



Università degli Studi di Padova

Info Session Erasmus+ Capacity Building

Area Relazioni Internazionali 21 Dicembre 2021

Il webinar inizierà tra pochi minuti



Agenda

- Saluti istituzionali
- Erasmus+ Key Action 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions - Capacity Building
- Suggerimenti per scrivere una proposta di successo
- Progetto "Lab-Movie", Ufficio Career Service
- Q&A time



Erasmus+ 2021-2027: overview

General objective

 Supporting educational, professional and personal development of people of all ages in education, training, youth and sport, in Europe and beyond

Participating countries

• 33 Programme Countries + international activities open to the rest of the World

3 Key Actions

• Mobility - Cooperation - Policy Development

Implementing mode

Indirect (National Agencies) and Direct (EAC/EACEA)



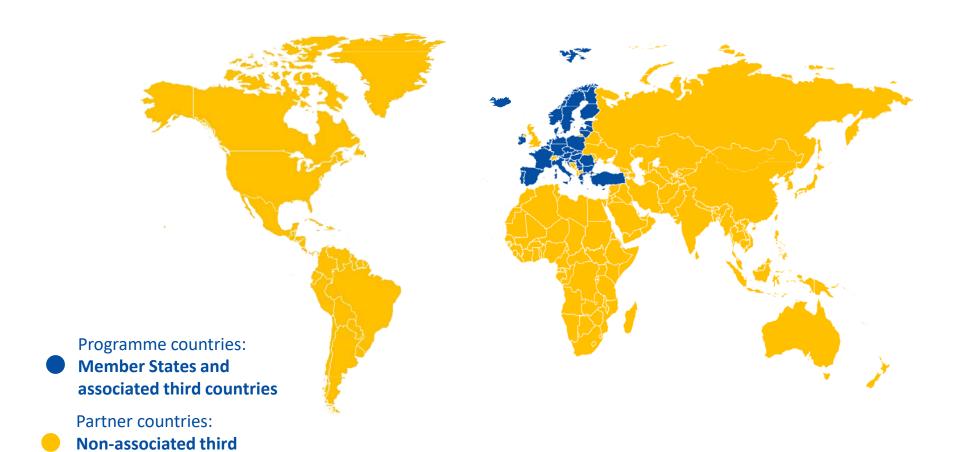
Erasmus 2021-2027: Horizontal Priorities

- More inclusive
- More environmentally friendly
- More digital
- More international



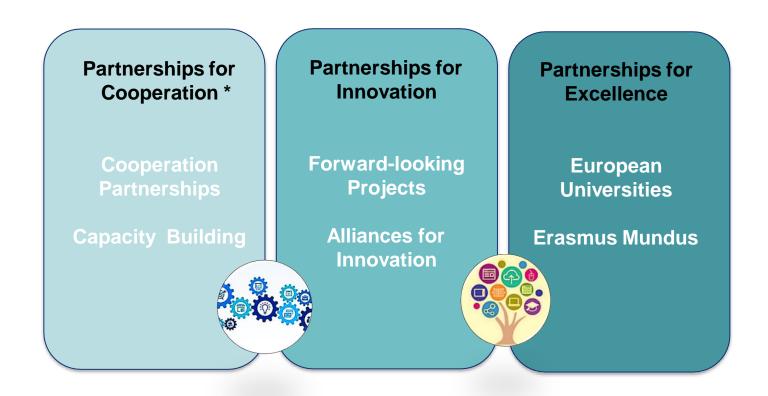
countries

International dimension





KA2 - Cooperation among organisations and institutions: opportunities for HEIs



^{*} for higher education, vocational education and training, adult education, youth, sport



The European Education Area



education and training

- Boost basic and transversal skills
- More mobility and cooperation opportunities
- Support lifelong acquisition of language competences
- Develop a European perspective in education





Inclusion and gender equality

- Pathways to School Success
- 50 centres of excellence for VET
- European Approach to micro-credentials
- Gender-sensitive teaching





- Education for Climate Coalition
- Greening of education infrastructure
- Council Recommendation on education for environmental sustainability



Teachers and trainers

- 25 Erasmus Teacher Academies
- European guidance for national career frameworks
- European Innovative Teaching Award



Higher

education

- European Universities full roll-out
- Development of a European Degree
- Legal statute for alliances of universities
- Erasmus+ Mobile App



Geopolitical dimension



- Strengthen cooperation with strategic global partners
- Expand international dimension of Erasmus+





EU international cooperation strategy Focus on Education and Research

Scale up academic and scientific cooperation, including on technical and vocational education and training, and enhancing skills development

facilitate the mobility of students, teachers, trainers, researchers

support capacity building within third countries

provide quality training for teachers

develop research and innovation capacities

foster the interaction between education, science, technology and innovation

support digital skills and literacy

Support the external projection of internal policies and the EU's external action, people-to-people cooperation and a stronger voice for Europe in the world



Context

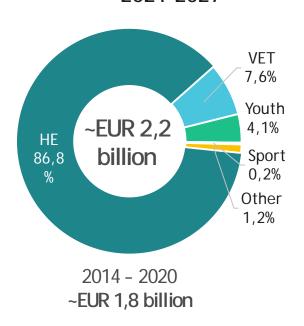
- Support the relevance, quality, modernisation and responsiveness of HEIs for socio-economic recovery, growth and prosperity
- > Build alliances for regional or intra-regional cooperation
- ➤ Share best-practices, pilot new approaches, methodologies and initiatives built on country ownership → mutual learning among EU and not-EU institutions
- ➤ **React to recent trends**, e.g. globalization, development, fragility, and rising social, economic and environmental inequalities, COVID-19 → address regional issues
- > Align with "Sustainable Development Goals" and Paris Agreement
- > Ensure equity, accessibility and inclusion
- Strengthen employability
- Global interventions to strengthen the wider economic and social ecosystems

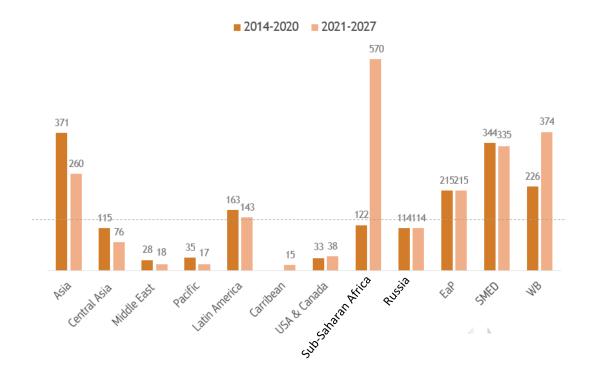


International dimension of Erasmus+: funding

Budget per region (in million EUR)

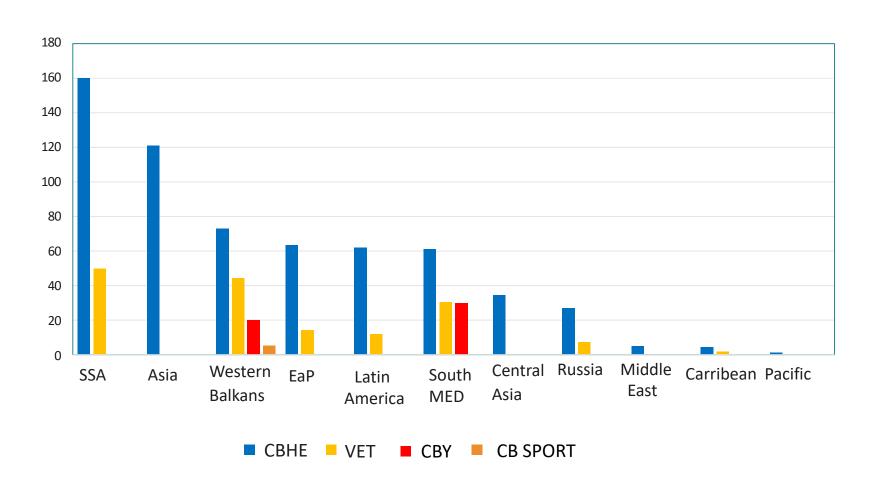
International actions budget per sector 2021-2027







Capacity Building actions budget 2021-2027 (in M€)





Indicative available budget and n° of projects

Regions	Indicative 2022 CBHE budget	Indicative budget for strand 1	Indicative n° of projects to be funded	Indicative budget for strand 2	Indicative n° of projects to be funded	Indicative budget for strand 3	Indicative n° of projects to be funded
Region 1 Western Balkans	12.020.010	5.168.610	12	4.808.000	6	2.043.400	2
Region 2 Neighbourhood East	10.971.140	2.084.510	5	5.814.710	7	3.071.920	3
Region 3 South-Mediterranean countries	8.797.600	1.759.520	4	4.926.660	6	2.111.420	2
Region 4 Russian Federation	4.657.550	2.189.050	5	2.468.500	3	0	0
Region 5 Asia	20.876.220	4.175.240	10	14.613.360	18	2.087.620	2
Region 6 Central Asia	5.951.320	1.040.260	2	4.111.060	5	800.000	1
Region 7 Middle East	1.000.000	1.000.000	2	0	0	0	0
Region 8 Pacific	1.000.000	1.000.000	2	0	0	0	0
Region 9 Sub-Saharan Africa	27.086.320	10.834.530	27	10.834.530	13	5.417.260	5
Region 10 Latin America	10.695.140	1.604.270	4	7.486.600	9	1.604.270	1
Region 11 Caribbean	1.000.000	456.620	1	543.380	1	0	0
2022 CBHE indicative budget and n° of projects to be funded	104.055.300	31.312.610	74	55.606.800	68	17.135.890	16



KA2 - Capacity Building Logica di intervento

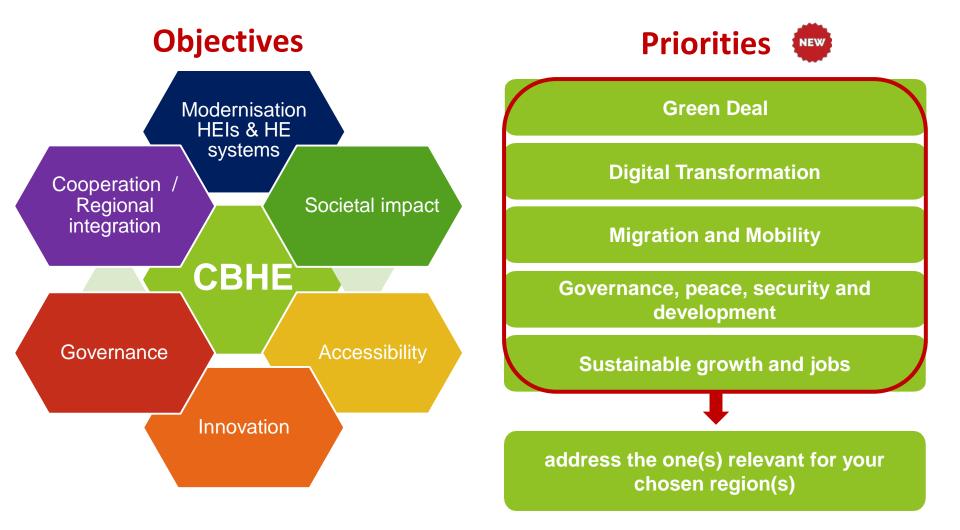
Focus on the needs of the third countries not associated to the Erasmus+ Programme (not for high-income countries)

Targeting the priorities of the third countries not associated to the Erasmus+ Programme and matching them with the EU priorities for these countries

Maximising benefit to third countries not associated to the Erasmus+ Programme



KA2 - Capacity Building





Priorities for Strand 1 and 2

EU NEIGHBOURING REGIONS – REGIONS 1 TO 4

(Western Balkans, Neighbourhood East, South-Mediterranean countries, Russian Federation)

- One of the overarching priorities of the European Union (one choice only)
- One of the sub-priorities related to the chosen region (one choice only)
- Exception: no sub-priorities for Region 4 Russian Federation

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP REGIONS – REGIONS 5 TO 11

(Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Caribbean)

- One of the overarching priorities of the European Union (one choice only)
- No sub-priorities defined for these Regions



KA2 - Capacity Building: consortium

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

- National projects
- Multi-country regional projects
- Multi-country cross-regional projects

min. 2 programme countries (1 HEI) + min. 2 HEIs per partner country



For WESTERN BALKANS, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, LATIN AMERICA and CARIBBEAN: ONLY MULTI-COUNTRY PROJECTS!

WHO CAN APPLY

HEIs or Association of HEIs from programme or partner countries



Exception: organisations from Syria (Region 3) and the Russian Federation (Region 4) cannot act as applicants



Call 2022: New features

Three strands

a new type of support

Regional Priorities

overarching & sub-priorities

New Regions

different focus

New budget system

Lump-sum II

New publication system

Funding and Tender
Opportunities Portal - FTOP



KA2 - Capacity Building: types

Strand 1: Fostering access to cooperation in Higher Education



- Duration: 24 36 months
- Budget: 200 400 K EUR lump-sum



- Duration: 24 36 months
- Budget: 400 − 800 K EUR lump-sum
- Strand 3: Structural Reform Projects, with HE Ministries involved as full partners
 - Duration: 36 48 months
 - Budget: 800 K − 1 M EUR lump-sum



Strand 1: Fostering access to cooperation in HE

Target Groups:

- HEIs from least developed countries
- HEIs located in remote areas
- Newcomers / less experienced HEIs
- Individuals with fewer opportunities

Small-size activities to start cooperation / internationalisation

Activities:

- 1. Enhance HEI's management or administrative capacities
- 2. Ensure high quality and relevant education
- 3. Increase accessibility of students/staff with fewer opportunities



Activity 1 - Enhancing management/administrative capacity

Reforming and modernising university governance	reforming and modernising the university governance, including the enhancement of services in particular for the benefit of students (student guidance, counselling, job orientation etc.)		
International Relation Offices	establishing or strengthening international relations offices and elaborating internationalization strategies		
Quality Assurance	establishing new or developing existing quality assurance units an processes/strategy within HEIs		
Capacity	city creating or increasing the capacity of planning and evaluation units		
Mobility	building capacities to support students and staff mobility activities		



Activity 2 - Ensure high quality and relevant education

- > Developing new modules or **study programmes** to better suit the needs for new skill, to modernise the syllabus and the teaching methodologies
- Reinforcing the technical or professional orientations of study programmes
- > Establishing intensive study programmes bringing together students and teaching staff from participating HEIs for shorter study periods
- > Developing capacities for postgraduate student and academic staff
- Promoting postgraduate students and/or staff mobility
- Implementing training courses for HEI staff



Activity 3 - Increasing the accessibility of individuals with fewer opportunities

- > Developing remote and inclusive learning pathways by relying on digital technology and e-learning for vulnerable students
- Updating the digital technology to develop specific services aiming at ensuring equal and fair learning opportunities for students with disabilities
- Promoting initiatives aiming at empowering women and ethnic/religious minorities
- Developing initiatives to reduce barriers faced by disadvantaged groups in accessing learning opportunities
- Contributing to create inclusive environments that foster equity and equality, and that are responsive to the needs of the wider community



Strand 2: Partnerships for transformation

Target Groups:

- More experienced HEIs
- Local actors with a link to industry and business sectors
- Individuals (students, staff, learners in general)
- Bodies responsible for HE at local and national level

Activities:

- 1. Promoting reforms in HEIs
- 2. Innovation in higher education



Activity 1 - Promoting reforms in HEIs

1.a - Institutional Reforms

- New governance and management systems and structures
- Development of digital skills
- > Implementation of modern university services
- Implementation of quality assurance processes
- > Professional development of academic, technical and administrative staff

1.b - Entrepreneurial skills and mind-set

- ➤ Entrepreneurship education and practical application of entrepreneurial skills → introducing practical learning schemes with a link to business
- Creation of specific Hubs/Centres within the HEIs
- Innovation with business involvement to maximize societal impact



Activity 2 - Innovation in higher education

- ➤ Design of innovative curricula or introducing innovative elements in the existing curricula → curriculum development projects
- Innovative learning and teaching methods (i.e. learner-centred and real problem-based teaching)
- Active engagement with the business world and with research: organisation of educational programmes and activities with and within enterprises
- Network effectively on the international scene on scientific and technological innovation



Strand 3: Structural Reform Projects





Lump sum II approach

Proposal ->
detailed
estimation of costs
and split of the
lump sum per WP
and per
beneficiary (Excel
file)

Evaluators assess cost details during evaluation and make recommendations if needed

Once approved, lump sum is fixed during the project implementation

No need for financial reporting, BUT random audits still happen



Lump sum II approach

BASIC PRINCIPLES

- > Simplification
- Reduction of administrative burden
- More friendly for newcomers
- ➤ Focus on performance and project activities → Payment upon completion of activities

BASIC RULES

- Real costs
- ➤ Staff categories: not predefined → I can choose up to 5 categories that apply to all partners
- ➤ Equipment → only depreciation can be declared in the budget
- Co-financing: 10% of total project cost



How to apply

Where?

<u>European Commission's Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal – FTOP</u>

Call ID: ERASMUS -EDU-2022-CBHE

Topic ID: ERASMUS -EDU-2022-CBHE-STRAND-1

ERASMUS -EDU-2022-CBHE-STRAND-2

ERASMUS -EDU-2022-CBHE-STRAND-3

Who?

Proposals must be created and submitted by the contact person of the coordinating organization

When?

Deadline: 17 February 2022 - 17:00 (Brussels time)



What?

Proposal's length max 140 pages



No mandates to be signed by partners

Signature of Declaration of Honour directly on FTOP by Director of Dept.



Expected Timeline

Publication: 24 Nov 2021

Deadline:

17 Feb 2022

Evaluation process:
March - July 2022

Information to applicants:
August 2022

Start of projects: end 2022



Grant award decision

Elements:

- ranking list base on quality assessment by independent experts
- consultation process with EU Delegations of target countries
- budget available for each Region and strand
- need to achieve a sufficient geographical representation within a Region
- compliance with the requirements applicable to specific Regions

Consultation with EU Delegations

- Recognition of HEIs by the national competent authorities
- > Feasibility of the project in the local context of the third country(ies)
- The project is contributing to the local needs in the priority area
- Overlapping with existing initiatives in the chosen thematic area funded by the EU Delegation, national or international donors



Eligibility criteria



Who can apply?	
Types of organisations	
Number and profile of participating organisations	
Duration of the project	
Grant size	

Award Criteria

Relevance of the project max 30 points	
Quality of the project design and implementation max 30 points	
Quality of the partnership and the cooperation arrangements max 20 points	
Sustainability, impact and dissemination of the expected result max 20 points	ts



- \rightarrow Min score \rightarrow 60 points in total + min. half of the max points for each award criterion
- ➤ Ex aequo proposals → priority to projects scoring highest under the criterion "Relevance of the project" and then "Sustainability, impact and dissemination of the expected results"



Award criterion 1: Relevance of the projects

Purpose

- Relevant to objectives and activities of CBHE and specificities of the Strand
- Adequate response to current needs of the target country(ies) or Region(s) and of the target groups
- •The extent to which the proposal addresses the EU overarching priorities

Objectives

- Based on a sound needs analysis
- Objectives are clearly defined, specific, measurable, achievable, realistic
- Objectives address issues relevant to the participating organisations and the HE system of the target country

Link to EU policy and initiatives

•The proposal takes into account and enhances complementarity/synergies with other interventions funded by the EU and other entities

EU added value

•The proposal demonstrates that similar results could not be achieved without the cooperation of HEIs from the EU Member States



RELEVANCE: avoid most common weaknesses



- ➤ **Draw an Institution-specific need analysis** → e.g. needs of remote HEIs are not the same of HEIs located in capital cities, differentiation among partner countries, etc
- ➤ **Draft a factual and complete need analysis** → use recent data sources (statistics from an official publication, findings from a survey on a specific topic), with clear link to the planned project outcomes
- ➤ Identify with good precision the target groups and beneficiaries in the Partner Country(ies) → this helps in demonstrating and assessing the potential impact of the project
- ➤ Identify the priority addressed by your project and link it with the Partner Country national or institutional strategy → make sure your proposal shows <u>clearly</u> how both its objectives and results address the chosen priority, as application not addressing national or regional priorities cannot be funded
- ➤ Involve other Ministries than Ministry for HE when appropriate for the subject
- ➤ Carefully **involve key stakeholders in the sector** to ensure good results, exploitation and sustainability → **consult the National Erasmus+ Office in target Country(ies)** to verify country-specific priorities. They also have a role in the proposal evaluation



Award criterion 2: Quality of the project design and implementation

Coherence

- Consistency between project objectives, methodology, activities and the budget proposed
- Coherent and comprehensive set of appropriate activities to meet the identified needs and the expected results

Methodology

•The logic of the intervention is of good quality, planned outputs and outcomes are coherent and feasible, and key assumptions and risks have been clearly identified

Work plan

- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan are in line with their objectives and the deliverables
- •The relation between the resources and the expected results is adequate and the work plan is realistic, with well-defined activities, time-lines, clear deliverables and milestones

Budget

- Cost efficiency and appropriate financial resources for a successful implementation of the project
- •The estimated budget is neither overestimated nor underestimated

Quality control

• Control measures (continuous quality evaluation, peer reviews, benchmarking activities, mitigating actions etc.) and quality indicators ensure a project implementation of high quality

Environmental sustainability

The project is designed in an eco-friendly way



PROJECT DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION: avoid most common weaknesses



- ➤ Avoid a too long preparation phase → a sound and thorough need analysis is done at application phase
- List clearly all outputs that will be created, or updated by your project, including the necessary elements to assess the potential impact
- ➤ Ensure **consistency** between the Logical Framework Matrix (LFM), the Work Plan and the Work Packages description → avoid patchwork + dedicate time for final proof reading
- > Ensure cost-effectiveness and budget consistency with the Work Plan
- ➤ Avoid generic equipment → precise and specific the equipment demonstrates you have reflected on the matter and come to clear conclusions → avoid buying only laptops, printers, video-conference systems



Award criterion 3: Quality of the partnerships and the cooperation arrangements

Management

- Solid arrangements are foreseen
- Timelines, governance structures, collaboration arrangements and responsibilities are well defined and realistic

Composition

• Appropriate mix of organisations with the necessary competences relevant to the objectives of the proposal and to the specificities of the Strand most appropriate and diverse range of non-academic partners

Tasks

• Roles and tasks are assigned on the basis of the specific know-how, profiles and experience of each partner

Collaboration

• Effective mechanisms to ensure efficient collaboration, communication and conflict resolution between the partner organisations and any other relevant stakeholders

Commitment

- •The contribution from the project partners is significant, pertinent and complementary
- •The proposal demonstrates the partners' involvement, commitment and ownership of the project's specific objectives and results, in particular from the third countries not associated to the programme



PARTNERSHIP & COOPERATION: avoid most common weaknesses



- ➤ Present partners' staff focusing on the **specific expertise related to the project** → avoid generic presentation and provide facts and figures
- ➤ Ownership of results and sustainability are guaranteed by number and profile of people involved in partner countries institutions → involve a sufficient number of staff + newcomers + mix of senior and junior staff
- ➤ Balanced distribution of responsibilities, tasks and budget → dominant coordinator does not guarantee ownership across the consortium
- ➤ Describe with precision the **management arrangements** (decision-making process, bodies to be established, communication channels) → demonstrate awareness of possible difficulties in international and cross cultural projects + consortium is ready to start immediately the activities
- > Communication is never too much > consider planning also periodical bilateral sessions



Award criterion 4: Sustainability, impact and dissemination of project results

Exploitation

- How the outcomes of the project will be used by the partners and other stakeholders
- How multiplier effects will be ensured
- Provide means to measure exploitation within the project funding time and after

Dissemination

- Clear and efficient plan for the dissemination of results, appropriate activities, timing, tools and channels
 Reaching out and attracting relevant stakeholders within and after the project's funding time

Impact

- Tangible impact on target groups and relevant stakeholders at local, national or regional level
- Indicators to monitor progress and assess the expected impact at individual, institutional and systemic level

Open access

• Materials, documents and media produced are freely available and promoted through open licenses and without disproportionate restrictions

Sustainability

- How the project results will be sustained financially and institutionally
 How the local ownership will be ensured



SUSTAINABILITY, IMPACT & DISSEMINATION: avoid most common weaknesses

- > Describe concretely the **measures** ensuring that the project results will last beyond the project lifetime
- ➤ Demonstrate the project impact at different levels: individual, institutional, and policy level → specific measures should be envisaged for each level
- Explain the concrete benefits to the target groups at various levels, and the beneficial changes brought by the project
- Involve the National or local authorities in the dissemination activities, also if they are not project partners





What is a good application?

It is not just succeeding in being selected, but in delivering the expected results

- ✓ leading to an effective implementation
- ✓ producing the expected changes
- ✓ keeping the results alive after the funding period (sustainability).
- ✓ ready to start immediately after approval

IMPLEMENTATION



PREPARATION







General Tips (i)

- 1. Start now!
- **2. Read** all the relevant **information** to make sure you have clear what is expected from you and to consider the specificities of each Country:
 - i. <u>Erasmus+ Programme Guide</u>
 - ii. **EACEA** website
 - iii. National Agency website
 - iv. Erasmus+ Office website in the targeted third Country(ies)
 - v. Website of **EU Delegations** in the targeted third Country(ies) / Region
 - vi. Guidelines
 - vii. Consult colleagues with previous experience



General Tips (ii)

- **3. Choose your idea**, define the main elements, and structure them:
 - i. Project **objectives** → relate to:
 - a. your institution's and the partners' priorities and strategies
 - b. the Erasmus+ and the specific call objectives, priorities and requirements
 - c. other EU strategic documents
 - d. previous project(s)
 - e. the capacities of your staff and partners
 - ii. Target groups: are final beneficiaries clearly identified?
 - iii. Need analysis: understand the starting scenario, and relate it to your target group → are proposed activities the most suitable to answer their needs?
 - iv. Check previously selected projects and avoid overlapping with existing projects in the same subject area/priorities \rightarrow be innovative
 - v. Partners & complementary expertise



General tips (iii)

4. Build a strong consortium

- i. Are all the required skills and competencies present in the consortium? →
 complementarity, not redundancy!
- ii. Choose partners you know!
- iii. Project implementation is based on mutual **trust** and **shared** objectives
- iv. Do not underestimate cultural diversity within your consortium
- v. Does everyone have a **clear role**, consistent with his/her competencies?
- vi. Is there a **team** (rather than a single contact) for each partner institution? → If the contact person changes, that partner still has to work
- vii. Consider geographical balance





General tips (iv)

- 5. Create a **budget** and **define it bottom-up**: tasks → effort needed → costs. Check regularly its consistency while advancing on with your Work Plan
- 6. Write your proposal together with your partners. Plan your working steps with a clear and realistic time-frame, design a communication and dissemination strategy keeping in mind your purpose → a pre-proposal meeting is usually very useful!
- 7. Ask for **support from the governance bodies** of involved HEIs
- 8. Involve all the departments in your HEI that might contribute to your project from the beginning
- 9. Consider the project **impact & sustainability:** what impact does my project intends to create? Is it transnational? How can it be measured? Is it sustainable?
- 10. Don't forget about **final polishing** to ensure consistency



KEY WORDS for a competitive application

- <u>Coherent</u> in its entirety; avoid contradictions; avoid "patchwork"
- **Concrete**: use examples, justify your statements, bring evidence
- <u>Clear</u>: follow the questions and answer them in the right order
- <u>Simple language</u>: also complex subjects can be explained in a plain language and short sentences
- **Explicit**: do not take anything for granted; do not assume experts will always understand; avoid abbreviations or explain them the 1st time
- <u>Rigorous</u>: the application is the basis on which your project will be implemented; it is also the cornerstone of your partnership commitment
- Focused: stick to what is asked
- <u>Complete</u>: ensure you have followed all the instructions, and that the proposal fulfils all the mandatory requirements



Erasmus+ @ Unipd: we are here to help!

Proposal preparation

- Need one-to-one support as coordinator?
 - i. contact the P&P Unit possibly 2 months prior to the deadline presenting the project concept note
 - ii. Guida ai servizi di Europrogettazione
- Not in need of support?
 - i. send the P&P Unit the project abstract, the list of partners, the budget once the submission is completed
 - ii. if you are the coordinator, inform the P&P Unit asap → max 2 funded projects per funding scheme allowed as coordinators

Contacts

• Projects & Partnerships Unit: international.projects@unipd.it





Università degli Studi di Padova

Info Session Erasmus+ Capacity Building

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Grazie per l'attenzione!