

Erasmus+ international actions

What is new in the 2018 call?

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

- Next year is the first year that the entire budget is spent on future contracts, and not legacy projects from 2007-2013. As such we anticipate funding for around 45 new programmes. With more money available we can move to four intakes of students (up from three in Erasmus+ so far), after an initial (optional) preparatory year.
- In the interests of administrative simplification, the 75% share of scholarships awarded to Partner Country students will now be based on the total Heading 1 and Heading 4 budgets combined.

Jean Monnet

- No major changes this year except to broaden the definition of the "local policy makers" invited to events to promote outreach. At the request of the Committee of the Regions, this definition has been widened to include mayors and local counsellors.

Capacity Building in Higher Education

- The Special Mobility Strand (SMS) has been removed. There was little interest of applicants for this option and where it was chosen, it has been poorly implemented.
- There are three priority areas instead of four. Following a review and simplification of the CBHE priority areas as the NAs had pointed out some redundancies and some areas that were not clear for applicants.
- The minimum number of Programme Countries required in a consortium has been dropped from three countries to two. This change was suggested by DG DEVCO and is supported by DG EAC. This further reinforces the fact that these consortia are for the benefit of Partner Countries who should make up the majority of each consortium.
- Future CBHE projects will be offered two options for the start of the eligibility period 15 November 2018 or 15 January 2019. This will mitigate the current problems with PIC validation which have made some projects lose valuable contract time.

International Credit Mobility

- The biggest change is the introduction of traineeships for students between Programme and Partner Countries, and in both directions. This is an increasingly popular part of the intra-European programme and has been long awaited for International Credit Mobility. We have been promoting the new opportunity heavily with the National Agencies.
- Next year will be the second annual window for Tunisia (after the success of 2017) and hopefully the first of two annual windows for West African countries (to be confirmed).
- Following a review by DG BUDG, the Erasmus+ grant rates for decentralised actions have changed. For ICM, the individual support rates have been increased for students and staff, in both directions. Moreover, a new €20 minimum travel band has been introduced, and the grant rate for the highest travel band has been increased to €1,500. Finally, following feedback from the National Agencies, the organisational support (OS) rate has been set at €350 per participant, with no change beyond 100 participants.