



Erasmus+
KA107, Mobility with partner countries
Grant award 2015

Introduction

This information note is to explain the proposal for funding under the Erasmus+ KA107 action, mobility of students and staff with partner countries.

The call for proposals EAC/A04/2014 included the new action KA107, mobility with partner countries funded from the heading 4 budget of the EC. This action aims to extend the well-known Erasmus mobility of individuals between programme countries to other regions across the globe. With exception of the ACP countries, ten regions were covered by the KA107 action in the referred call for proposals. The deadline was settled on 4/03/2015 at 12:00 Brussels time.

The National Agency (NA) received 21 applications which were submitted to an eligibility check according to the requirements of the Erasmus+ programme. The eligibility check consisted of a check of the following aspects: the applicant is a Dutch HEI with an ECHE, used the e-form and submitted only one application for the action. The activities applied for are in line with the action.

All 21 applications are considered eligible and were submitted to a qualitative assessment organized by the NA according to the specific Guide for the assessment of KA107 proposals and the Guide for National Agencies of the European Commission.

Evaluation commission

In view of the grant award decision, the NA set up a specific Evaluation Committee to support the NA in preparing the grant award proposal for the selection round 2015.

The Evaluation Committee for the action KA107 is composed of three members belonging to two different organizations with no hierarchical link between them.

The Evaluation Committee:

- Validates the results of the formal eligibility check;
- Assesses the list of sets of mobility flows per budget envelop. The sets of mobility flows are sorted in order of merit as a result of a qualitative assessment;
- Departing from the proposal prepared by the NA, the Evaluation Committee makes a proposal for proposals to be accepted, rejected or put on a reserve list based on their quality;
- Proposes a grant award per budget envelop according to the merit of the proposals to the Director NA Erasmus+ who will take the final decision. Any exception to the ranking will be duly justified and documented.
- The members of the Evaluation Committee sign the grant award proposal.

Qualitative assessment

The NA appointed 3 external experts to carry out the qualitative assessment of the KA107 proposals. The experts were appointed on the basis of their expertise in the field of internationalization of higher education and cooperation with partner countries. Each proposal was assessed by one expert. The NA divided the proposals among the experts in a way to provide consistence in the regions and allow some comparison between proposals that applied for funds in the same region/countries. The NA provided a specific training before the start of the evaluation exercise and prepared a complete information package for experts. The assessment was an independent exercise and all experts signed a declaration of conflict of interest.

According to the Erasmus+ programme guide http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf and the guidelines for experts, the assessment referred to the following aspects:

1. The applications are assessed according the criteria of
 - ✓ Relevance of mobility project (30 points)
 - ✓ Quality of cooperation (30 points)
 - ✓ Quality of project design and implementation (20 points)
 - ✓ Impact & dissemination (20 points)
2. There is a threshold of 70 points requirement to be eligible for funding. Furthermore, at least half of the points must be obtained in each criterion.
3. The selection of applications consists of a ranking list by budget envelop. These budget envelopes are stipulated by the European Commission.
4. There are 10 budget envelops covering different regions and submitted to priorities settled by the European Commission.

Results of the qualitative assessment (21 applications, this means 21 HEIs).

Annex 3 contains the results of the qualitative assessment.

Rejected applications	Applications partially approved	Applications totally approved
4	8	9

Starting points selection of applications

The selection of KA107 applications was a complex process due to the number of variables and restrictive conditions that are different per budget envelop. Furthermore, the EC tools (E+ link) proved not to be prepared to allow a smooth calculation of the grant considering all the requirements of the budget envelopes.

Regarding the applications the following can be observed:

- The amount of the grants requested exceeded largely the majority of the budget envelops and some individual HEIs requested a substantial part of the (often) small budget for a specific region
- There were no applications for one budget envelop (DCI Central Asia)
- The envelopes ENI South and ENI East received a very small number of applications

Following the guidelines for the selection of KA107 proposals, the NA set the following principles for the grant award proposal:

1. The ranking as a result of the experts assessment
2. Geographical balance
3. Award entire projects whenever possible & introduce budget cuts in the envelopes where the requested grant exceeds the available budget.
4. Benefit the maximum number applications possible within the same envelope
5. When necessary apply budget cuts to accommodate applications of the same quality. When budget cuts are applied, the same reduction is applied to projects with the same range of points within the same budget envelope
6. Exhaust budget envelops as much as possible

In order to obtain a solid and correct division of the budget, the NA developed a calculation tool. This tool allows to calculate the different amounts of the application by region. Variables in this calculation are: travel, individual support for staff mobility for teaching and training (incoming and outgoing) and student mobility in the first, second or third cycle (incoming and outgoing) and support for the organization of mobility (OS).

A summary of the grant award proposal by budget envelope is presented below.

ENI South

Budget available	€ 856.352,00
Applications received	3
Applications awarded	1
Applications awarded but reduced	1
Applications rejected (under the threshold)	1
Spent budget	€ 87.500,00
Unspent budget	€ 768.852,00

The grant award proposal follows the ranking list. Two applications fulfill the quality requirement and are included in the proposal for funding.

ENI East

Budget available	€ 646.819,00
Applications received	4
Applications awarded	3
Applications awarded but reduced	-
Applications rejected (under the threshold)	1
Spent budget	€ 211.310,00
Unspent budget	€ 435.509,00

The grant award proposal follows the ranking list. Three applications fulfill the quality requirement and are included in the proposal for funding. No corrections were introduced.

RUSSIA

Budget available	€ 401.069,00
Applications received	6
Applications awarded	5
Applications awarded but reduced	5
Applications rejected (under the threshold)	1
Spent budget	€ 400.129,22
Unspent budget	€ 939,78

The grant request of applications that fulfill the quality requirement exceeds the available budget. The grant award proposal follows the ranking list. All projects that fulfill the quality requirements are included in the grant award proposal. In order to fit the available budget the projects have been cut according to the

following ranges: two projects between 80 – 90 points receive around 70% and 74% of the requested grant and projects between 70 – 79 points receive around 50% of the requested grant.

DCI Latin America

Budget available	€ 181.316,00
Applications received	14
Applications awarded	5
Applications awarded but reduced	1
Applications rejected (under the threshold)	4
Applications rejected due to geographical balance or lack of funds	4
Spent budget	€ 182.117,50
Over committed budget	- € 801,50

The grant request of applications that fulfill the quality requirement exceeds the available budget. The grant award proposal follows the ranking list. Four projects are proposed for a full grant award. The fifth and ninth project (respectively 78 and 75 points) on the list follow the ranking and are included in the grant award proposal on the base of geographical balance. The DCI Latin America has a budget quota for Mexico & Brazil: together they should not exceed 35% of the available budget for this region.

DCI Central Asia

No applications received. A second round of applications with deadline 24/09/2015 will be organized for the budget envelopes with unspent budget.

DCI Asia

Budget available	€ 557.546,00
Applications received	21
Applications awarded	7
Applications awarded but reduced	1
Applications rejected due to geographical balance or lack of funds	2
Applications rejected (under the threshold)	11
Spent budget	€ 555.319,17
Unspent budget	€ 2.226,83

The grant request of applications that fulfill the quality requirement exceeds the available budget. The grant award proposal follows the ranking list. Eight projects are proposed for a grant award. DCI Asia sets a quota of maximum 30% of the budget for China and India together. The grant award follows this quota and takes into account geographical balance. Projects that exceed the quota following the ranking are rejected.

DCI South Africa

Budget available	€ 50.768,00
Applications received	6
Applications awarded	-
Applications awarded but reduced	2
Applications rejected for lack of funds	3
Applications rejected (under the threshold)	1
Spent budget	€ 50.660,00
Unspent budget	€ 108,00

The grant request of applications that fulfill the quality requirement exceeds the available budget. The grant award proposal follows the ranking list. Two projects of the same quality (83 points) are proposed for a grant award. Both projects are cut to fit the available budget. The proposed grant is circa 51% of the grant request.

IPA

Budget available	€ 724.057,00
Applications received	10
Applications awarded	7
Applications awarded but reduced	-
Applications rejected (under the threshold)	3
Spent budget	€ 723.233,69
Unspent budget	€ 823,31

All applications that fulfill the quality requirement to be awarded are included in the grant award proposal.

PI USA – Canada

Budget available	€ 172.251,00
Applications received	8
Applications awarded	-
Applications awarded but reduced	4
Applications rejected due to geographical balance or lack of funds	3
Applications rejected (under the threshold)	1
Spent budget	€ 171.780,00
Unspent budget	€ 471,00

The grant request of applications that fulfill the quality requirement exceeds the available budget. The grant award proposal follows the ranking list. Four projects are proposed for funding. In view of the geographical balance, one project with Canada is included in the grant award. One mobility project is rejected due to geographical balance and two projects are rejected due to the lack of funds.

All projects have been cut to fit the budget according to the following ratio: projects between 80 and 90 points receive circa 68% of the requested grant; and projects between 70 and 79 points circa 50% of the requested grant.

PI Industrialized Asia

Budget available	€ 182.760,00
Applications received	14
Applications awarded	-
Applications awarded but reduced	3
Applications rejected due to lack of funds	6
Applications rejected (under the threshold)	5
Spent budget	€ 182.947,75
Over committed budget	€ 187,75

The grant request of applications that fulfill the quality requirement exceeds the available budget. The grant award proposal follows the ranking list. Three projects are proposed for funding. All three projects have between 80 and 90 points. The same percentage of reduction has been applied for the projects in this category. The projects proposed for funding have been awarded circa 50% of the requested grant.

Final remarks

1. From the 21 applications, 12 have been awarded funds from KA107. This means 57% of the applications.
2. The proposed beneficiaries are 9 research universities and 3 universities of applied sciences
3. 26 partner countries will participate in the action. The list includes countries as Cuba and Bhutan.
4. The NA will organize a second round of applications with deadline 24 September in order to enable the HEI's to benefit of the funds available for the regions ENI South, ENI East and Central Asia.