

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



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Leonet Board)**

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Erasmus+

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

Source: European Commission

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

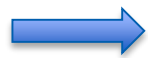
⇒ Knowledge Alliances
University-business cooperation for more innovation

⇒ 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

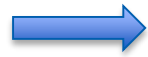
⇒ Cooperation with Asia, Latin America, Africa
Mobility limited to HEI staff to achieve projects' objectives

Erasmus+: Strategic Partnerships

➤ 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.



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European
Commission



COOPERATION

Strategic Partnerships

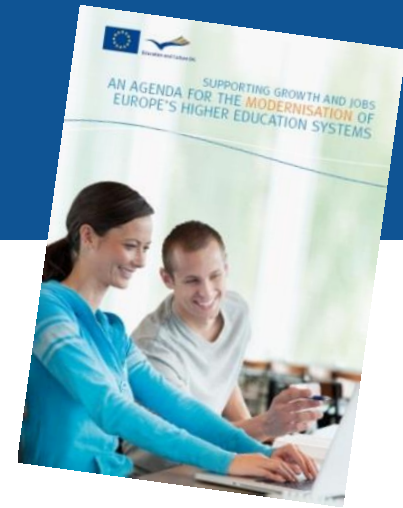
- ❖ **Structured and long-term cooperation** among organisations active in the fields of education, training and youth, with key **stakeholders** (enterprises, public authorities, civil society organisations active in different socio-economic sectors)
- ❖ **Transnational setting:** min. 3 organisations 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

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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

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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)

Strategic Partnerships - Cross-Sectoral Examples

(Source: European Commission)

- **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's 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

ACTIVITIES

A large flexibility



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)



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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)**

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**



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PARTNERSHIP & DURATION

- 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€

Duration has to be chosen at application stage, based on the objective of the project and on the type of activities planned over time

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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)

Erasmus+: Strategic Partnerships

■ 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)

Erasmus+: Strategic Partnerships

■ 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

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



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KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCES

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

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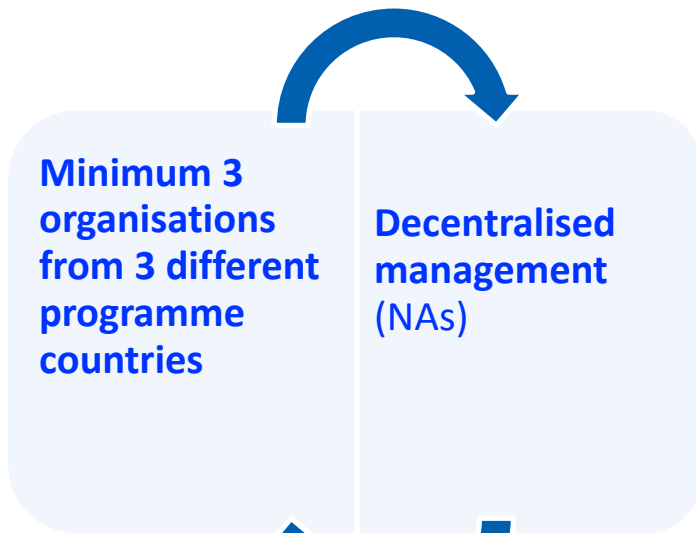
Strategic Partnerships



Knowledge Alliances

- Foster intense, structured and long term cooperation among HEIs and with key stakeholders to **contribute to achieving the objectives of the HE Modernisation Agenda**

- 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





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KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCES

- ❖ **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**

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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



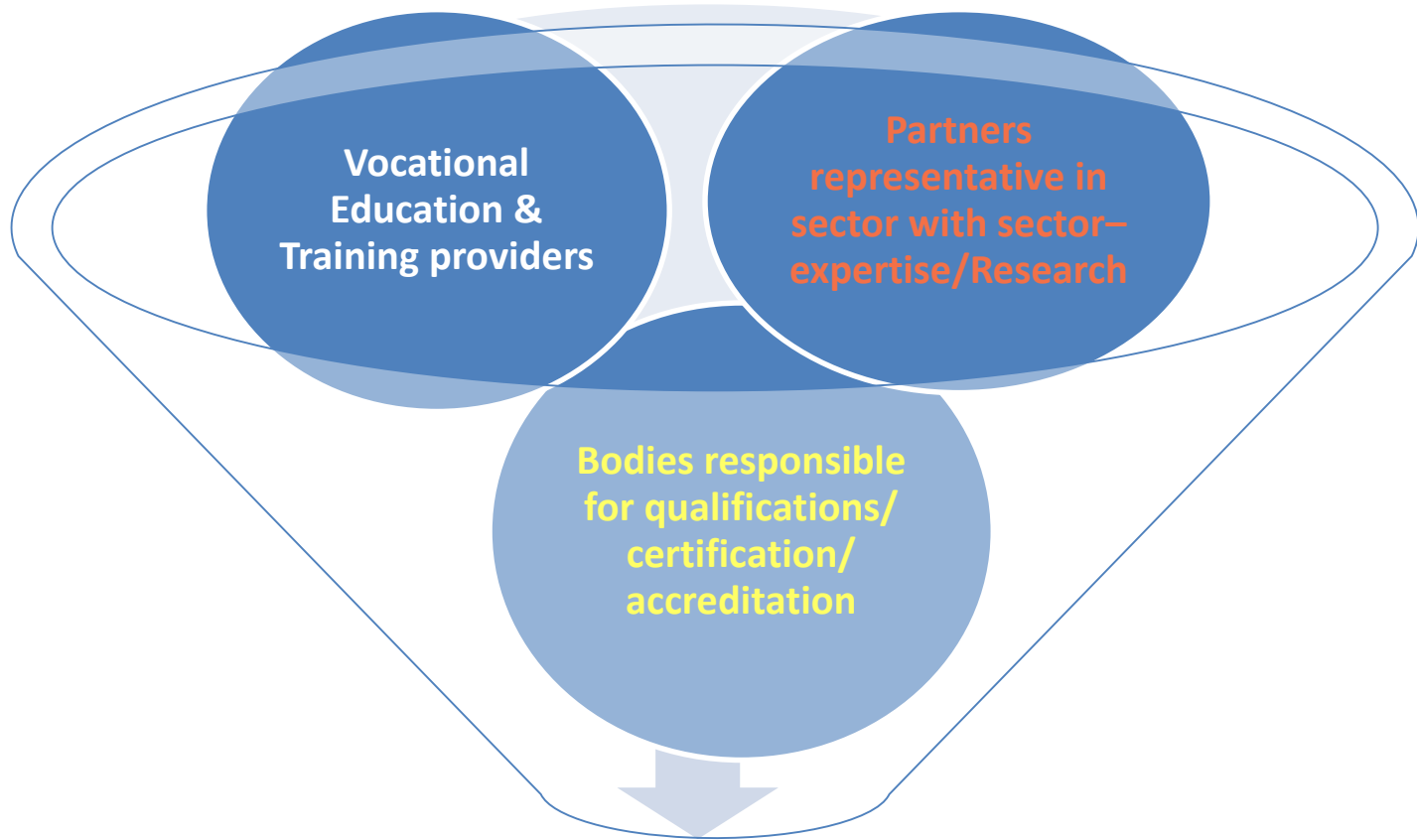
Ensure quality of vocational programmes & facilitate transparency of qualifications



Improve flow of information between stakeholders



Partnership





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SECTOR SKILLS ALLIANCES

Grant between €
500.000 & € 1.000.000

2 – 3 years



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Up to 175 SSAs by 2020

Erasmus+: Useful web links

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

Erasmus+ web site of the European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm

National Agencies (decentralised actions):

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/national-agencies_en.htm

EACEA Executive Agency (centralised actions):

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus_en

University-Business Cooperation on EU level

www.ub-cooperation.eu

Erasmus+: Application deadlines for HE

- **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?

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