

POLICY EXPERIMENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION CALL FOR PROPOSALS ERASMUS-EDU-2022-POL-EXP

INFORMATION SESSION FOR APPLICANTS

European Education and Culture Executive Agency

28 June 2022, Webstreaming

Welcome and introduction

José-Lorenzo VALLÉS

Head of Unit EACEA.A1 for European Higher Education



Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction

José-Lorenzo VALLÉS, Head of Unit EACEA.A1 for European Higher Education

2. Call for proposals: overall policy objectives

Vanessa DEBIAIS-SAINTON, Head of Unit DG EAC.B1 for Higher Education

3. Call for proposals: important elements and specificities

José-Lorenzo VALLÉS, Head of Unit EACEA.A1 for European Higher Education

4. Tips for preparing an application

Iwona JABLONSKA, Team Leader EACEA.A1.001 for European Higher Education

5. Questions & Answers

6. Closing remarks

Estimated duration: 10:30 – 12:30



How to interact?

Please do not hesitate to submit your questions throughout the information session via the **slido.com**

Enter the event code: #2920174

Or scan the QR code:





Policy experimentation in higher education - Call for Proposals



Overall policy objectives

Vanessa DEBIAIS-SAINTON

Head of Unit DG EAC.B1 for Higher Education



EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR UNIVERSITIES

SUPPORTING AND ENABLING
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
ACROSS EUROPE



Strenghten the European dimension in higher education and research

Consolidate universities as lighthouses of our European way of life

Empower universities as key actors of change in the twin green and digital transitions

Reinforce universities as drivers of Europe's global role and leadership

Council Conclusions adopted by EYCS Council 5 April 2022



Strong call from higher education sector to act

Evolving context - intensification of transnational cooperation



92%

of universities identified the elimination of legal and administrative obstacles as a key issue



- □ Legal and administrative obstacles to setup joint programmes and activities, including the award of joint degree, are multiplied by the number of partners in an alliance of HEIs in view of diverse national legislations
- ☐ Uneven implementation of Bologna tools at national level quality assurance, ECTS
- □ Difficulties to mutualise strengths and share joint resources financial, human, digital and physical resources, and services.



BUILDING BRIDGES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COOPERATION





FIRST STEP TOWARDS:

- Institutionalised cooperation instruments (e.g. legal status for alliances)
- Common criteria for a European label for joint programmes, followed possibly by voluntary joint degrees based on these European criteria



SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCES



Reinforce **European transnational cooperation**

by building bridges

Support all higher education institutions and enhance the **coherence** of European higher education systems

Full implementation of existing instruments and exploring avenues for new ones

Recommendation for **national reforms**and European support

Council Recommendation adopted by EYCS Council 5 April





Two flagship initiatives Higher education package

Explore common criteria leading to a potential **European label for joint programmes**, to be piloted as of 2022 under Erasmus+. Later on, the possible design and delivery, on a voluntary basis, at national, regional or institutional level, of joint degrees at all levels, based on these co-created European criteria, could be envisaged

Erasmus + pilot call topic 1:

Pilot a joint European degree label



Examining the need for and feasibility of institutionalised cooperation instruments, such as a possible legal status for alliances of higher education institutions: pilot as of 2022 under Erasmus+ the implementation of existing European instruments

Erasmus + pilot call topic 2:

Pilot institutionalised EU cooperation instruments to explore the feasibility for a possible European legal status for alliances of higher education institutions



Working towards fully voluntary solutions





Topic 1: Pilot a joint European degree label

European Council Conclusions from 14 December 2017

"(...) enable students to obtain a degree by combining studies in several EU countries and contribute to the international competitiveness of European universities"

Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe, 5 April 2022

"(...) further steps should be taken to recognise the value of innovative transnational learning experiences and to increase the visibility, attractiveness and reputation, both in Europe and beyond, of such joint programmes provided by alliances of HEIs.

Common criteria should be explored that could lead to a potential European label for joint programmes.

Later on, the possible design and delivery, on a voluntary basis, at national, regional or institutional level, of joint degrees at all levels, based on these co-created European criteria, could be envisaged, in accordance with the existing instruments of the Bologna Process. This process should occur in close cooperation with national authorities, alliances of HEIs and stakeholders."



Topic 1: Pilot a joint European degree label

Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation, 5 April 2022

Recommendation to the Commisson:

"Examine the options and necessary steps - in close cooperation with Member States, higher education institutions, student organisations and stakeholders - towards a possible joint degree based on a common set of cocreated European criteria. This degree, to be delivered on a voluntary basis at national, regional or institutional level, could attest learning outcomes achieved as part of transnational cooperation 'combining studies in several EU countries', offered for example within 'European Universities'. It should be easy to issue, store, share, verify and authenticate, and recognised across the EU. It will build on and boost the implementation of the Bologna instruments in the Member States.

- a) Pilot in 2022 the development and implementation under Erasmus+ of European criteria for the award of a joint European degree label. Such a label would be issued as a complementary certificate to the qualifications obtained by students graduating from joint programmes delivered in the context of transnational cooperation between several higher education institutions.
- b) Based on the results of this preparatory work, report to the Council for further decision at each step towards a possible joint degree based on co-created European criteria, in accordance with the instruments of the Bologna Process."



FULL RESPECT OF MEMBER STATES COMPETENCE

- * would NOT be awarded by a European body
- * would NOT replace national degrees or joint degrees
- * criteria developed with Member States and HEIs

FULL RESPECT OF INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM

* criteria only covering general framework conditions for a specific type of joint degrees



Topic 2: Pilot institutionalised EU cooperation instruments

Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe, 5 April 2022

"(...) steps should be taken to overcome the obstacles to a deeper, long-term and flexible transnational cooperation and design institutionalised cooperation instruments, based on a preliminary thorough assessment of their necessity, benefits and feasibility.

The aim is to give alliances, on a voluntary basis:

- latitude to act together,
- make common strategic decisions,
- experiment joint recruitment,
- design joint curricula
- pool resources and human, technical, data, education, research and innovation capacities."



Topic 2: Pilot institutionalised EU cooperation instruments

Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation, 5 April 2022

- "(...) Higher education alliances could benefit, on a voluntary basis, from institutionalised cooperation instruments, such as a possible legal status for alliances of higher education institutions, that enable them to share, where appropriate, common financial, human, digital and physical resources, and services, to operate virtual inter-university campuses and interoperable platforms for joint digital or blended activities
- (...) In parallel to the analysis of ongoing studies and other preparatory work, support the Member States and higher education institutions in **testing the use of existing European instruments from 2022 onwards** as a step on the way to facilitating deeper, long-term and flexible transnational cooperation and in examining the need for and feasibility of **institutionalised cooperation instruments**, **such as a possible legal status for alliances of higher education institutions**.

To be used on a **voluntary basis**, such instruments should facilitate the sharing of capacities and data and the exchange of staff, where appropriate, and the implementation of joint programmes, with the aim of awarding joint degrees at the level of alliances, including a joint degree based on co-created European criteria."



FULL RESPECT OF MEMBER STATES COMPETENCE

- * Would NOT replace national legal status
- * Complementary status to facilitate deeper transnational cooperation

FULL RESPECT OF INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM

* Not obligatory; Not a pre-condition for access to EU funding

* Not a one size fits all:

flexible in use depending on level of cooperation within the alliance



Topic 1: Pilot a joint European degree label

Concept and specific objectives





A step by step approach

2023: Test the co-developed criteria in selected pilots

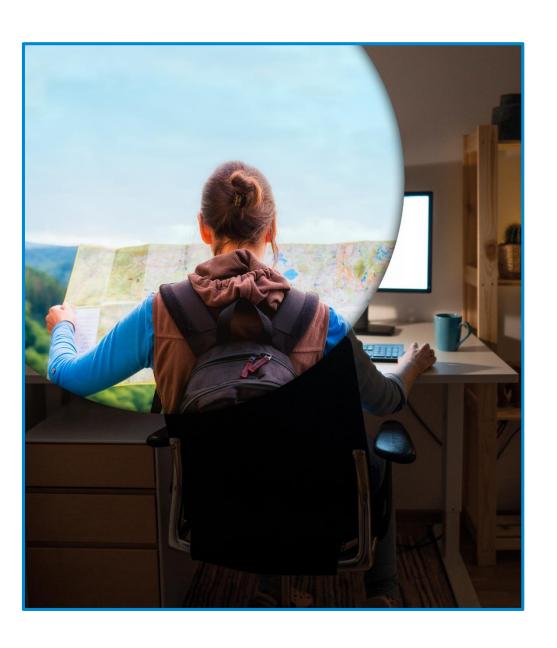
The pilots will test the proposed criteria and make proposals for their optimisation and further steps.

2024 and beyond: follow up action at EU level

Analyse the results of the pilots to inform future possible developments towards a possible joint degree based on cocreated European criteria.







Specific objectives

1/ Exploring and testing the relevance of the criteria for joint transnational programmes leading to a higher education qualification at all levels (EQF 6, 7, and 8)

2/ Exploring and recommending possible optimisation of the set of criteria

3/ Elaborating proposals aiming to facilitate the development and implementation of joint degrees in Europe. This would include proposing an approach for the delivery of joint degrees based on co-created European criteria.



Co-creation process with stakeholders and Member States

Desk research & study, April 2021-June 2022

Characteristics of joint programmes in Europe, mapping of existing labels and instruments to support their development

Workshops with stakeholders, June 2021 and March 2022

Discuss the concept of a joint European degree label Gather views on possible criteria

Co-creation with Member States (EEA Working Group on Higher Education, meeting of the Directors General for Higher Education), March-May 2022

Discussions and survey on possible criteria to be tested in a piloting phase



Co-created set of criteria (Call Annex)

Higher education institutions involved Transnational joint degree delivery **Transparency of the learning outcomes Quality assurance arrangements** Joint policies for the joint programme **Transnational campus – access to services**



Co-created set of criteria (Call Annex)

Flexible and embedded student mobility arrangements

Multilingualism

Innovative learning approaches

Graduate outcomes

Inclusiveness and sustainability



How to test the co-created criteria?

- Screening existing joint programmes for compliance with the criteria,
- Identification of compliant joint programmes
- Contribution to the creation of the template of the European joint degree label (physical and/or digital),
- Awarding the label to students
- Conducting a joint reflection, in cooperation with the relevant authorities and stakeholders on:
 - Optimisation of the proposed set of criteria
 - Possible scenarios and recommendation for the delivery of a joint degree at all levels, based on these co-created European criteria, to be awarded at national, regional or HEI level, in accordance with the National Qualifications Frameworks.

Topic 2: Pilot institutionalised EU cooperation instruments to explore the feasibility for a possible European legal status for alliances of higher education institutions

Concept and specific objectives





A step by step approach

2023: Test the use of existing institutionalised cooperation instruments at European level

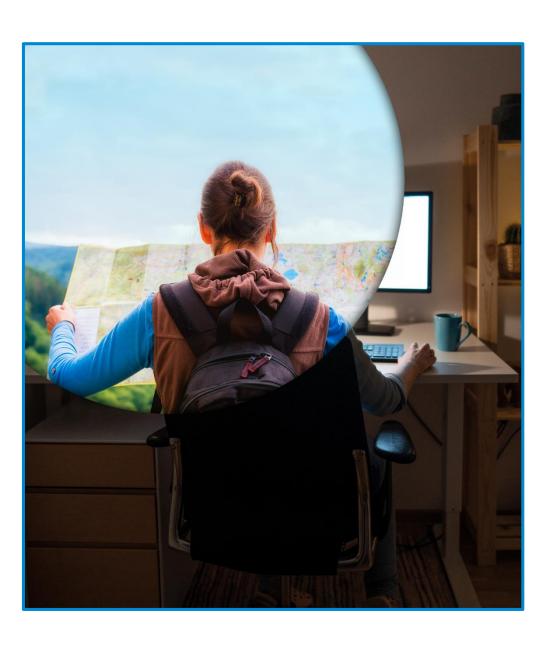
The pilots will examine, test and facilitate the use of existing instruments at European level, such as a possible legal status for alliances.

2024 and beyond: follow up action at EU level

Analyse the results of the pilots to inform future possible developments towards a possible proposal at EU level for an institutionalised cooperation instrument.







Specific objectives

1/ Exploring how an existing institutionalised cooperation EU instrument, such as a possible legal status for alliances can provide solutions to the obstacles encountered with regard to the deeper cooperation (e.g. European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) or the European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG))

2/ Elaborating proposals for improvement of the existing EU instruments or key elements for the design of a new EU level instrument



How to achieve the objectives?

Based on a needs assessment of the alliance and the regulatory regional/national frameworks and in close cooperation with the public authorities at local, regional, and/or national level:

- analyse and explore how the existing institutionalised cooperation instruments available at European level can provide solutions to the obstacles encountered with regard to the deeper cooperation
- **significantly advance with the implementation** of the chosen existing institutionalised cooperation instrument available at European level (realistic implementation plan)
- Work out a proposal for improvement of an existing EU instrument or for a new EU instrument



Important elements and call specificities

José-Lorenzo VALLÉS

Head of Unit EACEA.A1 for European Higher Education



The Call for Proposals at a glance

- **Scope**: Support partnerships of higher education institutions and relevant national, regional and/or HEI authorities to test and explore deeper transnational cooperation instruments:
 - ERASMUS-EDU-2022-POL-EXP-EUdegree Pilot a joint European degree label
 - ERASMUS-EDU-2022-POL-EXP-EUstatus Pilot institutionalised EU cooperation instruments to explore the feasibility for a possible European legal status for alliances of higher education institutions
- Duration of projects: normally 12 months
- Total budget: EUR 2 million
- Type of grant: Budget based (actual costs)



Call topics

Topic 1: Pilot a joint European degree label

To examine, test and facilitate the delivery of a joint European degree label, based on a common set of co-created European criteria.

Topic 2: Pilot institutionalised EU cooperation instruments to explore the feasibility for a possible European legal status for alliances of higher education institutions

To examine, test and facilitate the use of existing institutionalised cooperation instruments at European level, such as a possible legal status for alliances of higher education institutions.

Activities that can be funded - Topic 1

- Screening the (applicant-managed) existing joint programmes for compliance with the criteria, and **Identification** of the eligible programmes,
- Contribution to the creation of the template of the European joint degree label (physical and/or digital), and awarding to students the joint European degree label developed for the pilot
- Joint reflection in cooperation with the relevant national regional and/or HEI
 authorities (e.g. responsible for higher education, accreditation, evaluation and
 recognition) as well as stakeholders (e.g. students, employers) via meetings,
 consultations, surveys, focus group discussions, etc.
 - On the Optimisation of the proposed set of criteria (in the call Annex)
 - On possible scenarios for the delivery of a joint degree at all levels, based on the co-created European criteria
- Communication and dissemination, and organisation of a final event.



Activities that can be funded — Topic 2

- Examine, test and facilitate the use of existing institutionalised cooperation instruments at European level providing a possible legal status for HEI alliances
- Exploration and analysis, in close cooperation with the public authorities at local, regional, and/or national level, of how the existing institutionalised cooperation instruments available at European level can address the needs of the alliances
- Advance with the implementation of the chosen existing cooperation instrument
- Prepare a proposal for the improvement of the instrument
- Communication and dissemination, and organisation of a final event.



Eligible participants and countries

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e. EU Member States and third countries associated to the Erasmus+ programme:
- be higher education institutions holding a valid Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), and/or public or private organisations active in the fields of education and training or in other fields relevant to this call.

Only Higher Education institutions (HEIs) holding a valid Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) can be **coordinators** of the project

Other entities may participate in other roles: as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc.



Budget

• The call budget is **EUR 2 000 000**:

1 - Pilot a joint European degree label	ELID 1 000 000
i ilot a joint European acgive laber	EUR 1 000 000
2 - Pilot institutionalised EU cooperation instruments to explore the feasibility for a possible European legal status for alliances of higher education institutions	EUR 1 000 000

^{*}We reserve the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the call topics, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation

- The maximum grant amount per project is EUR 200 000.
- The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate of 80%



Other important elements

Consortium composition

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium of **at least 2 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities), which complies with the following conditions:

- Minimum 2 eligible higher education institutions from 2 different eligible countries
- Milestones and deliverables

Applicants need to envisage in their work plan submitting regular deliverables to allow proper project monitoring and timely information on the progress of the pilot activities

Project duration

Projects should normally last 12 months



Submission and evaluation

Submission

Electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Proposals must be complete and contain all the requested information – duly completed Part A and Part B (limited to 40 pages).

Evaluation

An evaluation committee (assisted by independent external experts) will assess all applications. For each topic, proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria and then ranked according to the obtained scores.



Topic 1

Award criteria

Relevance (max 25 Points)

Quality (max 50 points)

Impact (max 25 points)



Relevance





Level of ambition

Contributes to the **EU strategic and legislative context**, as highlighted in **European strategy for universities** and related Recommendation;

Builds upon existing cooperation and offers to test the criteria of the joint European degree label in a significant number of existing joint programmes and ensures a good coverage in term of levels, fields, disciplines and geographical scope;

European added value

Through piloting a joint European degree label, in terms of its potential benefits for students, employers and higher education ecosystems;

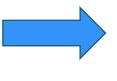
Through **sharing best practices** with other higher education institutions in Europe for implementing transnational joint degree programmes.



Quality



 Project design and implementation



Demonstration of the capacity to pilot a joint European degree label



Quality & feasibility of the work plan



Project methodology



 Partnership and cooperation arrangements



Effectiveness of the cooperation arrangements



Level of involvement of national, regional and/or HEI authorities active in the fields of education and training



Quality of the consortium and solid geographical representation



Impact





 Robust communication strategy



Visibility of the partners' and students participation in the pilot activities and of the joint degree programmes involved



Clear plan for dissemination of results and sharing of good practices



Topic 2

Award criteria

Relevance (max 25 Points)

Quality (max 50 points)

Impact (max 25 points)



Relevance





Level of ambition

Contributes to the **EU strategic and legislative context**, as highlighted in **European strategy for universities** and related Recommendation;

Builds upon the existing common vision and shared values within the alliance of higher education institutions, for pursuing a high level of systemic, structural and sustainable institutional cooperation at all levels of the involved institutions.

European added value

Through potential benefits for the involved higher education institutions and involved stakeholders;

Through **sharing best practices** with other higher education institutions.



Quality



 Project design and implementation

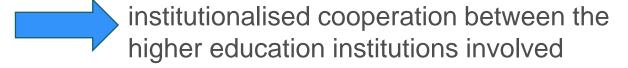


Quality & feasibility of the work plan

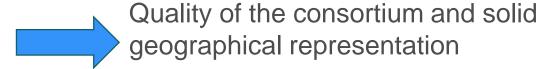
Project methodology



 Partnership and cooperation arrangements









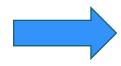
Impact







dissemination of results and sharing of good practices



Sustainability of results after EU funding ends



Call timelines

Action	Timelines
Call opening	15 June 2022
Information session for applicants	Today – 28 June 2022
Deadline for submission of applications	6 October 2022 – 17:00:00 CET
Evaluation process	October 2022 - January 2023
Information on evaluation results	Mid - January 2023 (indicative)
Grant agreement signature	February - March 2023



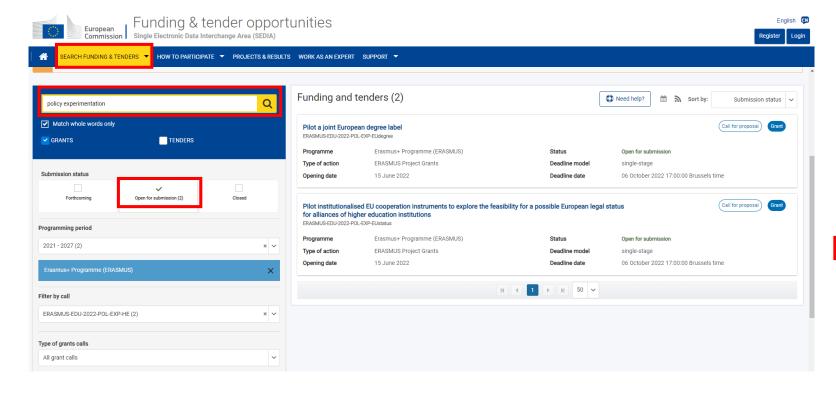
Tips for preparing a proposal

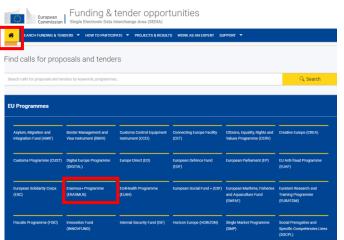
Iwona JABLONSKA

Team Leader EACEA.A1.001 for European Higher Education



Funding and Tenders Portal



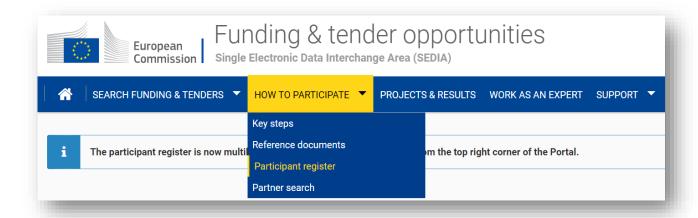




Before starting

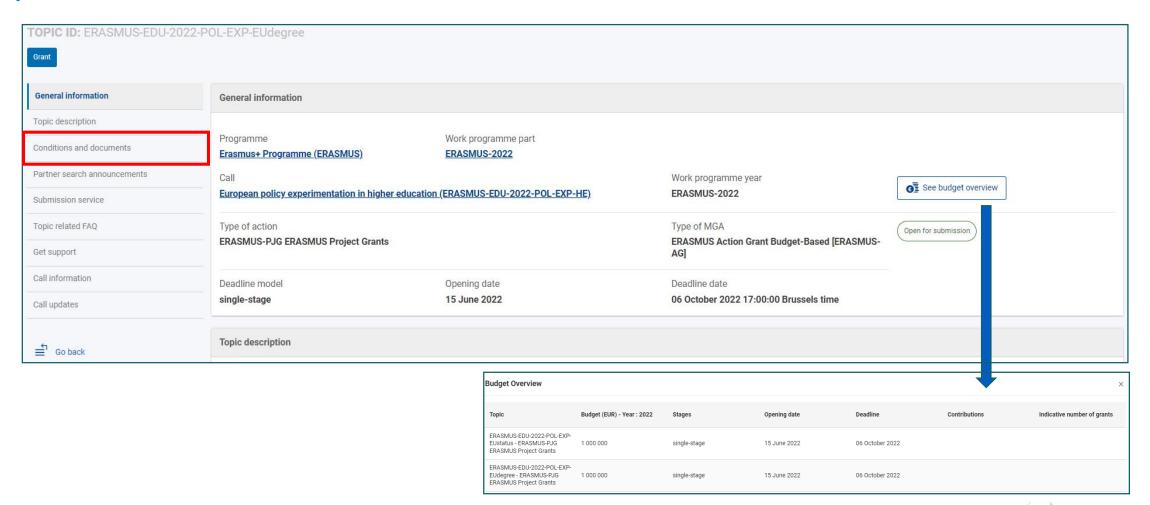
Before starting the submission process you will need:

- A valid EU Login account. If you do not have yet an <u>EU Login</u> account, you can create it here: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/eim/external/register.cgi
- A 9-digit PIC (Participant Identification Code) for each participating organisation. If your organisation is not registered yet in the <u>Participant Register</u>, you can register here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register



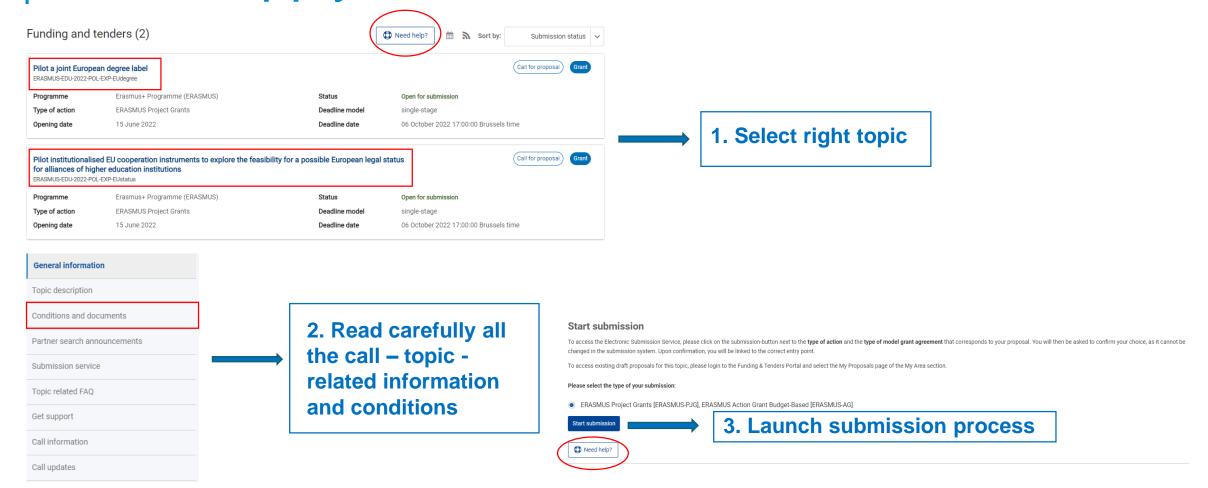


Call topic





How to apply?





Call document

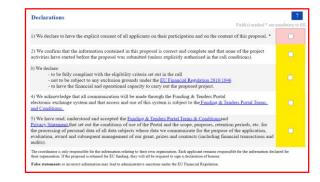


- <u>background</u>, <u>objectives</u>, <u>scope</u>, <u>activities</u> that can be funded and <u>the expected results</u> (sections 1 and 2)
- > timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
- <u>admissibility and eligibility conditions</u> (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
- > criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
- evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
- <u>award criteria</u> (section 9)
- > legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
- how to submit an application (section 11)



Admissibility criteria

- Proposals must be submitted before the call deadline via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System
- Proposals must be complete and contain all the requested information:
- ✓ Application Form Part A contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (to be filled in directly online), as well as all the declarations to be made at the consortium level.
- ✓ Application Form Part B contains the technical description of the project (to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded).
- Your application must be readable, accessible and printable.
- Proposals are limited to maximum 40 pages (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.



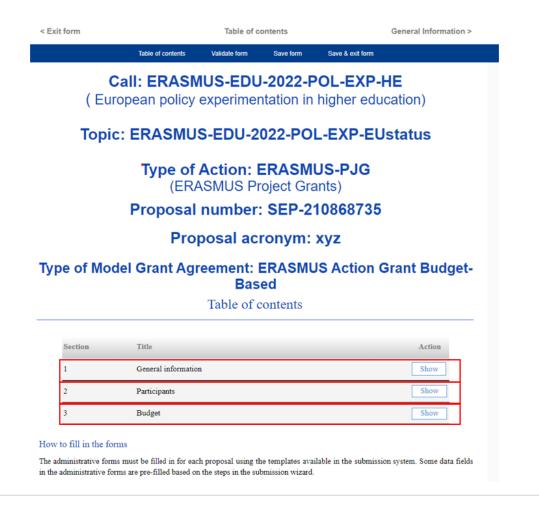


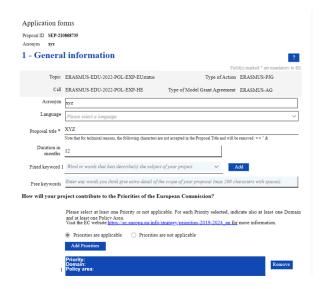
Eligibility criteria vs. Call document and Award criteria

- Please comply with all the **eligibility criteria** listed in the Call document
- Read carefully the call requirements, objectives, scope and associated call topic award criteria to better apprehend the expected partnership dimension



Proposal template – Part A – online forms





Application forms

Proposal ID SEP-210868735
Acronym xyz

2 - Participants

PIC needed to encode participants

List of participating organisations

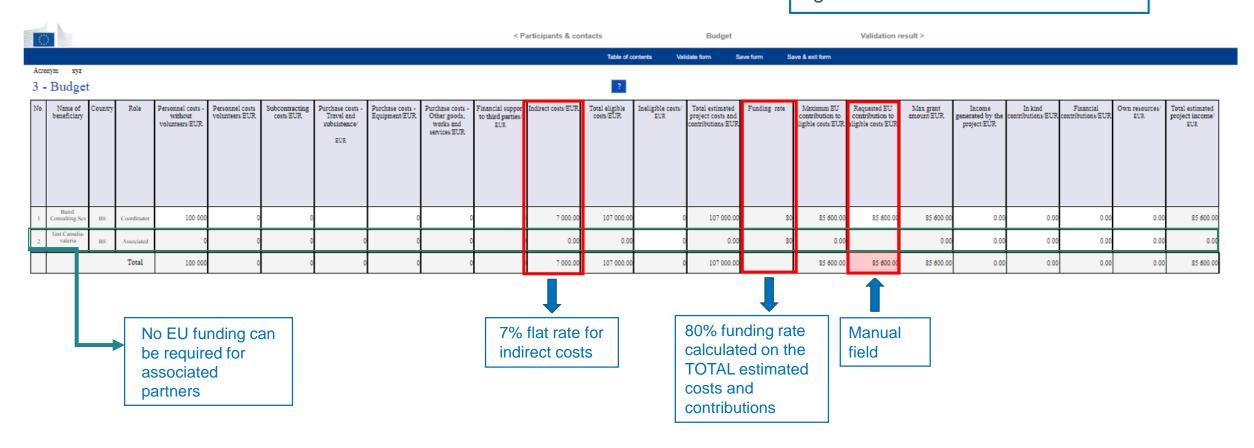




Part A – Budget based

Project budget (maximum grant amount): 200 000 EUR per project.

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement - 80%



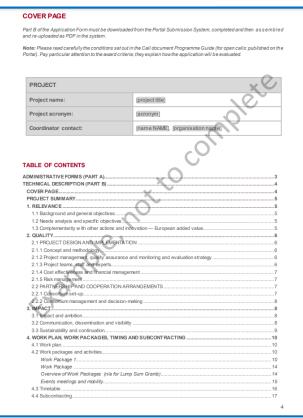


Proposal template - Part B vs. Call document

Please download the proposal template once you are in your proposal submission space via the

following button: Download Part B templates





- Read and re-read carefully ALL the call topic requirements (scope, objectives, etc.) and associated award criteria
- > Follow the instructions of the call document (including CALL ANNEX) and proposal template
- > Address the admissibility and eligibility criteria
- Address ALL the call topic award criteria and subcriteria throughout your proposal
- Provide clear and consistent information on the work plan, work packages, milestones and deliverables

European

Commission

Annexes

Please note that **no annexes** are required to be submitted within this call for proposals (see Call document section 5):

- mandatory annexes and supporting documents (to be uploaded):
 - Detailed budget table/calculator (template available in the Submission System): not applicable
 - CVs of core project team: not applicable
 - Activity reports of last year: not applicable
 - List of previous projects: not applicable
 - Other annexes: not applicable.



Useful links and contact

- EU grants user guide: Online manual
- For any technical/IT issues, especially during the proposal preparation and submission: <a href="https://linear.nih.gov/linear.n
- To obtain your PIC number: <u>Participant Register</u>
- For any (non IT, technical) questions related to the Call for proposals: <u>EACEA-POLICY-EXPERIMENTATION-HE@ec.europa.eu</u>
- Please also regularly consult the Funding an Tenders Portal for any call updates or call-specific

Topic related FAQ

There are no FAQ related to this topic.

Call information session webpage

How to apply

(EN | see) and Webinar session: The Funding & tenders Portal for beginners The Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal also has a useful online manual (business guide) and IT How To section (IT guide) to help you with the technical aspects of submitting a proposal online. Find the call for proposals for European policy experimentation in higher education via the Funding and Tenders Portal.

The deadline for applications submission is 6 October (17.00 - Brussels time).

The call is open, competitive based on qualitative award criteria

To get you started please refer to the EACEA guide: how to get a grant



Questions and answers

Slido.com

Event code: #2920174

QR code:





Closing remarks



Thank you



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