New Opportunities for University-Enterprise Cooperation in Erasmus + Key Action 2 with a focus on Strategic Partnerships

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Erasmus+: Some figures at a Glance

- Programme period: 2014 to 2020;
- Overall E+ budget (heading 1): 14.774 billion EUR (plus 40 %);
- 77.5 % for education and training (min. 43 % for higher education = 4.9 billion EUR);
- 63 % for learning mobility (KA1/H.E.: 594 million EUR for 2014/15) and 28 % for partnerships (KA2/H.E. 2014/15: Strategic Partnerships 38.3 million EUR and Knowledge Alliances 6.1 million EUR);
- Who can participate? 33 programme countries (EU-28, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey, FYR Macedonia) and in some actions Partner Countries.
Key Action 2 – Cooperation- and Partnership Projects

Cooperation for innovation - Higher Education -

Intra-EU
1. **Erasmus Strategic Partnerships**: more intense cooperation between institutions. - DECENTRALIZED -
2. **Knowledge Alliances**: structure partnerships between HEI and businesses

Open to the world
3. Specific support with neighbourhood countries: Capacity building through partnerships between EU and ENP universities with a mobility component.
4. Rest of the world: Capacity building between universities in the EU and Asia, Latin America & Africa

- **Strategic Partnerships**: Support HEIs in their Modernisation strategy
- **Knowledge Alliances**: University-business cooperation for more innovation
- **Support to Neighbourhood countries (ENP)**: Partnerships between HEIs from EU and ENP
  - Curriculum development, modernisation, modern teaching and teaching, upgrading of facilities, improve HEIs governance, stronger links with the world of work…
  - + INTEGRATED MOBILITY of students & staff
- **Cooperation with Asia, Latin America, Africa**: Mobility limited to HEI staff to achieve projects’ objectives

Source: European Commission
What is a Strategic Partnership in Erasmus+?

A cooperation network bringing together institutions/organisations active in the fields of education, training and/or youth, as well as enterprises, research institutes, public authorities, social partners etc.

with the aim of cooperating “in order to implement innovative practices leading to high quality teaching, training, learning and youth work, institutional modernisation and societal innovation“. (Erasmus+ Programme Guide, p. 95)

Strategic Partnerships can be mono-sectoral or cross-sectoral.
Structured and long-term cooperation among organisations active in the fields of education, training and youth, with key stakeholders (enterprises, public authorities, civil society organisations active in different socio-economic sectors)

Transnational setting: min. 3 organisations from 3 different programme countries, for a duration of 2 or 3 years

Focus on the implementation of innovative practices leading to high quality teaching and learning, institutional modernisation and social innovation

Large flexibility in how best organise, as long as activities prove to be the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives
H.E. Strategic Partnerships
The tool to implement...

...Key Priorities of the EU Agenda for the Modernisation of Higher Education

- Increasing tertiary attainment levels
- Improving the quality and relevance of higher education
- Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation
- Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development
- Improving governance and funding
Strategic Partnerships at a glance

- Intra-European networks with a min. of three HEI/institutions from 3 programme countries
  - participation of partner countries possible
- Decentral Administration via NA in countries
- Separate Application/Agreement
- Duration 2-3 years (has to be defined from the onset)
- Financing up to 450,000 Euro per project
- Transversal projects possible and a plus (application based on focus area)
Partnerships between universities, VET schools, youth NGOs, creative industries, SMEs to promote transition from education to self-employment, through courses programmes, and stimulate creativity and entrepreneurship

Partnerships between recognition centres, regional public authorities employers‘ associations, trade unions and career guidance services to promote the recognition of soft skills in the context of job-seekers

cf. p. 243/244 Programme Guide
Erasmus+: Strategic Partnerships

- **Application deadline (online submission):** 30-4-2014 (high noon/12 pm)
- **Where to apply?:** To the National Agency of the applicant (project coordinator)
- **Duration of project:** 2 or 3 years
- **EU grant:** max. 300,000 Euros for 2-year/450,000 for 3-year project
- **Partnership structure:** min. 3 partners from 3 Programme Countries (mono-sectoral and cross-sectoral partnerships)
- **Who can participate?:** Any public or private organisation in a Programme or Partner Country
- **Who can be the project coordinator?:** Any public or private organisation established in a Programme Country
Large flexibility, as long as activities prove to be the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives. For example:

**Develop, test, adapt & implement innovative practices**

- joint curricula, joint study programmes, common modules, intensive study programmes
- project-based trans-national cooperation with enterprises to study real-life cases
- new support services (guidance, counselling, coaching methods and tools)
- exploit the potential of Open Educational Resources, collaborative and personalised learning
- integrate various study modes (distance, part-time, modular learning)
Chances and Benefit of a Strategic Partnership

- Strategic Pooling of different approaches within one university (individual institutional level commitment)
- Better visibility of internationalisation as a strategic instrument of HEI
- High degree of autonomy and flexibility of HEI in the programme
- Good possibility for newcomers also smaller HEI
Strategic Partnerships - Rationale & Possible Topics/Areas of Cooperation

- Quality and Innovation
- Cooperation, Networking, Peer learning
- Competences Development
- Recognition and Validation of competences
- Entrepreneurial Education (including social entrepreneurship)
- Equity, Inclusion and Youth participation
- Enhanced capacities of participating organisations

Cf. Programme Guide p. 96 + 98
Strategic Partnerships - continued

- Development of common modules, study programmes, e-modules etc.
- Project-based university cooperation projects
- New pedagogical methods & approaches (transversal competences, entrepreneurial skills, creativeness)
- Integration of diverse forms of learning and teaching (part-time/distance-learning etc.)
- If a strategic partnership foresees teaching/learning there are a couple of requirements to be respected (ISP)

cf. P.98 Programme Guide
Strategic Partnerships - Mobility Activities (provided they form an additional added value)

Short-term activities (5 days - 2 months):
- Joint staff training events
- Blended mobility of learners combining short term physical mobility with virtual mobility
- Intensive Study Periods (ISP – former IP!)

Long-Term activities (2 months-12 months)
- Teaching and training assignments for staff
No MAX number of partners, but budget for Management Costs capped at the equivalent of 10 partners.

Partnerships should involve the most appropriate and diverse range of relevant partners, depending on the nature of the activities, their size; etc.

Partnerships can last 2 or 3 years

Projects' start: 1st Sep. 2014

Budget:
2 years: up to 300,000€
3 years: up to 450,000€
Erasmus+: Strategic Partnerships – Funding principles

- **Modular project structure**: 7 combinable modules
  - **Module 1**: Project management/implementation (for coordinating and participating organisations, max. 2,750 Euro per month/project)
  - **Module 2**: Transnational project meetings (unit costs, max. 23,000 Euro per year)
  - **Module 3**: Intellectual outputs (staff costs, 4 categories)
  - **Module 4**: Multiplier events (max. 30,000 Euro per project)
  - **Module 5**: Transnational learning/teaching/training activities (unit costs for mobile persons)
  - **Module 6**: Exceptional costs (75% of real costs, max. 50,000 Euro per project)
  - **Module 7**: Special needs (100% of eligible costs – real costs)
What can be funded? Examples:

- **Module 1**: Coordination, communication, information, promotion etc.
- **Module 2**: Participation in meetings between project partners (travel/subsistence costs)
- **Module 3**: Development of joint curricula, IT tools, analyses, studies etc.
- **Module 4**: Conferences/events to disseminate the intellectual outputs
- **Module 5**: Long-term teaching/training assignments, Intensive Programmes
- **Module 6**: Sub-contracting (e.g. translation, IT support)
- **Module 7**: Costs related to participants with special needs (disabilities)
What are the main sections of the application form?

- General information about the type of project proposal
- Information about the applicant and participating organisations
- Project description: preparation, implementation (project activities) and follow-up (impact/dissemination)
- Budget request
- Project Summary
- Check list/Data Protection Notice/Declaration of Honour
- Annexes (additional documents: proof of legal status, for grants exceeding 60,000 EUR proof of financial capacity)
- Submission
**Strategic Partnerships**

**QUALITY ASSESSMENT**

- **30%**
  - **Relevance of the project**
    - Modernisation Agenda + synergies btw diff. fields + clear/realistic objectives + needs analysis + innovation + EU added value

- **20%**
  - **Quality of project design and implementation**
    - Quality of WP + consistency + quality of methodology + quality control measures + cost-effectiveness + mobility components appropriate to project’s aims

- **20%**
  - **Quality of project team & cooperation arrangements**
    - Appropriate mix participating organisations + distribution of tasks + involvement newcomers + mechanisms coordination & communication

- **30%**
  - **Impact, dissemination and sustainability**
    - Quality of measures for evaluating outcomes + potential impact (within & outside partnership) + quality dissemination plan + sustainability arrangements

More details cf. p. 99/100 Programme Guide
Programme Countries' Participation

- Organisations from partner countries can participate in addition to the minimum number (three) as partners (NOT as applicants) as long as their participation brings a clear value added to the project because of the specific skills, experiences or expertise that these organisations bring to the project and that prove to be essential for the achievement of the project's objectives and/or to ensure a significantly higher quality of the project outputs.

- ECHE is not required for Partner Countries' participating HEIs, but they have to accept the principles of the ECHE.

- Activities (e.g. “transnational project meetings”) in Partner Countries organisations and institutions participating to the project are eligible.
Overall objective: Strengthen Europe's innovation capacity

- Foster innovation in higher education, enterprises and socio-economic environment
- Fostering new attitudes towards University-Business Cooperation in all sectors and changing behaviour
Foster intense, structured and long term cooperation among HEIs and with key stakeholders to **contribute to achieving the objectives of the HE Modernisation Agenda**

- **Strategic Partnerships**
  - Minimum 3 organisations from 3 different programme countries
  - Decentralised management (NAs)

- **Knowledge Alliances**
  - At least 6 org. from 3 different programme countries
  - Minimum 2 HEIs and 2 enterprises
  - Centralised management (EACEA)

Promote, develop and implement long-lasting structured partnerships between business and academia to **strengthen Europe's innovation capacity**, stimulate 2-way knowledge exchange between HEIs and enterprises and foster excellence.
At least 6 organisations from 3 different Programme Countries. Organisations from partner countries can participate if they provide specific added value to the project.

At least 2 higher education institutions and 2 enterprises.

Partnership is key for the success: solid commitment from all partners, balance of participating businesses & HEIs.

Grant between € 500,000 and € 1,000,000 - Max 75% co-funding of eligible costs.

2 – 3 years.

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service
Knowledge Alliances
QUALITY ASSESSMENT

25%
- Relevance of the project
  - Purpose + clear/realistic objectives + solid needs analysis + innovation + EU added value

30%
- Quality of project design and implementation
  - Quality of WP + coherence (set of appropriate activities) + allocation of appropriate resources + quality and financial control

25%
- Quality of project team & cooperation arrangements
  - Appropriate mix participating organisations + commitment + complementarity + mechanisms collaboration

20%
- Impact and dissemination
  - Exploitation + expected impact + dissemination + sustainability
Objectives

- Assess skills needs in a specific sector
- Achieve systemic impact on vocational education & training in the economic sector concerned
- Bring vocational education & training (VET) closer to the labour market
- Develop innovative ways of vocational teaching and training
- Ensure quality of vocational programmes & facilitate transparency of qualifications
- Improve flow of information between stakeholders
Partnership

- **Vocational Education & Training providers**
- **Bodies responsible for qualifications/certification/accreditation**
- **Partners representative in sector with sector-expertise/Research**

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**European transnational VET curriculum**

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) German Academic Exchange Service
Grant between €500,000 & €1,000,000
2 – 3 years

Up to 175 SSAs by 2020

Application of European reference tools

European Qualification Framework

European Quality Assurance Framework for VET

Learning Outcomes Approach

European Credit System for VET

SECTOR SKILLS ALLIANCES
For further information about Erasmus+ and the first application round 2014 please contact:

Erasmus+ web site of the European Commission:

National Agencies (decentralised actions):

EACEA Executive Agency (centralised actions):

University-Business Cooperation on EU level
www.ub-cooperation.eu
17 March 2014 (12pm, Bxl time) – extended deadline 24 March (12 pm Bxl time): Submission deadline for decentralised mobility project applications (KA1: student and staff mobility); application to your National Agency;

27 March 2014 (12pm, Bxl time): Submission deadline for Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees; application to EACEA;

3 April 2014 (12pm, Bxl time): Submission deadline for Knowledge Alliances; application to EACEA;

30 April 2014 (12pm, Bxl time): Submission deadline for Strategic Partnerships (KA2); application to your National Agency.
Any questions?

Contact: alexandra.angress@h-ab-de

Centralised U-E Actions: EACEA-KNOWLEDGE-ALLIANCE@ec.europa.eu

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