

Erasmus+ KA2 Stratēģiskās partnerības

Jautājumi un atbildes no Eiropas Komisijas (25-26.03.2014.)

- **Are the applicants for strategic partnerships obliged to mention already in their electronic application form, if they want to include various people with “special needs” in their project? And if so, do they have to indicate the exact number?**

Yes. Each participating organisation needs to indicate, if the participation of people with special needs is foreseen, the expected number of these under Section H.5.

- **Could you please explain or provide additional examples of what can be funded under “intellectual outputs”? We have read the FAQ but we need some more examples if possible**

The Programme Guide specifies that Intellectual Outputs "should be substantial in quality and quantity to qualify for this type of grant support" and cannot be applied for to cover small scale activities, which have to be covered from the Project Management and Implementation grant item. In terms of content, and based on the information provided in the application form, the NA will have to judge whether the Intellectual Output support applied for justifies separate grant support. One of the parameters should be the sustainable nature of the Intellectual Output, as well as its potential for wider use/exploitation and impact. In terms of people, different profiles contributing actively to the production of the Intellectual Outputs of the project are therefore eligible under this item. However, for managers and administrative assistants explicit justification needs to be provided.

- **Is it correct that it is possible to hold project meetings in one of the partner countries (e.g. the U.S. or Thailand or Albania)?**

“Transnational project meetings” in Partner Countries organisations and institutions participating to the project are eligible.

- **Regarding the duration of a strategic partnership: is it between 2 and 3 years, or either 2 or 3 years? What do you consider ‘activities’ in this respect? If a strategic partnership applies for 3 years that means they have to start their activities in the first month (e.g. with a project meeting or similar things).**

The duration of a strategic partnership is either 2 or 3 years. The starting date is for both set on 1st September 2014. When filling in the eForm, the applicant organisation should indicate the timing of each activity within the overall timeframe of two or three years.

- **Is it possible to apply for mobility activities for learners without applying for intellectual outputs?**

Strategic Partnerships are not a mobility action. Transnational learning, teaching and training activities can be considered for funding only if they directly contribute to the overall project objective. This does not mean that funding for Transnational learning, teaching and training activities is formally subject to the presence of a grant request for Intellectual Outputs. It is, for example, possible in a smaller scale project that the development of learning/course materials is done through funding from the Project

Management and Implementation grant item. However, in the case of higher education, it is rather unlikely that a Strategic Partnership that proposes only mobility activities without any Intellectual Output could be selected. For example, a project proposing only an Intensive Study Programme without any development of at least a common module/course between the participating organisations or an e-learning course should not be selected unless the project still convincingly demonstrates that it is highly relevant to the objectives and priorities of the action and the policy objectives for HE.

- **How can a project coordinator share the finances of a strategic partnership if it has more than 10 partners (evenly vs. according to workload of each institution). If it is less than 10 partners and the workload is not evenly distributed can there be different amounts as well for each partner as long as the maximum ceiling is not touched**

It will be up to the consortium to allocate the amount of funding between the participating organisations which corresponds to the workload and a proper implementation of tasks within the limit of the total amount received. Of course, the even (or not) distribution of workload in a project is one of the aspects that experts need to look at in their assessment.

- **On page 98 in the Programme Guide it says under 'eligible activities': "activities of learners as well as long-term activities of staff or youth-workers from or to partner countries are not eligible." To partner countries is understandable but does from partner countries mean that the partners from partner countries cannot participate in an ISP or blended mobility etc. This seems to be counterproductive to the intention of the partnership. Could you please clarify?**

They can of course participate but at their own cost, i.e. not funded by the project.

- **Besides the mandates for each partner will there be financial provisions/agreements on what the coordinator will give to each partner (rights and obligations)? How do the partners have to report their expenditures? Due to unit costs will they have to report their expenditures at all?**

In the case of multi-beneficiary grant agreements the partners 'give mandate' to the coordinator to implement the project as well as take responsibility for supporting the coordinator and implementing their share of the project activities. The grant distribution agreements are internal to the partnership. It is up to them to decide how to share the budget. They will not have to report on their real costs expenditure, only on the triggering events.

In the case of mono-beneficiary grant agreements (only for school-to-school partnerships) the responsibility of partners for implementing their share of the project activities, the budget, supporting the coordinator and reporting will be covered in their grant agreement with the respective NA

- **Is it correct that staff of an Intensive Study Programme will receive the same funding as written on page 104 in the PG under 'short term joint staff training event' (100€ per person) and not only the 55€ that a participant will get under 'short term activities for learners'?**

Yes, it is absolutely correct.

- Is it possible to format (underline, mark, italics, etc.) within the electronic application form?
No, it is not possible.
- As soon as you fill in your accreditation type, it's not possible anymore to fill in the questions on background and experience (C.1.3.). I understand that that's related to the PIC and the ECHE, but the info given there is very general and not specifically related to this project (and to a specific faculty/coordinator). Questions like *what are the activities and experience of the partner organisation in the areas relevant for THIS project* and *what are the skills and/or expertise of the key persons involved in this project* cannot be answered. Do you expect this information only in part D description of the project (how did you choose your partners and what experience ...?).
Yes.
- Place of multiplier events – should they take place only in countries of organisations involved in the Strategic Partnership or in any Programme Country?
Multiplier events can take place in any of the Programme Countries participating in the project.
- Partner country institution's participation – in case we have for example 4 institutions from partners countries but experts assess participation of only two of them as beneficial and indispensable for the project, can we consider the project for funding with requirement that only 2 partner countries institutions will become partners of the SP, or should the project be rejected as a whole (unconvincing need for participation of 2 out of 4 institutions from partner countries).
*Unless the proposal demonstrates convincingly that the participation of all the partner organisations from Partner Countries provides genuine added value 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, the proposal should be scored as "weak" for the award criterion concerned and, thus, be rejected as a whole.*
- The Guide (p. 99) lists as eligible participants in teaching, training and learning activities "Students registered in a participating HEI and enrolled in studies leading to a recognised degree or other recognised tertiary level qualification, up to and including the level of doctorate". A participating HEI can also be in a partner country. However, on p. 98 the Guide says "Activities of learners as well as long-term activities of staff or youth workers from or to Partner Countries are not eligible." Does this mean that students from partner country HEIs are excluded after all, but staff may participate in ISP?
Participants from Partners can participate, but their participation cannot be funded from the EU budget except for staff from Partner Countries teaching in Intensive Study Programmes.
- Under the SP funding rules for ISP (p. 105) it is not mentioned which individual support rates are to be used for teachers participating in ISP. Possibly the same rate as for short-term staff training events?

Yes, that is correct. The Technical Guidelines actually mention on p. 54 that the two actions adhere to the same funding rules: "The drop-down menu for Activity Type fails to include short-term joint staff training events. Please select Intensive programmes for teaching staff for this purpose. The two actions are similar in the way that they are both short term activities and adhere to the same funding rules. However, it must be clearly stated in the Activity Description that the activity in question is indeed joint staff training and not intensive programme teaching."

- **In addition, the SP application form mentions only short-term TEACHER training events. According to the Guide terminology, the activity is called short STAFF training events which would be open for other HEI staff as well. This kind of ambiguity in terminology is confusing for the applicants - so which one is correct?**

Training events are open to both staff and teachers. We agree that the wording can be confusing and we will make sure to have a more uniform approach for the next call.

- **Are associated partners eligible only for Strategic partnerships between regional school authorities or they are also possible for HEI KA2?**

The associated partners are only eligible for Strategic partnerships between regional school authorities.

- **What happens in the case of former Thematic Networks? Can some of the partners be included as associated ones and receive no funding, or do they all have to sign a mandate letter?**

There is no provision for associated partners in Strategic Partnerships other than those between regional school authorities. In all other projects organisations can participate either as formal partners or as silent partners.

- **What is the difference between associated and silent partners?**

"Associated partners" are organisations that are formally included in the partnership. Silent partners are not formally recognized partners. Thus, they cannot benefit from any project funding, nor is their country recognized as a participating country in the project, meaning that it is not an eligible destination of any project activities. Silent partners do not have any formal status and cannot be included in the list of partners in the application.

In the case of Strategic Partnerships between local/regional school education authorities as described in the Programme Guide, associated partners are allowed. If the applicant in the application form chooses the field that this is a partnership in school education between the regions, this has the following consequences:

the minimum requirement for participating countries is 2 (not 3, as is the requirement for all the other KA2 strategic partnerships, except school-to-school). The local (associated) partners would not need to register for PIC (they might describe them), PIC is only for the local or regional authority that is applying. Associated partners do not need to provide any mandate to the coordinator. Associated partners are eligible for project mobilities and project activities, and this all will be covered from the budget requested by the regional or local authority that they are associated to.

- **If all partners are HEIs, will this have a negative impact on the score?**

Not necessarily. It depends on the objective of the project: in view of the objective, the best possible partnership has to be established, meaning that the consortium should comprise all the organisations that are necessary to make the project as successful as possible. If the objective of the project is such that input from organisations in other fields would be beneficial, their absence would have a negative impact on the quality assessment of the project (e.g. a project on transition from secondary education to higher education without involving any actors from school education). In all cases, it is up to the experts to evaluate the quality of the project team.

- **Class room project work is included among others, in the project management and implementation activities. Does this mean that the local teaching staff for these activities can be reimbursed for their work? Up to what amount?**

All expenses regarding the project management and implementation should be covered by the "Project management and implementation" budget category which is based on unit cost per month and depending on the organization (coordinating or participating). It is up to the organization to allocate this amount in a suitable way.

- **The project manager (person) is entitled to remuneration for his/her work? Up to what amount?**

All expenses regarding the project management and implementation should be covered by the "Project management and implementation" budget category which is based on unit cost per month and depending on the organization (coordinating or participating). There is no specific provision or earmarked amount foreseen for the remuneration of project managers in particular. It is up to the participating organizations to distribute the amount for Project management and implementation in a suitable way between them.

- **Analyses and studies are included in the intellectual outputs. What kind of analyses is eligible? An analysis needed prior to the creation of a new curriculum is eligible, for ex.? If yes, what is the difference between this and the needs analysis requested prior to the application?**

The needs analysis prior to the application must identify the needs on the basis of which the project objective, activities and outputs are developed. It should therefore be undertaken before the application is submitted and is not covered by the project grant. If the project objective is to undertake an analysis in a given area in order to develop for example a new curriculum and this analysis is a justified part of the project activities and outputs, then the consortium can apply for grant support for Intellectual Outputs for such analysis. The experts will have to analyse to which extent the requested grant support is justified with regard to the project objectives and intended impact and whether the activities represent "value for money" or not.

- **If a consortium wishes to combine a transnational project meeting with short term training activities, which unit costs should apply? Those for Transnational project**

meetings or those for transnational training activities (separate units for travel and individual support)?

The same activity cannot be covered by two separate budget categories. Thus, if a consortium wishes to combine a transnational project meeting with short term training activities, they will have to apply for the activity under one of both budget categories and the rules for that category will then apply to the activity.