RULES OF BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR ACCREDITED APPLICANTS UNDER ERASMUS+ KEY ACTION 1

National Agency	NL01, Netherlands, Nuffic
Field	Adult education
Call year	2023

This document defines detailed rules of budget allocation for accredited applicants, in line with the framework established in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide:

The quality of the applicant's Erasmus Plan has been assessed at the accreditation application stage and therefore no qualitative assessment will take place at budget allocation stage. Any eligible grant application will receive funding.

The awarded grant amount will depend on a number of elements:

- the total budget available for allocation to accredited applicants
- the requested activities
- the basic and maximum grant
- the following allocation criteria: financial performance, qualitative performance, policy priorities, and geographical balance (if applied by the National Agency)

Detailed rules on basic and maximum grant, scoring of the allocation criteria, weighting of each criterion, the allocation method, and the budget available for accredited projects will be published by the National Agency ahead of the call deadline.

1. AVAILABLE BUDGET

Total budget available for allocation to accredited applicants[1]:	At least € 1.046.000,00

Out of the available budget at least the following amounts will be assigned to specific purposes[2]:

Basic grants and financial performance	At least € 450.000,00
Qualitative performance and policy priorities	At least € 210.000,00
Inclusion support for participants and exceptional costs	At least € 125.000,00

[1] The final allocated budget may be lower than the specified amount if all applicants have been awarded the maximum amount according to the rules set out in this document. If additional funding becomes available, the National Agency may increase the available budget.

[2] Exceptionally, the specified amounts may be lowered if all applicants have already been allocated the maximum amounts according to the rules set out in this document, or if a minor correction is required due to rounding rules.

2. ESTIMATING THE BUDGET REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUESTED ACTIVITIES

The National Agency will calculate the estimated budget required to implement activities requested by each applicant. The estimation will be done on the basis of unit costs defined in the Programme Guide and historical data on grants for similar activities.

A standardised estimation cannot be performed for costs that are highly dependent on each specific case: inclusion support for participants and exceptional costs. Requests for these types of costs will be assessed based on the description, justification and estimated amount provided by the applicant as part of the application. In addition, beneficiaries can make further requests for these types of costs during the first 12 months of project implementation by submitting a written request to the National Agency. Such requests will be considered by the National Agency in order of reception, as long as funds remain available.

In all cases, the awarded grant shall not be higher than the estimated budget required to implement all activities requested by the applicant.

2.1. Maximum grant[3]

There will be a maximum grant amount of **EUR 300.000,00** for all applicants. The maximum grant rules will only be applied when the total demand for budget surpasses the total available funds as defined in section 1a.

As an exception, costs for inclusion support for participants and exceptional costs will not count towards the limits set by the rules on maximum grant.

2.2. Competitive allocation

If the total budget available for allocation to accredited applicants is not sufficient to provide each applicant with the budget required to implement their requested activities (taking into account the rules on maximum grant defined in this section), then a competitive allocation will take place as described below in section 3. However, if the total available budget is sufficient to fully address requests of all applicants, then the budget allocation rules described in section 3 will not apply.

3. BUDGET ALLOCATION RULES

Budget allocation will take place in multiple phases. In each phase, the available budget will be divided between eligible applicants based on the criteria described in this section.

Applicants that receive the full budget required to implement their requested activities (or that reach their maximum grant) will not participate in further allocation. Any surplus funds will be divided among other applicants based on the allocation rules specified for each phase. All allocated amounts will be rounded to the nearest whole Euro.

[3] In addition to the general rules on maximum grants, the awarded grant for applicants under observation may be further limited by the National Agency in accordance with the specific decision on establishment of observation measures.

In this section, references to 'completed accredited projects' concern grant agreements with end date before 1 December 2022[4] and linked to the accreditation used in the current application (action type KA121).

3.1. First phase: basic grants and financial performance

A basic grant will be provided to each applicant at the beginning of the allocation process[5]. The purpose of the basic grant is to allow all accredited organisations to implement a minimum number of mobility activities and progress towards the objectives of their Erasmus Plan.

For applicants that have completed at least one accredited project, the amount of the basic grant will be linked to their past financial performance to ensure stable and reliable funding for good performers. In this context, financial performance refers to the applicants' ability to fully use the awarded funds, as demonstrated in previously completed projects.

All applicants will receive the following basic grant: **EUR 50.000,00**. If sufficient funds are available, the National Agency may increase the basic grant after the submission deadline.

3.2. Second phase: qualitative performance and policy priorities

The purpose of the qualitative performance criterion is to ensure that accredited applicants deliver good quality activities and gradually progress towards the objectives of their Erasmus Plan. In addition, applicants may score higher if they propose to implement priority activities.

Budget assigned to this phase will be divided among the applicants in proportion to their score.

The score of each applicant is calculated in two steps:

a) For applicants that have completed at least one accredited project, the base score will be equal to the final report evaluation score of the last completed accredited project.

b) A bonus to the base score will be applied according to the following criteria:

- Involvement of participants with fewer opportunities: +1 point per % of participants with fewer opportunities out of total participants
- Involvement of participants in blended mobility activities: +1 point per 2 participants
- Involvement of participants using green travel options: +1 point per % of total mobilities
- Involvement of adult learners in mobility activities: +1 point per participant.

[4] When calculating the applicants' performance, the National Agency may exclude from consideration past projects that have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic or other events outside of the beneficiary's control (*force majeure*).

[5] Exceptionally, if the basic grant is higher than the maximum grant, then the basic grant will be capped accordingly.

4. TOTAL AWARDED GRANT AND TARGETS FOR DELIVERY

For each applicant, the total awarded grant will be the sum of amounts they have received in each allocation phase. If any requests for inclusion support for participants and exceptional costs have been approved by the National Agency, these amounts will be added to the total awarded grant.

Before issuing a grant agreement, the National Agency will calculate appropriate targets for delivery. If the applicant has been awarded the full budget required to implement their requested activities, then the activities requested in the application will become the targets for delivery. If the awarded grant is lower than the full budget required to implement the activities requested in the application, then the targets will also be lowered proportionally to ensure that the applicant is able to deliver them with the awarded budget.

The National Agency can make limited modifications to the proportional adjustment in order to allow for a better fit between the awarded budget and target activities, to ensure coherence with the approved Erasmus Plan, to provide adequate support for priority activities, to maintain at least one participant in each activity type and category requested by the applicant, and to comply with any limitations defined in the Programme Guide.

Beneficiaries are able to implement the target activities with a wide flexibility, while remaining within the scope of their approved Erasmus Plan. Delivery of agreed activities and targets will be evaluated at the final report stage.