Factsheet
Erasmus+ Capacity Building

What is Erasmus+?
The Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission (EC) supports education, training, youth and sport in Europe. It started in 2014 and will end in 2020. The next Erasmus programme will start in 2021 and will end in 2027.

Within the Erasmus+ programme there are several funding possibilities, which are grouped in 3 main Key Actions:

- **Key Action 1 (KA1)**: Learning mobility of individuals.
- **Key Action 2 (KA2)**: Innovation and best practices.
- **Key Action 3 (KA3)**: Support for policy reform.

Capacity Building projects are included in Key Action 2.

What are Capacity Building Projects?
The aim of Capacity Building projects is to support cooperation between EU and Partner Countries in order to enhance modernization, accessibility and internationalization in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Partner Countries. Eligible Partner Countries are those located in Regions 1-4 and 6-11.

There are two types of projects:

- **Joint Projects** aimed at HEIs to improve curricula, modernize management and strengthen the connection with their social and economic environment.
- **Structural Projects** to support reforms in higher education systems at regional and national level in Partner Countries. These projects require the inclusion of the ministries responsible for education of each country participating in the consortium.

Projects last 2 or 3 years and can receive a grant between 500,000 and 1 million euros.

They typically focus on the following activities:

- Curriculum development (only for joint projects), for example, by introducing new courses, learning materials and methodologies, ICT-based practices, blended mobility, student placements, etc.
- Improving the management of HEIs, for example, in the areas of governance, university services (international office, student counselling, etc.) and quality assurance mechanisms.
- Strengthening the relation between higher education and the economic and social environment, for example, by developing guidelines for the recognition of qualifications and qualification frameworks, university-industry cooperation, new technologies in higher education, etc.

The EC has established several regional and cross-cutting priorities, which can be consulted [here](#). In addition, for some countries a set of national priorities must be regarded, which are available [here](#). Proposals not addressing national and regional priorities will not be considered for funding.

Dezernat 1, EU-Funding (Erasmus+), Am Neuen Palais, Haus 8
November 2019
What types of consortia are eligible?

A) For projects addressing one Partner Country the consortium must include a minimum of 2 HEIs from 2 different Programme Countries and 3 HEIs from the Partner Country.

B) For projects in more than one Partner Country a minimum of 2 HEIs from 2 different Programme Countries and 2 HEIs from each Partner Country must be involved.

Additionally, for Region 8 and the Russian Federation following rules apply:

- Projects addressing Region 8 (Latin America) must include at least two Partner Countries from the same region.
- Projects involving the Russian Federation (Region 4) must include at least another Partner Country from another region.

Consortia are led by the coordinating institution, which is responsible for submitting the proposal on behalf of the partners and the overall implementation of the project.

The coordinating institution must be a HEI (ideally from a Partner Country), an association of HEIs or, in the case of structural projects, a legally recognized national or international rector, teacher or student organisation. Organizations from Libya, Syria and the Russian Federation cannot act as coordinating institutions.

The project partners can be HEIs or any public or private organization active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training and youth.

HEIs located in Programme Countries must have a valid Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). An ECHE is not required for HEIs in Partner Countries.

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the EC is in charge of managing the application and evaluation process and monitoring the project implementation. Applications are submitted through the Funding & Tenders Portal of the EC.

What are the funding rules?

Capacity building projects may include the following eligible costs:

- **Staff costs**: contribution to costs of staff performing tasks for the project. This contribution is calculated in unit costs, and the amounts are fixed depending on the staff category. These costs cannot exceed 40% of the total grant.

- **Travel costs**: support to travel costs of students and staff are also calculated in unit costs, and the amounts are fixed according to the travel distance.

- **Costs of stay**: contribution to costs for subsistence, accommodation, transportation, etc. This contribution is also calculated in unit costs, and the amounts vary depending on the length of stay.

- **Equipment**: Equipment necessary for the project can be funded up to 100% (real costs). This category cannot exceed 30% of the total grant.

- **Sub-contracting**: Sub-contracting necessary for the project implementation (e.g. external financial audits or quality assurance procedures) can be funded up to 100% (real costs). These costs cannot exceed 10% of the total grant.

- **Exceptional costs**: contribution to expensive travel costs, which is based on real costs and funded up to 80%.

The details of each funding category are specified in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.
Sources