



International Credit Mobility

Call 2020

KA107 – Higher education student and staff mobility
between Programme and Partner countries

Introduction

The purpose of this information note is to explain the proposal for funding under the Erasmus+ KA107, International Credit Mobility 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 sixth call of the action.

The call for proposals EAC/A02/2019 was launched on 05/11/2019 with a deadline for applications on 11/02/2020. For the Netherlands a total budget of **€ 6.454.176** was available covering 12 different geographic regions. Five specific regional or national budget windows were offered: North Africa window, Tunisia window, Georgia window, Ukraine window and Moldova window.

The National Agency received 28 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 28 applications were considered eligible and submitted to a qualitative assessment organised by the NA according to the specific Guide for Experts on Quality Assessment (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	17
Research universities	10
HEI overseas territories	1
Total	28

Two HEIs submitted an application under KA107 for the first time: University of Applied Sciences Utrecht and Avans University of Applied Sciences. The remaining 26 HEIs have applied and received a contract in one or more of the previous calls.

Evaluation committee: 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:

1. Validates the results of the formal eligibility check;
2. Assesses the list of sets of mobility flows by budget envelope. The sets of mobility flows are sorted in order of merit as a result of a qualitative assessment;
3. Makes - based on the proposal prepared by the NA - 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 envelope according to 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.
Due to the Covid-19 outbreak the members will sign digital.
6. The NA Director will take the grant award decision based on the proposal of the Evaluation Committee.

Qualitative assessment

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

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

The assessment was organised as follows: each proposal was assessed by one expert. For applications with a requested budget above €60.000, a second expert acted as reviewer. 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 to prevent the conflict of interest.

According to the Erasmus+ programme guide https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/programme-guide_en 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 in total to be eligible for funding and at least half of the points (15) must be obtained in the criterion "Relevance of the strategy".
3. The selection of applications consists of a ranking list by budget envelope (in total 12 regions and five sub-regional or national windows). 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-ACP, covering different regions, are submitted to priorities settled by the European Commission regarding incoming and outgoing mobility. Furthermore, and due to the large interest, additional criteria have been added by the National Agency to the envelope 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

Received	Rejected applications due to quality	Applications considered for funding
28	2*	26

** several more country applications were scored under the threshold, but in most cases the applicants receive a grant for one or more other partner countries.*

Analysis of regions and budget request

The following can be noticed:

1. The total requested budget was € 15.830.529, an increase of 20% compared to call 2019.
2. Almost all budget envelopes were fully requested. For DCI Middle East only € 832 is not awarded. This means that 99,99% of the available budget is awarded.
3. For the regions DCI Asia and DCI Latin America, the demand was relatively highest: more than four times the available budget. For PI America and PI Asia, the demand was more than three times the available budget.
4. The number of applications has fallen this call from 29 to 28, but the scope of the applications has grown considerably. In call 2019 there were 150 country requests. In call 2020 the number has increased to 199 country applications (+ 30%).
5. As a result of a contact seminar in Tunisia in October 2019, organised by the NA, an amount of € 218.340 was requested for mobility with Tunisia and € 201.355 is awarded for mobility with Tunisia, divided among all Dutch participants of the study visit.

Grant distribution methodology

The NA set the methodology for the grant distribution following the Erasmus+ Guidelines for NAs on the selection of KA1 mobility projects between Programme and Partner Countries in the field of HE. Particular attention was given to the specification (numbers 4 and 5 of the methodology).

“Where possible and in addition to the overarching criteria of order of merit and geographical balance, the evaluation committee will seek to spread the available budget widely to avoid dominance of a small number of HEIs. It will strive to be as inclusive as possible, maximising participation of stakeholders without undermining quality, geographic balance or the minimum critical size per mobility project to ensure feasibility”.

The methodology for grant distribution follows the principles below:

1. The ranking as a result of the expert’s assessment.
2. Geographical balance in the multi country budget envelopes according to the targets set by the EC (see annex IV) and when possible award as many different countries in the same budget envelope as possible.
3. Award as many projects as possible and introduce budget cuts and/or reduction in the envelopes where the requested grant exceeds the available budget.
4. Determination of a minimum grant awarded by project application within one region, so that small applications have less or no reduction. This year the minimum has been set at **€ 30.000** for the most popular regions (all regions from the DCI, PI and EDF instruments); **€ 35.000** for ENI Russia, and **€ 50.000** for the less popular regions (from the IPA and ENI instruments).
5. Determination of a maximum grant by partner country application expressed in percentage of the total request in a region, in order to prevent that the budget will be awarded mainly to large applications.
6. Determination of the score reduction calculation factor, so that applications with higher assessment scores will receive a smaller reduction than applications with lower assessment scores. The calculation factor makes sure that the reduction is applied according to the order of merit expressed in the ranking. The starting point is factor 1,00 for a 100-point score and factor 0,6 for a 60-point score. The calculation tool uses a built-in slider and the reduction factor will change automatically and gradually for each region. The reduction based on the assessment scores is thereby always fair.
7. Without the calculation factor every application would have the same percentage of reduction (the reduction factor is for all projects 1,00).
8. Finally for DCI Asia and DCI Latin America there are some additional targets from the European Commission. In general, the funds will have to be used in a geographically balanced way. The EU has set a number of targets regarding geographical balance and priorities that have to be attained at European level over the whole duration of the programme (2014-2020). The targets do not have to be attained by individual higher education institutions, but National Agencies will take these targets into account in order to allocate the available budget. In addition, higher education institutions are encouraged to work with partners in the Least Developed Partner Countries (LDCs).

These are the geographical targets set for mobility between Programme and Partner Countries at European level by 2020:

- With Developing Asia and Latin America, 25% of the funds should be used to organise mobility with the least developed countries of the region.

These countries are:

- For DCI Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar;
- For DCI Latin America: Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua;

- No more than 30% of the budget available for Asia should be spent on mobility with China and India;

- And no more than 35% available for Latin America on Brazil and Mexico.

In 2018 the NA developed a KA107 Calculation Tool (for each region) in order to settle the minimum grant awarded per application, the maximum applicant grant per partner country application in percentage of the total request and the score reduction calculation factor.

These three aspects are applicable for each region and change according to the total amount requested and the available budget. The NA tried to level these three aspects and other criteria in the various regions as much as possible.

Unit costs in the calculation of the budget are: Travel and Individual Support for staff mobility for teaching and training (incoming and outgoing) and student mobility for study and traineeships (incoming and outgoing) and Organisational Support for the organisation of mobilities.

Overspending

For call 2020 the NA has chosen for a slight overspending of the available budget in order to maximise budget take-up. Whereas in 2019 an overspending of 1% was applied in each region, in call 2020 the NA decided on an overspending of 2%. Budget take-up of the action in KA107 is around 87% for call 2017. The three best performing regions had a budget take-up of 98% in call 2017. In the eyes of the NA, these realisation rates justify an overspending percentage of 2%.

The NA hopes that by overspending 2% the budget take-up will be improved relative to previous calls.

Grant Award Proposal

Annex III is an overview of the applications proposed for funding according to the budget envelope. It also contains an overview of the grant award proposal per HEI.

For almost every region the same methodology was used. Only for **DCI Asia** and **DCI Latin America** the NA deviated slightly from the method, because of the overload of applications and the small budgets.

In these two regions the NA used a lower "Max. % Request" than normal. The NA awarded in both regions one country application with a lower score than the minimum award score for more geographical balance and to comply with the priorities for these regions set by the EC.

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

IPA

R1 – Western Balkans	
Budget Available	€ 1.103.064
Budget Awarded	€ 1.124.138
Overspending	€ 21.074
Applications received	16
Applications Awarded	14
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	2

- 16 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.

- 14 applications fulfil the quality requirement 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 described methodology. For 8 applications the requested budget was reduced.

Min. Grant	€ 50.000
Max. % Request	20%

ENI East

R2 – Eastern Partnership Countries	
Georgia Window	
Moldova Window	
Ukraine Window	
Budget Available R2	€ 713.979
Budget Available Georgia Window	€ 100.000
<i>Budget Available Moldova Window *not used</i>	€ 25.000
Budget Available Ukraine Window	€90.000
Total budget available	€ 903.979
Budget Awarded	€ 913.865
Overspending	€ 9.886
Applications received	15
Applications Awarded	13
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	2

- 15 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.
- 13 applications fulfil the quality requirement 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 described methodology. For 4 applications the requested budget was reduced.
- The Moldova window has not been used, because the two grants for Moldova both exceed the available € 25.000 in the window, and grants cannot be partially funded by a Window budget and partly by the R2 budget. Both grants for Moldova are therefore funded by the R2 budget.

Min. Grant	€ 50.000
Max. % Request	7%

ENI South

R3 – South Mediterranean Countries	
Juncker Window for North Africa	
Tunisia Window	
Budget Available R3	€ 888.535
Budget Available Window N-A	€ 100.000
Budget Available Tunisia Window	€ 180.000
Total Budget Available	€ 1.168.535
Budget Awarded	€ 1.192.103
Overspending	€ 23.568
Applications received	21
Applications Awarded	18
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	3

- 21 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.

- 18 applications fulfil the quality requirements 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 described methodology. For 7 applications the requested budget was reduced.

- Of these 18 applications, two will be funded from the Tunisia window and two from the North Africa Window.

Min. Grant	€ 50.000
Max. % Request	8% in ENI South 100% in NA window 50% in Tunisia window

ENI Russia

R4 – Russian Federation	
Budget Available	€ 406.199
Budget Awarded	€ 414.331
Overspending	€ 8.132
Applications received	9
Applications Awarded	9
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	0

- 9 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.

- 9 applications fulfil the quality requirements 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 described methodology. For all 9 applications the requested budget was reduced.

Min. Grant	€ 35.000
Max. % Request	10%

DCI Asia

R6 - Asia	
Budget Available	€ 732.620
Budget Awarded	€ 748.047
Overspending	€ 15.427
Applications received	36
Applications Awarded	22
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	13
Applications Under threshold	1

- 36 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted (10 more than in call 2019).

- 35 applications fulfil the quality requirement and qualify 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 described methodology.

- For China and India together a maximum of 30% of the total DCI Asia Budget may be awarded according the geographic targets of the funding instrument DCI Asia (Annex V). In this proposal 27% of the budget is awarded for projects with these two countries.

- All applications for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, and Myanmar are awarded since they belong to the Least Developed Countries group in Asia. This is in line with the geographic targets of the funding instrument DCI Asia (at least 25% budget for the least developed countries (Annex IV). In this proposal, 28% of the budget is awarded to projects with the LDCs. Applications for other countries with a score of under 75 were rejected.

- 22 applications are proposed for funding. For 17 applications the requested budget was reduced.

- 13 applications were rejected due to lack of funds.

- 1 application was rejected due to quality.

Min. Grant	€ 30.000
Max. % Request	2%

DCI Central Asia

R7 – Central Asia	
Budget Available	€ 123.498
Budget Awarded	€ 125.987
Overspending	€ 2.489
Applications received	3
Applications Awarded	3
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	0

- 3 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.

- 3 applications fulfil the quality requirement 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 described methodology. For 2 applications the requested budget was reduced.

Min. Grant	€ 30.000
Max. % Request	30%

DCI Latin America

R8 – Latin America	
Budget Available	€ 233.167
Budget Awarded	€ 237.974
Overspending	€ 4.807
Applications received	22
Applications Awarded	7
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	14
Applications Under threshold	1

- 22 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted, which is 10 more than in call 2019.

- 21 applications fulfil the quality requirement and qualify 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 described methodology. For Brazil and Mexico there is a target maximum of 35% of the total DCI Latin America Budget to apply. This is according to the Europe-wide geographic targets of the funding instrument DCI Latin America (Annex V). Unfortunately, there were no applications for the LDCs in this region. The grant award proposal is as follows:

- 7 applications are proposed for funding. For all 7 applications the requested budget was reduced.

- 14 applications were rejected due to lack of funds.

- 1 application was rejected due to quality.

Min. Grant	€ 30.000
Max. % Request	5%

DCI Middle East

R9 – Middle East	
Budget Available	€ 89.942
Budget Awarded	€ 88.110
Overspending	-
Applications received	2
Applications Awarded	2
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	0

- 2 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.

- 2 applications fulfil the quality requirements and qualify for funding. The budget requested does not exceed the budget available. Therefore, both projects can be fully awarded.

Min. Grant	€ 30.000
Max. % Request	100%

DCI South Africa

R10 – South Africa	
Budget Available	€ 301.928
Budget Awarded	€ 308.651
Overspending	€ 6.723
Applications received	12
Applications Awarded	9
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	2
Applications Under threshold	1

- 12 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.
- 11 applications fulfil the quality requirements. 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 described methodology.
- 9 applications are proposed for funding. For all 9 applications the requested budget was reduced.
- 2 applications are rejected due to lack of funding.
- 1 application is rejected due to quality.

Min. Grant	€ 30.000
Max. % Request	10%

EDF

R11 – ACP	
Budget Available R11	€ 944.158
Budget Awarded	€ 963.261
Overspending	€ 19.103
Applications received	32
Applications Awarded	30
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	2

- 32 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted, which is 13 more than in call 2019.

- 30 applications fulfil the quality requirements 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 described methodology. For 19 applications the requested budget was reduced.

Min. Grant	€ 30.000
Max. % Request	5%

PI Americas

PI Americas	
Budget Available	€ 221.242
Budget Awarded	€ 225.570
Overspending	€ 4.328
Applications received	12
Applications Awarded	7
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	4
Applications Under threshold	1

- 12 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.

- 11 applications fulfil the quality requirements. 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 described methodology.

- 7 applications are proposed for funding. For 5 applications the requested budget was reduced.

Min. Grant	€ 30.000
Max. % Request	10%

PI Asia

PI Asia	
Budget Available	€ 200.844
Budget Awarded	€ 205.019
Overspending	€ 4.175
Applications received	19
Applications Awarded	7
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	11
Applications Under threshold	1

- 19 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.

- 18 applications fulfil the quality requirements. 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 described methodology.

- 7 applications are proposed for funding. For 6 applications the requested budget was reduced.

Min. Grant	€ 30.000
Max. % Request	5%