered in order to make a bigger difference and get the most from the project.

Sustainability is the capacity of the project to continue and use its results beyond the end of the funding period. The project results can then be used and exploited in the longer-term, perhaps via commercialisation, accreditation or mainstreaming. Not all parts of the project or results may be sustainable and it is important to view dissemination and exploitation as a progression that extends beyond the duration of the project, and into the future.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION?

The first goal of dissemination and exploitation is to spread and embed the project's results. The second goal is to contribute to the implementation and shaping of national and European policies and systems. Beneficiaries should develop their own way of achieving this aim. To develop ideas for dissemination and exploitation is important for every project funded by the Erasmus+ Programme. However, the type and intensity of dissemination and exploitation activities should be proportional and tailored to particular needs and type of project developed. This includes whether the project is process-oriented or aimed to produce tangible deliverables; if it is stand alone or part of a larger initiative; whether is developed by large or small-scale participating organisations, etc. Participating organisations should discuss the aims and objectives of the activities/plan and decide on the best activities and approaches as well as share the tasks among partners taking into account the particular specifics of the project.

For structured cooperation projects such as Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances, Sector Skills Alliances, Sport, Collaborative Partnerships and Capacity-building projects, a good quality dissemination and exploitation plan should include measurable and realistic objectives, adhere to a timetable and provide a resource planning for the activities to be undertaken. Involving target groups in activities will also help to maximise the use of the project's results. It is important to get the strategy right as this is the main way that will help communicating with the target audiences. Such a requirement is not foreseen for mobility projects. However, project organisers are invited to communicate the learning outcomes reached by participants in such activities. They should also encourage participants to share with others what they have gained from taking part in the mobility activity. Another aim is to raise the quality of the Programme by stimulating innovative projects and sharing good practices.

Communication is a broader concept. It includes information and promotion activities to raise awareness and enhance the visibility of the project's activities in addition to the dissemination and exploitation of the project results. However, very often it is difficult to make a clear distinction between these areas. For this reason it can be more efficient to plan an overall strategy framework covering both fields so as to make the most of the available resources. Dissemination and exploitation of results should form a crucial part of any communication activities taking place during the project's lifetime.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO SHARE PROJECT RESULTS? WHAT ARE THE WIDER BENEFITS?

Taking the time to develop a comprehensive dissemination and exploitation plan will be advantageous for both the beneficiary and its partners. As well as raising the profile of the organisation, dissemination and exploitation activities can often create new opportunities to extend the project and its results or develop new partnerships for the future. Successful dissemination and exploitation may also lead to external recognition of the work carried out adding further credit to it. Sharing the results will enable others to benefit from the activities and experiences of the Erasmus+ Programme. Project results can serve as examples and inspire others by showing what is possible to achieve under the Programme.

Dissemination and exploitation of project results can help to inform future policy and practice. Dissemination and exploitation of results activities carried out by beneficiaries will support the wider aim of improving the European Union's systems. The impact of the Erasmus+ Programme is measured not only by the quality of project results but also by the extent to which these results are known and used outside the project partnership. By reaching out to as many potential users as possible through effective dissemination, this will help to achieve a return on investment.

The dissemination and exploitation of project results also increases awareness of the opportunities offered by the Programme and highlights the European added value of activities supported by Erasmus+. This can contribute to a positive public perception and encourage wider participation in this new EU Programme. It is fundamental to consider the aims and objectives of the dissemination and exploitation plan. These should link to the project aims to ensure that the methods and approaches used are appropriate for the Erasmus+ project and its results, as well as for the identified target audiences. Dissemination and exploitation goals may be to:

- raise awareness;
- extend the impact;
- engage stakeholders and target groups;
- share a solution and a know how;
- influence policy and practice;
- develop new partnerships.

WHAT CAN BE DISSEMINATED AND EXPLOITED?

The next step is to identify **what** to disseminate and exploit. The results of the project may be of diverse nature and consist of both concrete (tangible) results as well as of skills and personal experiences that both project organisers and participants to the activities have acquired (intangible results).

Tangible results may include for example:

- an approach or a model to solve a problem;
- a practical tool or product, such as handbooks, curricula, e-learning tools;
- research reports or studies;
- good practice guides or case studies;
- evaluation reports;
- recognition certificates;
- newsletters or information leaflets.

In order to disseminate more widely experiences, strategies, processes, etc, it is recommended to document them.

Intangible results may include for example:

- knowledge and experience gained by participants, learners or staff;
- increased skills or achievements;
- improved cultural awareness;
- better language skills.

Intangible results are often more difficult to measure. The use of interviews, questionnaires, tests, observations or self-assessment mechanisms may help to record this type of result.

WHO ARE THE TARGET AUDIENCES?

Identifying target groups, both at different geographical levels (local, regional, national, European) and in the own field of the beneficiary (colleagues, peers, local authorities, other organisations leading the same type of activity, networks, etc.) is essential. Activities and messages have to be tailored appropriately taking into account audiences and target groups, for example:

- end-users of the project activities and deliverables;
- stakeholders, experts or practitioners in the field and other interested parties;
- decision-makers at local, regional, national and European level;
- press and media;
- general public.

The project plans should be flexible enough to allow target groups and other stakeholders to become involved during the different stages of the project. This will help to ensure that the project remains on track in terms of their needs. Their participation will also highlight the potential value of your project as well as help to spread the news to other interested parties throughout Europe.

HOW TO DISSEMINATE AND EXPLOIT RESULTS?

In order to reach as many people as possible, it is advisable to translate as many communication materials and project outputs in as many languages as possible. It is recommended to cover all languages of the partnership and English; the cost of these translations could be included in the grant request if necessary.

There are many different ways to disseminate and exploit results. Being creative and thinking of fresh ideas so that the Erasmus+ project and results really stand out will be appreciated. Beneficiaries could use:

- the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform (see below);
- project or organisational websites;
- meetings and visits to key stakeholders;
- dedicated discussion opportunities such as information sessions, workshops, seminars, training courses, exhibitions, demonstrations, or peer reviews;
- targeted written material such as reports, articles in specialised press, newsletters, press releases, leaflets or brochures;
- audiovisual media and products such as radio, TV, YouTube, Flickr, video clips, podcasts or apps;
- social media;
- public events;
- project branding and logos;
- existing contacts and networks.

In terms of exploitation it is important to think about how results can make a difference to the project, end-users, peers or to policy makers. Exploitation mechanisms include:

- positive reputational effects for the participating organisations;
- increased awareness on a theme, target or area of work;
- increased financial support by other supporters or donors;
- increased influencing on policy and practice.

WHEN SHOULD DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION ACTIVITIES BE CARRIED OUT?

Dissemination and exploitation of results are an integral part of the Erasmus+ project throughout its lifetime: from the beneficiary's initial idea, during the project and even after European funding has ended.

Setting up a timetable of activities together with the partners involved and allocating appropriate budget and resources will be necessary. The plan will also have to:

- agree realistic targets and deadlines with partners to monitor progress;
- align dissemination and exploitation activities with key stages of the project;
- offer sufficient flexibility to respond to the needs of the target group as well as wider developments in policy and practice.

Examples of activities at different stages of the project cycle are:

BEFORE the project starts

- drafting the dissemination and exploitation plan;
- definition of the expected impact and deliverables;
- consideration of how and to whom dissemination and exploitation outcomes will be disseminated.

DURING the project

- contacting relevant media e.g. at local or regional level;
 - conducting regular activities such as information sessions, training, demonstrations, peer reviews;
 - assessing the impact on target groups;
 - involving other stakeholders in view of transferring results to end users/ new areas/policies.
- AT FINAL REPORT STAGE
- uploading the final project results and an update of the project description on the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform.

AFTER the project

- continuing further dissemination (as described above);
- developing ideas for future cooperation;
- evaluating achievements and impact;
- contacting relevant media;
- contacting policy-makers if relevant.

HOW TO ASSESS SUCCESS?

The impact assessment is an essential part of the process. It evaluates achievements and generates recommendations for future improvements. Indicators could be used to measure progress towards goals. These are signs that help to measure performance. Indicators can be both quantitative relating to numbers and percentages as well as qualitative relating to the quality of the participation and experience. Questionnaires, interviews, observations and assessments could also be used to measure the impact. Defining indicators relating to the different project activities should be foreseen at the start of the project and part of the overall dissemination plan.

Some examples:

- Facts and figures related to the website of project organisers (updates, visits, consultation, cross referencing);
- Numbers of meetings with key stakeholders;
- Numbers of participants involved in discussions and information sessions (workshops, seminars, peer reviews); follow-up measures;
- Production and circulation of products;
- Media coverage (articles in specialised press newsletters, press releases, interviews, etc.);
- Visibility in the social media and attractiveness of website;
- Participation in public events;
- Links with existing networks and transnational partners; transfer of information and know-how;
- Impact on regional, national, EU policy measures;
- Feedback from end-users, other stakeholders, peers, policy-makers

2. REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION

GENERAL QUALITATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Depending on the action, applicants for funding under Erasmus+ are required to consider dissemination and exploitation activities at the application stage, during their activity and after the activity has finished. This section gives an overview of the basic requirements laid down in the official documentation of the Erasmus+ Programme.

Dissemination and exploitation is one of the award criteria on which the application will be assessed. Depending on the project type, it will be given a different weight in the assessment of the application.

- For mobility projects, listing planned dissemination activities and identifying potential target groups will be requested in the application form.
- For cooperation projects, a detailed and comprehensive plan, describing targets, tools and outcomes will be requested and further assessed. Although generally one partner will take the responsibility for dissemination and exploitation coordination for the whole project, the responsibility for implementation should be shared among all partners. Each partner will be involved in these activities according to the needs and roles in the project.

For all project types, reporting on the activities carried out to share the results inside and outside participating organisation will be requested at final stage.

VISIBILITY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND OF THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

Beneficiaries shall always use the European emblem (the 'EU flag') and the name of the European Union spelled out in full in all communication and promotional material. The preferred option to communicate about EU funding through the Erasmus+ Programme is to write 'Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union' next to the EU emblem.

Examples of acknowledgement of EU funding and translations of the text are available at http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about-eacea/visual-identity_en

The brand name of 'Erasmus+' shall not be translated.

Guidelines for beneficiaries on the use of the EU emblem in the context of EU programmes are available at http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual_identity/pdf/use-emblem_en.pdf

USE OF THE ERASMUS+ PROJECT RESULTS PLATFORM

A new platform was established for Erasmus+ to offer a comprehensive overview of projects funded under the Programme and to highlight good practice examples and success stories. The platform also makes available products/deliverables/intellectual outputs which are the result of the projects funded.

Good practices will be the object of an annual selection by each National Agency and by the Executive Agency. Success stories will be further selected at central level by DG EAC services.

The new platform serves different purposes:

- project database (including project summaries, URL links, etc.);
- database of project results giving access to end-users and practitioners to main outcomes;
- showcasing of good practices and success stories among Erasmus+ beneficiaries that will be selected every year at national and European level.

For most Erasmus+ projects, beneficiaries will be required to provide a summary describing their project in English at application stage.

The project summary is of particular importance as it provides a description for the general public. It should therefore be drafted in a plain language and clear style so that the actual content of the project can be quickly understood, also by outsiders.

The following elements are to be part of the summary: context/background of project; objectives of project; number and profile of participants; description of activities; methodology to be used in carrying out the project; a short description of the results and impact envisaged and finally the potential longer term benefits.

The Erasmus+ Project Results Platform can be consulted at: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/>

ANNEX III – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accompanying person	<p>as a general definition applying to all fields of education training and youth, an accompanying person is the one who accompanies participants – whether learners or staff/youth workers - with special needs (i.e. with disabilities) in a mobility activity, in order to ensure protection, provide support and extra assistance.</p> <p>Additionally, in the case of VET learners' mobility under Key Action 1 and short or long term pupils' mobility under Key Action 2, an accompanying person may also be the adult that accompanies one or several VET learners or school pupils (especially minors or youngsters with little experience outside their own country) abroad, to ensure their protection and safety as well as their effective learning during the mobility experience.</p>
Accreditation	<p>process that ensures that the organisations wishing to receive funding under an Action of the Erasmus+ Programme respect a set of qualitative standards or pre-requisites defined by the European Commission for that given Action. Depending on the type of Action or on the country where the requesting organisation is located, the accreditation is carried out by the Executive Agency, a National Agency or a SALTO Resource Centre. The accreditation process is in place for organisations wishing to participate in higher education projects (including mobility) or in mobility activities in the field of youth.</p>
Action	<p>a strand or measure of the Erasmus+ Programme. Examples of Actions are: Strategic Partnerships in the field of education, training and youth, Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, Sectors Skills Alliances, etc.</p>
Activity	<p>a set of tasks carried out as part of a project. An activity can be of different types (mobility activities, cooperation activities, etc.). In the framework of Jean Monnet, an Activity is equivalent to an Action (see definition above).</p>
Adult education	<p>all forms of non-vocational adult education, whether of a formal, non-formal or informal nature (for continuous vocational training see "VET").</p>
Adult education organisation	<p>any public or private organisation active in the field of adult learning.</p>
Adult learner	<p>any person who, having completed or is no longer involved in initial education or training, returns to some forms of continuing learning (formal, non-formal or informal).</p>
Advance Planning Visit (APV)	<p>planning visit ahead of youth mobility activities. The purpose of the APV is to build trust, understanding and a solid partnership between organisations in the project. Young participants can be involved in the visit to integrate them fully in the project design.</p>
Applicant	<p>participating organisation or informal group that submits grant application. Applicants may apply either individually or on behalf of a other organisations involved in the project. In the latter case, the applicant is also defined as coordinator.</p>
(Application) deadline	<p>final date by when the application form must be submitted to the National or Executive Agency to be considered eligible.</p>
Apprenticeship (Apprentice)	<p>apprenticeship-type schemes are understood as those forms of Initial Vocational Education and Training (IVET) that formally combine and alternate company based training (periods of practical work experience at a workplace) with school based education (periods of theoretical/practical education followed in a school or training centre), and whose successful completion leads to nationally recognised initial VET qualifications.</p>
Beneficiary	<p>if the project is selected, the applicant becomes beneficiary of an Erasmus+ grant. The beneficiary signs a grant agreement with – or is notified of a grant decision by – the National or Executive Agency that has selected the project. If the application was made on behalf of other participating organisations, the partners may become co-beneficiaries of the grant.</p>

Blended learning	study type that involves learning in a combination of modes. Often used more specifically to refer to courses which use a combination of traditional face-to-face teaching work-shops or seminars, and distance learning techniques on-line (such as internet, television, conference calls).
Call for proposals	invitation published by or on behalf of the Commission to present, within a given deadline, a proposal for action that corresponds to the objectives pursued and fulfils the required conditions. Calls for proposals are published in the Official Journal of the European Union (C series) and/or at relevant websites of the Commission, National or Executive Agency.
Certificate	in the context of Erasmus+, a document issued to a person having completed a learning activity in the field of education, training and youth, where relevant. Such document certifies the attendance and, where applicable, the learning outcomes of the participant in the activity.
Clerical Error	a minor mistake or inadvertence unintentionally made in a document that changes its meaning, such as a typographical error or the unintentional addition or omission of a word, phrase, or figure.
Co-financing	the co-financing principle implies that part of the costs of a project supported by the EU must be borne by the beneficiary, or covered through external contributions other than the EU grant.
Company	legal persons established under civil or commercial law, including cooperative societies, and other legal persons governed by public or private law, except those which are non-profit-making.
Consortium	two or more participating organisations teaming up to prepare, implement and follow up a project or an activity within a project. A consortium can be national (i.e. involving organisations established in the same country) or international (involving participating organisations from different countries).
Coordinator/Coordinating organisation	a participating organisation applying for an Erasmus+ grant on behalf of a consortium of partner organisations.
Credit mobility	a limited period of study or traineeship abroad - in the framework of on-going studies at a home institution - for the purpose of gaining credits. After the mobility phase, students return to their home institution to complete their studies.
Credit	a set of learning outcomes of an individual which have been assessed and which can be accumulated towards a qualification or transferred to other learning programmes or qualifications.
Degree mobility	period of study abroad aimed at the acquisition of a whole degree or certificate in the destination country/ies.
Diploma Supplement	an annex to the official qualification documentation, which is designed to provide more detailed information on the studies completed according to an agreed format which is internationally recognized a document accompanying a higher education diploma, providing a standardised description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies completed by its holder. It is produced by higher education institutions according to standards agreed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO. The Diploma Supplement is part of Europass (see below). In the context of an international joint study programme, it is recommended to deliver a "joint diploma supplement" covering the entire programme and endorsed by all the degree awarding universities.
Double degree/multiple degree	a study programme offered by at least two (double) or more (multiple) higher education institutions whereby the student receives, upon completion of the study programme, a separate degree certificate from each of the participating institutions.
Dual career	the combination of high-level sports training with general education or work.
ECHE (Erasmus Charter for Higher Education)	an accreditation granted by the European Commission giving the possibility to higher education institutions from Programme Countries to be eligible to apply and participate in learning and cooperation activities under Erasmus+. The Charter outlines the fundamental principles an institution should adhere to in organising and implementing high quality mobility and cooperation and states the requisites it agrees to comply with in order to ensure high quality services and procedures as well as the provision of reliable and transparent information.

ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System)	a learner-centred system for credit accumulation and transfer, based on the transparency of learning, teaching and assessment processes. Its objective is to facilitate planning, delivery and evaluation of study programmes and learner mobility through the recognition of qualifications and periods of learning. a system that helps to design, describe and deliver study programmes and award higher education qualifications. The use of ECTS, in conjunction with outcomes-based qualifications frameworks, makes study programmes and qualifications more transparent and facilitates the recognition of qualifications.
ECVET (European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training)	a system that aims to facilitate the validation, recognition and accumulation of work-related skills and knowledge acquired during a stay in another country or in different situations. ECVET aims for better compatibility between the different vocational education and training systems in place across Europe and their qualifications. It should create a technical framework to describe qualifications in terms of units of learning outcomes, and it includes assessment, transfer, accumulation and recognition procedures.
Enterprise	any undertaking engaged in an economic activity regardless of its size, legal form or of the economic sector in which it operates.
EQAVET (European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training)	a reference tool for policy-makers based on a four-stage quality cycle that includes goal setting and planning, implementation, evaluation and review. It respects the autonomy of national governments and is a voluntary system to be used by public authorities and other bodies involved in quality assurance.
EQF (European Qualifications Framework)	a common European reference tool that serves as a translation device between different education and training systems and their levels. It aims to improve the transparency, comparability and portability of qualifications across Europe, promoting workers' and learners' mobility and facilitating their lifelong learning, as defined in the 2008/C 111/01 Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council.
ESCO (multilingual classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations)	identifies and categorises skills and competences, qualifications and occupations relevant for the EU labour market and education and training, in 25 European languages. The system provides occupational profiles showing the relationships between occupations, skills, competences and qualifications. ESCO has been developed in an open IT format and is available for everyone to use free of charge.
Established	relates to an organisation or body fulfilling certain national conditions (registration, statement, publication, etc.) that allow such organisation or body to be formally recognized by its national authority. In case of an informal group of young people, the legal residence of its legal representative is considered as having the equivalent effects for the purposes of eligibility to an Erasmus+ grant.
Europass	Europass is a portfolio of five different documents and an electronic folder aiming to contain descriptions of the entire holder's learning achievements, official qualifications, work experience, skills and competences, acquired over time. These documents are: the Europass CV, the Diploma Supplement, the Certificate Supplement, the Europass Mobility and the Language Passport. Europass also includes the European Skills Passport, a user-friendly electronic folder that helps the holder to build up a personal, modular inventory of his/her skills and qualifications. The aim of Europass is to facilitate mobility and improve job and lifelong learning prospects in Europe.
European Development Plan	for VET, schools and adult education organisations, a document outlining the needs of the institution/organisation in terms of quality development and internationalisation, and how the planned European activities will meet those needs. The European Development Plan is part of the application form for schools and adult education organisations applying for learning mobility of staff under Key Action 1.

European Youth NGO	NGO that: operates through a formally recognised structure, composed of a) European body/secretariat (the applicant) legally established for at least one year in a Programme Country on the date of submission of the application and b) national organisations/branches in at least twelve Programme Countries having a statutory link with the European body/secretariat; 2) is active in the field of youth and runs activities that support the implementation of the fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy; 3) involves young people in the management and governance of the organisation.
Force majeure	an unforeseeable exceptional situation or event beyond the participant's control and not attributable to error or negligence on his/her part.
Grassroots sport	organised sport practised at local level by amateur sportspeople, and sport for all.
Group Leader	in youth mobility projects, a group leader is an adult who joins the young people participating in a Youth Exchange in order to ensure their effective learning (Youthpass), protection and safety.
Groups of young people active in youth work but not necessarily in the context of a youth organisation (also informal groups of young people)	group of at least four young people which does not have legal personality under the applicable national law, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf. These groups of young people can be applicants and partners in some Actions of Erasmus+. For the purpose of simplification, they are assimilated to legal persons (organisations, institutions, etc.) in this Guide and fit within the notion of Erasmus+ participating organisations for the Action in which they can take part. The group must be composed of at least four young persons and their age should be according with the overall age of the young people in the programme (13-30). In exceptional cases and if all young people are minors, the group could be represented by an adult. This would allow a group of young people (were all are minors) with a help of a youth worker/coach to submit an application.
Higher education institution	any type of higher education institution which, in accordance with national law or practice, offers recognised degrees or other recognised tertiary level qualifications, whatever such establishment may be called, or any institution which, in accordance with national law or practice, offers vocational education or training at tertiary level.
Higher education modernisation agenda	strategy of the European Commission aimed to support Member States' reforms and contribute to the goals of Europe 2020 in the field of higher education. The main areas for reform identified in the new agenda are: to increase the number of higher education graduates; to improve the quality and relevance of teaching and researcher training, to equip graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competences they need to succeed in high-skill occupations; to provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and to encourage cross-border co-operation to boost higher education performance; to strengthen the "knowledge triangle", linking education, research and business and to create effective governance and funding mechanisms in support of excellence.
Informal groups of young people	see the definition of "groups of young people active in youth work but not necessarily in the context of a youth organisation" above.
Informal learning	learning resulting from daily activities related to work, family or leisure which is not organised or structured in terms of objectives, time or learning support; it may be unintentional from the learner's perspective.
International	in the context of Erasmus+, relates to any action involving at least one Programme Country and at least one Partner Country.
Job Shadowing (practical learning experience)	a short stay at a partner organisation in another country with the aim of receiving training by following practitioners in their daily work in the receiving organisation, exchanging good practices, acquiring skills and knowledge and/or building long-term partnerships through participative observation.
Joint degree	single degree certificate awarded to a student upon completion of a joint programme. The joint degree must be signed by the competent authorities of two or more of the participating institutions jointly and recognised officially in the countries where those participating institutions are located.

Joint programmes	higher education (study or research) programmes jointly designed, delivered and fully recognised by two or more higher education institutions. Joint programmes can be implemented at any higher education level, i.e. bachelor, master or doctorate. Joint programmes can be national (i.e. when all universities involved are from the same country) or transnational/international (i.e. when at least two different countries are represented among the higher education institutions involved).
Key competences	the basic set of knowledge, skills and attitudes which all individuals need for personal fulfilment and development, active citizenship, social inclusion and employment, as described in Recommendation 2006/962/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council.
Learning mobility	moving physically to a country other than the country of residence, in order to undertake study, training or non-formal or informal learning; it may take the form of traineeships, apprenticeships, youth exchanges, volunteering, teaching or participation in a professional development activity, and may include preparatory activities, such as training in the host language, as well as sending, receiving and follow-up activities.
Learning outcomes	statements of what a learner knows, understands and is able to do on completion of a learning process, which are defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competence .
Lifelong learning	all general education, vocational education and training, non-formal learning and informal learning undertaken throughout life, resulting in an improvement in knowledge, skills and competences or participation in society within a personal, civic, cultural, social and/or employment-related perspective, including the provision of counselling and guidance services.
Mobility/Learning agreement	an agreement between the sending and receiving organisation, as well as the participating individuals, defining the aims and the content of the mobility period in order to ensure its relevance and quality. It can also be used as a basis for the recognition of the period abroad by the receiving organisation.
Month	in the context of the Erasmus+ Programme and for the purpose of calculating the grants, a month is equal to 30 days.
Non-formal learning	learning which takes place through planned activities (in terms of learning objectives and learning time) where some form of learning support is present, but which is not part of the formal education and training system.
Occupational profile	the set of skills, competences, knowledge and qualifications that is usually relevant for a specific occupation .
One-cycle study programmes	integrated/long programmes leading either to a first or a second-cycle degree and which, in some countries, can still be better characterised by duration in years rather than credits. In most of these countries, the programmes outside the Bologna first-cycle model are in the fields of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing and midwifery and in most cases involve 1-8 % of the student population. The typical length of integrated programmes leading to regulated professions is in general 300-360 ECTS/five-six years depending on the regulated profession in question.
Open licence	a way by which the owner of a work grants permission to everyone to use share and adapt the resource. A licence is associated to each resource. An open licence is not a transfer of copyrights or Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and the benefit.
Open Method of Coordination	an intergovernmental method providing a framework for cooperation between the EU Member States, whose national policies can thus be directed towards certain common objectives. Within the scope of the Programme, the OMC applies to education, training and youth.
Participants	in the context of Erasmus+ participants are considered those individuals fully involved in a project and, in some cases, receiving part of the European Union grant intended to cover their costs of participation (notably travel and subsistence). Under certain Actions of the Programme (i.e. Strategic Partnerships) a distinction is hence to be made between this category of participants (direct participants) and other individuals indirectly involved in the project (e.g. target groups).

Participating organisation	any organisation or informal group of young people involved in the implementation of an Erasmus+ project. Depending on their role in the project, participating organisations can be applicants or partners (also defined as co-applicants, if they are identified at time of submission of the grant application). If the project is granted, applicants become beneficiaries and partners may become co-beneficiaries if the project is financed through a multi-beneficiary grant.
Partner (organisation)	participating organisation involved in the project but not taking the role of applicant.
Partner Countries	countries which do not participate fully in the Erasmus+ Programme, but which may take part (as partners or applicants) in certain Actions of the Programme. The list of Erasmus+ Partner Countries is described in Part A of this Guide, section "Who can participate in the Erasmus+ Programme".
Partnership	an agreement between a group of participating organisations in different Programme Countries to carry out joint European activities in the fields of education, training, youth and sport or establishing a formal or informal network in a relevant field such as joint learning projects for pupils and their teachers in the form of class exchanges and individual long-term mobility, intensive programmes in higher education and cooperation between local and regional authorities to foster inter-regional, including cross-border, cooperation; it may be extended to institutions and/or organisations from Partner Countries with a view to strengthening the quality of the partnership.
People with fewer opportunities	persons facing some obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to education, training and youth work opportunities. A more detailed definition of people with fewer opportunities can be found in Part A of this Guide - section "Equity and inclusion".
People with special needs	a person with special needs is a potential participant whose individual physical, mental or health-related situation is such that his/her participation in the project or mobility activity would not be possible without extra financial support.
Programme Countries	EU and non EU countries that have established a National Agency which participate fully in the Erasmus+ Programme. The list of Erasmus+ Programme Countries is described in Part A of this Guide, section "Who can participate in the Erasmus+ Programme".
Project	a coherent set of activities which are organised in order to achieve defined objectives and results.
Qualification	a formal outcomes of an assessment and validation process which is obtained when a competent body determines that an individual achieved learning outcomes to given standards.
Receiving organisation	under some Actions of Erasmus+ (notably mobility Actions) the receiving organisation is the participating organisation receiving one or more participants and organising one or more activities of an Erasmus+ project.
School	an institution providing general, vocation or technical education, on any level from pre-school to upper secondary education. Please consult the list of types of institutions defined as schools in each country; for more information contact the National Agency in the country.
Sending organisation	under some Actions of Erasmus+ (notably mobility Actions) the sending organisation is the participating organisation sending one or more participants to an activity of an Erasmus+ project.
Short cycle (or short-cycles higher education - SCHE) qualifications	in most countries it is within the first cycle in the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (ISCED Level 5). They are typically represented by approximately 120 ECTS credits within national contexts, leading to a qualification that is recognised at a lower level than a degree at the end of the first cycle. Some programmes are longer than three years but typically will not give more than 180 ECTS credits. In the majority of countries students can use most of the credits earned in SCHE to progress to degree courses. The descriptors of the short cycle correspond to the learning outcomes of EQF level 5.