



**Evaluation Committee Erasmus+ KA107
Application 2015 – 2nd Round
November 2015**

Introduction

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

The call for proposals EAC/A04/2014 included the new action KA107, mobility with partner countries funded from the heading 4 budget of the EC. This action aims to extend the well-known Erasmus mobility of individuals between programme countries to other regions across the globe.

In order to use as much as possible the budget available, the European Commission decided to organize a second round of applications, with deadline 24 September 2015. The National Agency of the Netherlands participated in the second round with a total budget of € 1.361.199 for the following regions:

- ENI South
- ENI East
- Central Asia

The National Agency (NA) received 6 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 HEI with an ECHE
2. used the e-form and submitted only one application for the action
3. the activities applied for are in line with the action.

All 6 applications are 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.

Evaluation commission

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 for the 2nd selection round KA107.

The Evaluation Committee for the action KA107 is composed of three members representing two organizations with no hierarchic link between them: two persons from EP-Nuffic and one representative of the Ministry of Education and Culture

The Evaluation Committee:

- Validates the results of the formal eligibility check;
- 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;
- Departing from the proposal prepared by the NA, the Evaluation Committee makes a proposal for proposals to be accepted, rejected or put on a reserve list based on their quality;
- 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.
- The members of the Evaluation Committee sign the grant award proposal.

Qualitative assessment

The NA appointed one external experts to carry out the qualitative assessment of the KA107 proposals. The expert was appointed on the basis of his previous experience with the evaluation of KA107 proposals, his expertise in the field of internationalization of higher education and cooperation with partner countries. Each proposal was assessed by one expert only.

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 expert involved signed a declaration of conflict of interest.

The NA programme officer responsible for the action KA107 supported the process all through and preformed the final text editing of the qualitative assessment.

According to the Erasmus+ programme guide http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf and the guidelines for experts, the assessment referred to the following aspects:

1. The applications are assessed according the criteria of
 - ✓ Relevance of mobility project (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 70 points requirement to be eligible for funding. Furthermore, at least half of the points must be obtained in each criterion.
3. The selection of applications consists of a ranking list by budget envelop. These budget envelopes are stipulated by the European Commission.
4. There are 3 budget envelops covering different regions and submitted to priorities settled by the European Commission.

Annex III 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 (6 applications)

Annex 3 contains the results of the qualitative assessment.

Rejected applications	Applications partially approved	Applications totally approved
1	1	4

Starting points selection of applications

Regarding the applications the following can be observed (Annex IV, award by HEI):

- The amount of the grants requested remains within the budget available
- The number of countries selected within the budget envelops ENI South and ENI East remains limited:
 - o Israel and Morocco (ENI South)
 - o Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (ENI East)
- Interest for DCI Central Asia remains very low: only one application
- All applicant organizations were successful in the 1st selection round of the call and have already a KA107 contract.

Following the guidelines for the selection of KA107 proposals, the NA set the following principles for the grant award proposal:

1. The ranking as a result of the experts assessment
2. Geographical balance

3. Award entire projects whenever possible & introduce budget cuts in the envelopes where the requested grant exceeds the available budget.
4. Benefit the maximum number applications possible within the same envelope
5. When necessary apply budget cuts to accommodate applications of the same quality. When budget cuts are applied, the same reduction is applied to projects with the same range of points within the same budget envelope
6. Exhaust budget envelopes as much as possible

The NA used the calculation tool developed in the 1st selection round. This tool allows to calculate the different amounts of the application by region. Variables in this calculation are: travel, individual support for staff mobility for teaching and training (incoming and outgoing) and student mobility in the first, second or third cycle (incoming and outgoing) and support for the organization of mobility (OS).

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

ENI South

Budget available	€ 768.852
Applications received	4
Applications awarded	3
Applications awarded but reduced	1
Applications rejected (under the threshold)	0
Spent budget	€ 279.250
Unspent budget	€ 489.602

The grant award proposal follows the ranking list. Four applications fulfill the quality requirement and are included in the proposal for funding. One of proposal has been substantially reduced. This follows the advice of the qualitative assessment.

ENI East

Budget available	€ 435.509
Applications received	6
Applications awarded	5
Applications awarded but reduced	0
Applications rejected (under the threshold)	1
Spent budget	€ 382.773
Unspent budget	€ 52.736

The grant award proposal follows the ranking list. Five applications fulfill the quality requirement and are included in the proposal for funding. One proposal has not reached the threshold of 70 points and has been rejected due to lack of quality. No corrections were introduced.

DCI Central Asia

Budget available	€ 156.838
Applications received	1
Applications awarded	1
Applications awarded but reduced	0
Applications rejected due to geographical balance or lack of funds	0
Applications rejected (under the threshold)	0
Spent budget	€ 29.830
Unspent budget	€ 127.008

The grant request of applications that fulfill the quality requirement exceeds the available budget. Only one application has been submitted and is proposed for funding.

Final remarks

1. From the 6 applications, 5 are proposed to be awarded funds from KA107.
2. The proposed beneficiaries are research universities
3. 7 partner countries will participate in the action.