



Evaluation Committee Erasmus+ KA107 Call 2017
May 2017



Introduction

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

The action KA107 is funded from the heading 4 budget of the European Commission. The aim of the action is to extend the well-known Erasmus mobility of individuals between programme countries to other regions across the globe. This is the third call of the action.

The call for proposals EAC/A03/2016 was launched on 20/10/2016 with a deadline on 2 February 2017.

For the Netherlands a total budget of € 4.638.648,31 million euro was available covering 12 different geographic regions. The DCI region Middle East covering the countries Iran, Iraq and Yemen was introduced for the first time.

The National Agency (NA) received 23 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:

1. the applicant is a Dutch Higher Education Institution (HEI) with an ECHE
2. the applicant used the e-form and submitted only one application for the action
3. the activities applied for are in line with the action.

All 23 applications were considered eligible and were submitted to a qualitative assessment organized by the NA according to the specific Guide for the assessment of KA107 proposals (Annex I) and the Guide for National Agencies of the European Commission.

Distribution of applicants by type of HEI

Type of institution	Nr of applications
Universities of applied sciences	14
Research universities	8
HEI overseas territories	1
Total	23

Four HEIs are applying for the first time in 2017. The remaining 19 HEIs have applied in one of the previous calls. Fifteen HEIs have received a contract in one of the previous calls.

Evaluation commission: composition and tasks

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.

The Evaluation Committee for the action KA107 is composed of three members:

Organization	Name and position
Nuffic	Mrs. Birgitte Vos - policy officer at the Scholarships & Subsidies Department
Ministry of Education and Culture	Mr. Ferdi Geleijnse - coordinating policy officer
Ministry of Education and Culture	Mr. Max Bueno de Mesquita

The Evaluation Committee:

1. Validates the results of the formal eligibility check;
2. 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;
3. Based on the proposal prepared by the NA, the Evaluation Committee makes a proposal for applications to be accepted, rejected or put on a reserve list based on their quality;
4. Proposes a grant award per budget envelop according 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.
5. The members of the Evaluation Committee sign the grant award proposal.
6. The NA Director will take the grant award decision based on the proposal of the Evaluation Committee.

Qualitative assessment

The NA appointed three external experts to carry out the qualitative assessment of the KA107 proposals. The experts were appointed on the basis of the following criteria:

- previous experience with the evaluation of KA107 proposals
- experience with the evaluation of other Erasmus+ actions
- expertise in the field of internationalization of higher education and cooperation with partner countries.

The assessment was organized as follows: each proposal was assessed by one expert. The second expert acted as reviewer to guarantee consistency of use of the award criteria and feedback comments towards applicants. The NA provided a specific training before the start of the evaluation exercise and prepared a complete information package to support the evaluation process. The assessment was an independent exercise and the experts involved signed a declaration of conflict of interest.

According to the Erasmus+ programme guide http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources_en#tab-1-0 and the guidelines for experts (annex I), the assessment referred to the following aspects:

1. The applications are assessed according the criteria of
 - ✓ Relevance of the strategy (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 60 points requirement to be eligible for funding and at least half of the points must be obtained in the criterion “relevance of strategy”.
3. The selection of applications consists of a ranking list by budget envelop (in total 12). The budget envelopes are stipulated by the European Commission.
4. The budget envelopes DCI Asia, DCI Central Asia, DCI Latin America, DCI South Africa, DCI Middle East and EDF covering different regions are submitted to priorities settled by the European Commission regarding incoming and outgoing mobility. Furthermore, and due to the small amount (below € 60.000), additional criteria have been added by the National Agency to the envelop DCI South Africa.

Annex II shows a detailed overview of the budget for The Netherlands for the present call and corresponding conditions for each of the funding instruments.

Results of the qualitative assessment

Annex III contains the results of the qualitative assessment. One application consists of cooperation projects/applications with one or more partner countries.

Received	Rejected applications due to quality	Applications considered for funding
23	2	21

Choice of regions and budget request

The following can be noticed:

1. There is again little interest for the regions ENI South, ENI East, IPA and DCI Central Asia. As consequence circa 1,6 million euro are left unspent in these regions. The region DCI Central Asia in particular was not requested at all, what is a pity given the fact that the budget take-up in 2016 (68% after the second application round) was better compared with 2015.
2. On the contrary, the demand in the budget envelopes of Russia, DCI Asia, Latin America and the PI instruments exceeds largely the available budget.

Grant distribution methodology

Following the guidelines for the selection of KA107 proposals, the NA set the following methodology for the grant distribution:

1. The ranking as a result of the experts assessment

2. Geographical balance in the multi country budget envelopes according to the targets set by the EC (see annex V) and, when possible award more than two countries in the same budget envelop.
3. Benefit the maximum number applications of enough quality within the same envelope
4. Award entire projects whenever possible and introduce budget cuts in the envelopes where the requested grant exceeds the available budget
5. When budget cuts are used, the same reduction is applied to projects with the same range of points within the same budget envelope. Reductions will be effectuated according to the a general scale:
 - 91 points and higher: X% reduction and max 20% reduction of the requested grant
 - 81 – 90 points: X% reduction to fit the budget available
 - 70 – 80 points: X % reduction to fit the budget available

The precise budget cut scale will differ by budget envelop depending on the number of projects, ranking, amounts requested and available budget.

6. Reductions will maintain as much as possible the types of mobilities requested and cut first the number of persons by requested type of mobility. Priority will be given to staff mobility.
7. Exhaust budget envelopes as much as possible.
8. Small projects are revised carefully to judge if a budget cut is feasible.

The NA used the calculation tool developed by the European Commission linked to E+ link, the Erasmus+ ICT tool for programme management by the NA. Variables in the calculation of the budget are: travel, individual support for staff mobility for teaching and training (incoming and outgoing) and student mobility (incoming and outgoing) and support for the organization of mobility (OS).

Grant award proposal

Annex IV is an overview of the applications proposed for funding according to the budget envelop. It contains also an overview of the grant award proposal by HEI.

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

IPA

R1 - Western Balkans	
Budget Available	€ 915.409,00
Budget Spent	€ 369.348,43
Budget Left	€ 546.060,57
Applications Received	10
Applications Awarded	8
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	2

- Ten applications for cooperation with the regions were submitted.
- Two applications do not fulfill the minimum quality requirements.

- Eight applications fulfill the quality requirement and are proposed for funding.

ENI East

R2 - Eastern Partnership Countries	
Budget Available	€ 700.419,80
Budget Spent	€ 407.094,92
Budget Left	€ 293.324,88
Applications Received	8
Applications Awarded	7
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	1

- Eight applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.
- One application does not fulfill the minimum quality requirements.
- Seven applications fulfill the quality requirements and are proposed for funding.

ENI South

R3 - South Mediterranean Countries	
Budget Available	€ 938.845,65
Budget Spent	€ 314.848,90
Budget Left	€ 623.996,75
Applications Received	9
Applications Awarded	6
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	3

- Nine applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.
- Three applications do not fulfill the minimum quality requirements.
- Six applications fulfill the quality requirements and are proposed for funding.

Russia

R4 - Russian Federation	
Budget Available	€ 422.699,65
Budget Spent	€ 423.443,08

Budget Left	€ -743,44
Applications Received	9
Applications Awarded	8
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	1

- Nine applications for cooperation with Russia were submitted.
- Eight applications fulfill the quality requirements, ranking from 80 points and higher and are proposed for funding. Once the total requested amount exceeds the available budget and in order to benefit a larger number of projects, a reduction of the requested grant was applied according to the methodology:

Score	Reduce
> 90	18%
87-89	33%
84-86	53%
80-83	58%-62%

- The precise reductions in annex IV have been calculated to fit the available budget and the requested grant the best way possible.

DCI Asia

R6 – Asia	
Budget Available	€ 587.116,59
Budget Spent	€ 582.477,31
Budget Left	€ 4.639,28
Applications Received	18
Applications Awarded	9
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	6
Applications Under threshold	3

- Eighteen applications for cooperation with the region were submitted. Three applications did not reach the threshold of 60 points and were rejected on the ground of insufficient quality.
- Fifteen applications fulfill the quality requirements and qualify for funding.
- Nine applications are proposed for funding, following the ranking list.
- Once the total requested amount exceeds the available budget and in order to benefit a larger number of projects, a reduction of the requested grant was applied according to the methodology:

Score	Reduce
> 85	20%-26%

81-84	27%
80	30%
< 80	reject

The application with Bhutan is proposed for funding without reductions. This is according to the geographic targets of the funding instrument DCI Asia (at least 25% budget for less developed countries. See annex V)

- The precise reductions in annex IV have been calculated to fit the available budget and the requested grant the best way possible.

DCI Central Asia

R7 - Central Asia	
Budget Available	€ 170.973,53
Budget Spent	-
Budget transfer (10%) to DCI South Africa	€ 17.097,35
Applications Received	-
Applications Awarded	-
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	-
Applications Under threshold	-

DCI Latin America

R8 - Latin America	
Budget Available	€ 190.647,15
Budget Spent	€ 190.404,96
Budget Left	€ 242,19
Applications Received	10
Applications Awarded	7
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	1
Applications Under threshold	2

- Ten applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.
- Two applications did not reach the threshold of 60 points and were rejected on the ground of insufficient quality.
- Eight applications fulfill the quality requirements and qualify for funding.

- Seven applications are proposed for funding. Once the total requested amount exceeds the available budget and in order to benefit a larger number of projects, a reduction of the requested grant was applied according to the methodology:

Score	Reduce
> 90	0%
90	17%
85-89	37%-43%
80-84	48%
< 80	reject

- The precise reductions in annex IV have been calculated to fit the available budget and the requested grant the best way possible.

DCI South Africa

R10 - South Africa	
Budget Available	€ 56.676,00
Budget transfer from DCI CA and DCI ME	€ 20.531,98
Budget Spent	€ 74.245,05
Budget Left	€ 61,34
Applications Received	5
Applications Awarded	4
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	1

- Five applications for cooperation with South Africa were submitted. One application did not reach the threshold and is rejected due to the lack of quality.
- Once the budget request largely exceeds the available budget and in order to fund all applications of enough quality, four applications are proposed for funding following the ranking list and according to the methodology:

Score	Reduce
75-78	56%
70-74	63%
< 70	reject

- The precise reductions in annex IV have been calculated to fit the available budget and the requested grant the best way possible.

EDF

R11 - ACP	
Budget Available	€ 184.617
Budget Spent	€ 184.625,13
Budget Left	€ -8,13
Applications Received	12
Applications Awarded	7
Application Rejected due to ineligible partner	1
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	1
Applications Under threshold	3

- Twelve applications for cooperation with the ACP region were submitted.
- Three applications did not reach the threshold of 60 points and were rejected due to the lack of quality.
- One application was rejected due to the ineligibility of the partner.
- Eight applications qualify for funding.
- Seven applications are proposed for funding. Once the total requested amount exceeds the available budget and in order to benefit a larger number of projects, a reduction of the requested grant was applied according to the methodology:

Score	Reduce
80-85	50%
75-79	73%
60-74	reject

DCI Middle East

Iran, Iraq, Yemen	
Budget Available	€ 81.100,5
Budget Spent	€ 46.140,83
Budget Left	€ 34.959,67
Budget transfer 10% to DCI South Africa	€ 3.495,97
Applications Received	1
Applications Awarded	1
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	0

One application has been submitted, fulfills the quality requirements and qualifies for funding.

PI Americas

PI Americas	
Budget Available	€ 190.770,04
Budget Spent	€ 190.353,96
Budget Left	€ 416,08
Applications Received	8
Applications Awarded	4
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	4

- Eight applications for cooperation with the region were submitted and qualify for funding.
- Four applications did not reach the threshold of 60 points and were rejected due to the lack of quality.
- Four applications qualify for funding and are proposed to receive a grant.
- The grant award proposal follows the ranking. The last proposal on the ranking is reduced to fit the budget.

Score	Reduce
85-90	0,00%
60-84	35,00%

PI Asia

PI Asia	
Budget Available	€ 202.336,33
Budget Spent	€ 202.420,44
Budget Left	€ -84,11
Applications Received	13
Applications Awarded	6
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	3
Applications Under threshold	4

- Thirteen applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.
- Four applications did not reach the threshold of 60 points and were rejected due to the lack of quality.
- Nine applications qualify for funding.
- Six applications are proposed for funding following the ranking list. Once the total requested amount exceeds the available budget and in order to benefit a larger number of projects, a reduction of the requested grant was applied according to the methodology:

Score	Reduce
> 90	0%
80-90	50%
75-79	70%
< 75	reject

- One application of 75 points is awarded without reduction given the small size of the project (2 mobilities).
- The precise reductions in annex IV have been calculated to fit the available budget and the requested grants the best way possible.

Final remarks

1. From the 23 applications, 18 are proposed to be awarded funds from KA107.
2. The proposed beneficiaries are: 9 universities of applied sciences, 8 research universities and the university of Aruba.
3. Three institutions are new in the action KA107
4. 35 partner countries will participate in the action.
5. The EC does no longer offer the possibility to the NA to organize a 2nd application round to increase the absorption of funds in the underspent regions. This is because the EC wants to know well in advance which funds have not been used to distribute them among the countries with a higher demand in the next call. This means that The Netherlands can expect a budget reduction in the unspent regions in call 2018.
6. The present award methodology based on scores and without taking account the past performance (not allowed in KA107) poses challenges to reach a good division of funds in the envelopes where the demand exceeds the available budget. Some applicants might tend to inflate the application numbers counting beforehand on a budget reduction. This is difficult to combine with the reduction of small project with high scores as it appears unfair. However applying past performance is awarding criteria is not allowed at this stage.

Overview grant award 2017

WO	HBO	New 2017	Total 2017	2016 (2 rondes)	> 60 ptn No funding	Under threshold
8	7	3	18	16 + 9	3	2

Grant award 2016/2017 by region (most requested regions)

Regio	2016			2017		
	Projecten	HEI's	Partner countries	Projecten	HEI's	Partner countries
R6 DCI Asia	6	5	3	9	5	5
R8 DCI Latin America	5	3	5	7	4	7
R10 DCI South Africa	2	2	1	4	4	1
R11 ACP	4	3	3	8	5	7
PI Americas	3	3	2	4	3	2
PI Asia	3	3	2	6	6	2



List of annexes

- I- Guide for the assessment of KA107 proposals
- II- Overview of the budget KA107 for The Netherlands – call 2016 and countries
- III- Results of qualitative assessment
- IV- Grant award proposal KA107 call 2016 by HEI and by budget envelope
- V- Note for the attention of the Erasmus+ NA Directors: “Managing international credit mobility in Erasmus+”

Members of the evaluation committee:

Director National Agency Erasmus+ Education & Training

Date:

Date:

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Mrs. Lem van Eupen

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