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(Announcements)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Call for proposals — EACEA/38/12**Erasmus Mundus 2009-13 action programme — Implementation in 2013**

(2012/C 400/13)

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

By Decision No 1298/2008/EC ⁽¹⁾ of 16 December 2008, the European Parliament and the Council established the Erasmus Mundus action programme for the period 2009 to 2013. The Erasmus Mundus programme's overall aim is to promote European higher education, to help improve and enhance the career prospects of students and to promote intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries, in accordance with EU external policy objectives in order to contribute to the sustainable development of third countries in the field of higher education.

The programme's specific objectives are:

- to promote structured cooperation between higher education institutions and an offer of enhanced quality in higher education with a distinct European added value, attractive both within the European Union and beyond its borders, with a view to creating centres of excellence;
- to contribute to the mutual enrichment of societies by developing the qualifications of women/men so that they possess appropriate skills, particularly as regards the labour market, and are open-minded and internationally experienced through promoting mobility for the most talented students and academics from third countries to obtain qualifications and/or experience in the European Union and for the most talented European students and academics towards third countries;
- to contribute towards the development of human resources and the international cooperation capacity of higher education institutions in third countries through increased mobility streams between the European Union and third countries;
- to improve accessibility and enhance the profile and visibility of European higher education around the world as well as its attractiveness for third country nationals and citizens of the Union.

The Erasmus Mundus Programme Guide and the relevant application forms for the — concerned actions are available at the following address:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/funding/higher_education_institutions_en.php

A. Action 2 — Erasmus Mundus partnerships

NOTICE

The call for proposals is being launched with a suspensive clause concerning the funding for lot 6 (Tunisia) and lot 18 (ACP) and for part of the funding for lot 16 (Brazil) that will be allocated to EU mobility to third countries. The funding and the subsequent award of project grants for these lots are subject to the adoption of the respective decisions by the European Commission.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 340, 19.12.2008, p. 83.

As from 1 July 2013, Croatia should become the 28th Member State of the European Union. In this context, Croatian Higher Education Institutions will be considered as 'European Institutions' and will be eligible to apply as applicants to the current call for proposals provided that unforeseen events will not delay the accession calendar beyond the call for proposals award decision. Croatian students will be considered as 'European Individuals' and will be eligible to benefit from an EM Action 2 scholarship as from academic year 2013-14.

This action aims at fostering structured cooperation between European and third-country higher education institutions through the promotion of mobility at all level of studies for students (undergraduate and masters), doctoral candidates, researchers, academic and administrative staff (not all regions and lots may include all types of mobility flow).

Action 2 — Erasmus Mundus Partnerships (EMA2) is divided into two strands:

- Erasmus Mundus Action 2 — STRAND 1 — Partnerships with countries covered by the ENPI, DCI, EDF, IPA and ICI (ICI +) instruments ⁽²⁾;
- Erasmus Mundus Action 2 — STRAND 2 — Partnerships with countries and territories covered by the Industrialised Countries Instrument (ICI).

A.1. Eligible participants, countries and partnership composition

The conditions applicable to the eligible participants and to the composition of the partnerships are specified in the Programme Guide under Section 6.1.2.a for EMA2-STRAND 1 and under Section 6.2.2.a for EMA2-STRAND 2, and in the 'Guidelines to the call for proposals EACEA/38/12' under Section 5.4.1 for EMA2-STRAND 1 and under Section 5.4.2 for EMA2-STRAND 2.

A.2. Eligible activities

Eligible activities are specified in the Programme Guide under Section 6.1.2.b for EMA2-STRAND 1 and under Section 6.2.2.b for EMA2-STRAND 2 and in the 'Guidelines to the call for proposals EACEA/38/12' under Section 5.4.1 for EMA2-STRAND 1 and under Section 5.4.2 for EMA2-STRAND 2.

A.3. Award criteria

— Applications under EMA2-STRAND 1 will be assessed against the following award criteria:

Criteria	Weight
1. Relevance	25 %
2. Quality	65 %
2.1. Partnership composition and cooperation mechanisms	20 %
2.2. Organisation and implementation of the mobility	25 %
2.3. Student/staff facilities and follow-up	20 %
3. Sustainability	10 %
Total	100 %

⁽²⁾ ENPI — European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

DCI — Development Cooperation Instrument

IPA — Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance

EDF — The European Development Fund (EDF) is the main instrument for providing EU assistance for development cooperation under the Cotonou Agreement: 'the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part and the EU and its Member States of the other part'.

ICI — Instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high-income countries and territories. This includes the promotion of people-to-people links to supplement Erasmus Mundus Action 2 and given the adoption of ICI revision on December 2011, it also supports the mobility of the European Union students and academic staff to third countries (ICI + under the relevant Lots).

— Applications under EMA2-STRAND 2 will be assessed against the following award criteria:

Criteria	Weight
1. Relevance	25 %
2. Contribution to excellence	25 %
3. Quality	50 %
3.1. Partnership composition and cooperation mechanisms	15 %
3.2. Organisation and implementation of the mobility	20 %
3.3. Student/staff facilities and follow-up	15 %
Total	100 %

A.4. Budget ⁽³⁾

The overall available amount under this call for proposals is approximately EUR 194,1595 million, aiming at a minimum mobility flow of 7 109 individuals.

The available budget for all cooperation instruments under EMA2-STRAND 1 is EUR 187,4095 million aiming at a minimum mobility of 6 877 individuals, including the budget for the ICI + and instrument promoting EU mobility towards third countries under the DCI instrument of EUR 14 million aiming at a minimum mobility of 457 individuals.

The available budget for EMA2-STRAND 2 is EUR 6,75 million aiming at a minimum mobility of 142 individuals.

A.5. Submission deadline

The submission deadline for the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 — Partnerships is **15 April 2013 at 12.00 (midday) Central European Time.**

The Agency has established a system for the electronic submission of all applications. For this call for proposals, applicants must send their application using an electronic form available as of February 2013.

Only the electronic submission (including annexes) will be considered as the formal valid application.

Additionally, one paper copy identical to the electronic submission (including annexes) as a backup must be sent by registered post to the following address by the submission deadline:

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
 Call for proposals EACEA/38/12 — Action 2
 BOUR 02/029
 Avenue du Bourget/Bourgetlaan 1
 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel
 BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Only applications submitted by the deadline and in accordance with the requirements specified on the relevant application forms will be accepted. Applications submitted on paper, by fax or directly by e-mail will not be examined.

B. Action 3 — Promotion of European Higher Education

NOTICE

As from 1 July 2013, Croatia should become the 28th Member State of the European Union. In this context, Croatian Higher Education Institutions and organisations will be considered as 'European Institutions' and will be eligible to apply as applicants to the current call for proposals provided that unforeseen events will not delay the accession calendar beyond the call for proposals award decision.

This action aims at promoting European higher education through measures enhancing its attractiveness, profile, image, visibility and accessibility. Action 3 provides support to transnational initiatives, studies,

⁽³⁾ This amount is conditional on the adoption of the EU budget for 2013.

projects, events and other activities related to the international dimension of all aspects of higher education. These include promotion, accessibility, quality assurance, credit recognition, recognition of European qualifications abroad and mutual recognition of qualifications with third countries, curriculum development, mobility, quality of services, etc.

Action 3 activities may take various forms (conferences, seminars, workshops, studies, analyses, pilot projects, prizes, international networks, production of material for publication, development of information, communication and technology tools) and may take place anywhere in the world.

B.1. *Eligible participants and consortium composition*

The conditions applicable to eligible participants and to the composition of the consortium are specified in the Programme Guide under Section 7.2.1.

B.2. *Eligible activities*

Eligible activities are specified in the Programme Guide under Section 7.2.2.

For the purposes of this call for proposals, projects should address one of the following priorities:

- projects dealing with promotion of European higher education in certain geographical areas (notably Eastern and Southern neighbourhood countries);
- projects that aim to improve services for international students;
- projects addressing the international dimension of quality assurance;
- projects promoting the joint programmes towards students;
- projects promoting the joint programmes towards employers;
- projects aiming at creating better synergies between the EU policy dialogue with third countries and the cooperation projects supported by the European programmes in higher education.

Projects which foresee the following activities will not be financed:

- activities implemented in the context of the Internationalisation of Erasmus Thematic Networks.

B.3. *Award criteria*

- Action 3 applications will be assessed against the following award criteria:

Criteria	Weight
1. Relevance of the project to the Erasmus Mundus programme	25 %
2. The expected impact of the project to help enhance the attractiveness of European higher education worldwide	25 %
3. Arrangements for dissemination of project results and experiences, quality assurance and plans for sustainability and the long-term exploitation of results	15 %
4. Consortium composition and cooperation mechanisms	15 %
5. Work plan and budget	20 %
Total	100 %

B.4. *Budget* ⁽⁴⁾

This call for proposals aims at selecting around eight projects. The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects under the present call for proposals is EUR 2 million. Grant amounts will vary considerably according to the size of the projects selected (usually between EUR 100 000 and EUR 350 000). The financial contribution from the Agency cannot exceed 75 % of the total eligible costs.

⁽⁴⁾ See footnote 3.

B.5. *Submission deadline*

The submission deadline for the Erasmus Mundus Action 3 projects to enhance the attractiveness of European higher education is **15 April 2013 at 12.00 (midday) Central European Time**.

The Agency has established a system for the electronic submission of all applications. For this call for proposals, applicants must send their application using an electronic form available as of February 2013.

Only the electronic submission (including annexes) will be considered as the formal valid application.

Additionally, one paper copy identical to the electronic submission (including annexes) as a backup must be sent by registered post to the following address by the submission deadline:

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Unit P4 Erasmus Mundus and External Cooperation
Call for proposals EACEA/38/12 — Action 3
BOUR 02/029
Avenue du Bourget/Bourgetlaan 1
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Only applications submitted by the deadline and in accordance with the requirements specified on the relevant application forms will be accepted. Applications submitted on paper, by fax or directly by e-mail will not be examined.
