



Evaluation Committee Erasmus+

KA107 Call 2019

JUNE 2019

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 fifth call of the action.

The call for proposals EAC/A03/2018 was launched on 25/10/2018 with a deadline on 12/02/2019. For the Netherlands a total budget of **€ 5.530.936** was available covering 12 different geographic regions. Three specific regional budget windows were offered for North Africa, West Africa and The Horn of Africa. These windows were called the Juncker windows for Africa.

The National Agency received 29 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 29 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	18
Research universities	11
HEI overseas territories	0
Total	29

Four HEIs are submitting for the first time an application under KA107: Netherlands Business Academy, ArtEZ, Universiteit voor Humanistiek and Hogeschool Leiden. The remaining 25 HEIs have applied in one of the previous calls. Out of these 25 HEIs, 22 have already received a contract in one of the previous calls. Christelijke Hogeschool Ede, Haagse Hogeschool en Fontys have applied before, but were not awarded a grant before.

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. 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 envelope 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 four 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 internationalisation of higher education and cooperation with partner countries.

The assessment was organised 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 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 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 three African 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, EDF and EU Emergency Trust Fund (the windows) 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

Annex III contains the results of the qualitative assessment. According to the terminology used in this document, one application consists of cooperation projects/applications with one or more partner countries.

Received	Rejected applications due to quality	Applications considered for funding
29	0*	29

** one partner country application scored under threshold, but the applicant does receive grant for other partner countries*

Analysis of regions and budget request

The following can be noticed:

1. For the first time, all budget envelopes were fully requested. For the Western Balkan this may be the result of the study visit the NA organised in November 2018 to the region, in which 20 representatives of 11 Dutch HEIs had the chance to establish contacts in the four countries.
2. For the regions DCI Asia, DCI Latin America, PI Americas and PI Asia the demand was relatively the highest: more than three times the available budget. For the region EDF/ACP, the two separate windows for West Africa and the Horn of Africa have lowered the pressure on the budget enormously compared to the last two years.

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 5 and 6 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, maximizing participation of stakeholders without undermining quality, geographic balance or the minimum critical size per mobility project to ensure feasibility”. Guide for National Agencies, annex III.3 Guidelines for NAs on selection of KA1 mobility projects between programme and partner countries in the field of HE.

The methodology for grant distribution follows the principles below:

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 envelope.
3. Benefit the maximum number applications of enough quality within the same envelope
4. Award as many projects as possible and introduce budget cuts and/or reduction in the envelopes where the requested grant exceeds the available budget.
5. Determination of a minimum grant awarded by project application within one region with the goal that small applications have less or no reduction. This year the minimum has been set at **€ 20.000,-** for all regions.
6. 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.
7. 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 60 points. The calculation tool uses a built-in slider and the reduction factor will change automatically and gradually for each region. The reduction on the basis of the assessment scores is now always fair.
8. Without the calculation factor every application would have the same percentage of reduction (the reduction factor is for all projects 1,00).

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. For example, when applications had to be rejected due to lack of funds, the NA decided to use the same

assessment score level across regions. In most cases this meant that projects with ≤ 80 are rejected.

Variables 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 support for the organisation of mobility (Organisational Support).

Overspending

In call 2019 the NA will use for the first time an overspending of 1% in each region. Budget take up of the action in KA107 is around 80% for call 2017. The NA notes that in successful projects the budget take up is in around 90%-94%. The remaining budget is too small to organise another mobility. The NA hopes that with this overspending of 1% the budget take up will be improving relative to previous calls.

Grant Award Proposal

Annex IV 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.

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

IPA

R1 – Western Balkans	
Budget Available	€ 602.010
Budget Awarded	€ 608.597
Overspending	€ 6.587
Applications received	19
Applications Awarded	18
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	1

- 19 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.
- 18 applications fulfil the quality requirement and are proposed for funding.

Min. Grant	€ 20.000
Max. % Request	10%

ENI East

R2 – Eastern Partnership Countries	
Budget Available	€ 667.679
Budget Awarded	€ 674.539
Overspending	€ 6.860
Applications received	14
Applications Awarded	14
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	0

- 14 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.

Min. Grant	€ 20.000
Max. % Request	10%

ENI South

R3 – South Mediterranean Countries	
Juncker Window for North Africa	
Budget Available R3	€ 830.915
Budget Available Window N-A	€ 220.000
Total Budget Available	€ 1.050.915
Budget Awarded	€ 1.061.084
Difference	€ 10.169
Applications received	16
Applications Awarded	16
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	0

- 16 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted, of which 9 can be financed by either the window or the larger budget envelope.

- 16 applications fulfil the quality requirements and are proposed for funding.

Min. Grant	€ 20.000
Max. % Request	15% in ENI South 100% in the window

ENI Russia

R4 – Russian Federation	
Budget Available	€ 403.976
Budget Awarded	€ 408.304
Overspending	€ 4.328
Applications received	10
Applications Awarded	10
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	0

- 10 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.

- 10 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.

Min. Grant	€ 20.000
Max. % Request	10%

DCI Asia

R6 - Asia	
Budget Available	€ 850.203
Budget Awarded	€ 858.834
Overspending	€ 8.631
Applications received	26
Applications Awarded	20
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	6
Applications Under threshold	0

- 26 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.
- 26 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 award a maximum of 30% of the total DCI Asia Budget. This is according the geographic targets of the funding instrument DCI Asia (Annex V).

The applications for Laos and Bhutan are awarded with smaller reductions to amount for 25% of the total budget. This is in line with the geographic targets of the funding instrument DCI Asia (at least 25% budget for less developed countries (Annex V).

For China, India and Indonesia all applications with a score of ≤ 75 were rejected respecting the DCI quota for India and China and the principle of geographical balance. Applications for other countries with a score of ≤ 70 were rejected.

- 20 applications are proposed for funding with reduction.
- 6 applications were rejected due lack of funds.

Min. Grant	€ 20.000
Max. % Request	5%

DCI Central Asia

R7 – Central Asia	
Budget Available	€ 144.480
Budget Awarded	€ 145.880
Overspending	€ 1.400
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 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.

Min. Grant	€ 20.000
Max. % Request	100%

DCI Latin America

R8 – Latin America	
Budget Available	€ 270.590
Budget Awarded	€ 273.487
Overspending	€ 2.897
Applications received	12
Applications Awarded	11
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	1
Applications Under threshold	0

- 12 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.
- 12 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 the lowest scoring project was rejected, since it is not possible to fund 5 projects with a minimum budget of € 20.000 without exceeding the maximum percentage for these countries. Applications for other countries were not rejected. For Brazil and Mexico there is a maximum of 35% of the total DCI Latin America Budget to apply. This is according the geographic targets of the funding instrument DCI Latin America (Annex V). In order to follow this target, the allocation of DCI Latin America is split up in 35% of the total budget for Brazil and Mexico and 65% for the other countries. The grant award proposal is as follows:

- 11 applications are proposed for funding with reduction.
- 1 application was rejected due lack of funds.

Min. Grant	€ 20.000
Max. % Request	10%

DCI Middle East

R9 – Middle East	
Budget Available	€ 104.378
Budget Awarded	€ 105.049
Overspending	€ 671
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.

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.

Min. Grant	€ 20.000
Max. % Request	100%

DCI South Africa

R10 – South Africa	
Budget Available	€ 218.166
Budget Awarded	€ 220.516
Overspending	€ 2.350
Applications received	7
Applications Awarded	7
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	0

- 7 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.
- 7 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. Due to the extra funds that have been made available for South Africa, it is possible to grant every application some budget.

- 6 applications are proposed for funding with reduction.
- 1 application is proposed for funding without reduction.

Min. Grant	€ 20.000
Max. % Request	10%

EDF

R11 – ACP	
Juncker Window for North Africa	
Juncker Window for Horn of Africa	
Budget Available R11	€ 207.149
Budget Available Window West Africa	€ 130.000
Budget Available Window Horn Africa	€ 440.000
Total Budget Available	€ 777.149
Budget Awarded	€ 795.788
Overspending	€ 18.639
Applications received	19
Applications Awarded	19
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	0
Applications Under threshold	0

- 21 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted, of which 2 fall in the West Africa window, and 12 in the Horn of Africa window.

- 21 applications fulfil the quality requirements and qualify for funding.

Min. Grant	€ 20.000
Max. % Request	EDF 5% West Africa 100% Horn Africa 100%

PI Americas

PI Americas	
Budget Available	€ 231.361
Budget Awarded	€ 232.700
Overspending	€ 1.339
Applications received	11
Applications Awarded	10
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	1
Applications Under threshold	0

- 11 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.
- 11 applications fulfil the quality requirements of which 10 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.

Min. Grant	€ 20.000
Max. % Request	5%

PI Asia

PI Asia	
Budget Available	€ 210.030
Budget Awarded	€ 212.283
Difference	€ 2.253
Applications received	15
Applications Awarded	10
Applications Rejected due lack of funds	5
Applications Under threshold	0

- 15 applications for cooperation with the region were submitted.
- 15 applications fulfil the quality requirements, of which 10 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.

Min. Grant	€ 20.000
Max. % Request	10%