

Erasmus+ Capacity Building projects in the field of Higher Education Call 2016

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE GRANT

Prof. Ahmad Abu-El Haija 23 February 2018







30 YEARS

Changes introduced since 2015 (1st call)

| CALL YEAR | CHANGES INTRODUCED |
|-----------|---|
| 2015 | Penalties in the case of poor, partial or late implementation of the action |
| 2015 | Clarification on the costs of stay of students participating in project management meetings |
| 2016 | Note on Staff costs sent on 09/03/2017 |
| 2016 | Staff Convention is replaced by Joint Declaration |
| 2016 | Duration for travel for students is extended to 3 months |





Changes introduced since 2015 (1st call)

| CALL YEAR | CHANGES INTRODUCED |
|-----------|---|
| 2016 | Unit costs to obtain VISA if travel of >100 km |
| 2016 | Unit costs for cancelled travel only if <i>force</i> majeure |
| 2017 | Unit cost for Travel for a distance band 10-99 km = 20€ |
| 2018 | The eReport is introduced for Progress and Final Reports for all calls. |







Frequently asked questions

Hiring of natural persons paid with Staff costs

Subcontracting of a staff member is not allowed (Conflict of interest)

Associated entities (network member, university foundations, etc.)

Catering and other hospitality costs

Calculation of unit costs for circular travels

VAT

Exchange rates





VAT, duties & charges

VAT, duties and charges (e.g. customs & import duties) ineligible

Check with NEO Jordan about the <u>tax exemption agreement</u> signed between the EU and Jordan

In February, a VAT exemption document with the list of partners will be sent to all coordinators.





Exchange rate

Transactions ≠ EUR must be converted and reported in EUR in the Financial Statement of the final report

Which exchange rate should be applied?

From start of eligibility period until date of receipt of second pre-financing <u>rate</u> of month in which the coordinating institution received the first pre-financing

From date of receipt of second pre-financing until end of eligibility period rate of month in which the coordinating institution received the second pre-financing

Rate to apply: monthly rate established by the Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro

Example:

1st Pre-financing: 23 Dec 2016 - 2nd Pre-financing: 22 Nov 2017

Invoice date: 09 January 2017 Applicable monthly rate: December 2016





Tendering procedure

The beneficiary shall apply the tendering procedure for the purchase of <u>any kind of goods or services</u> WHENEVER the amount of the purchase/sub-contract is between EUR 25.000 and 134.000

Principles of transparency, equal treatment of potential contractors, avoiding conflicts of interests

Criterion for selection of offer: best value for money

If value of purchase/sub-contract > EUR 134.000: national legislation applicable

Split purchase/sub-contract into smaller contracts below the threshold to avoid a tendering procedure NO!





Equipment

- Relevant to the objectives of the project foreseen in the application

Examples: (e-)books and periodicals, fax machines, photocopying machines, computers, software, machines and equipment for teaching purposes, etc.

- Total purchase cost (not depreciation)
- Exclusively for Partner Country Higher Education Institutions
- Purchased and installed at the beginning of the project
- Recorded in inventory of institution where it is installed Not eligible: furniture, motor vehicles, telephones, mobile phones, alarm systems and anti-theft systems, etc.
- Labelled with E+ stickers

Not foreseen in the application/budget? written authorisation from Agency



<u>Prior</u>





Equipment - Supporting documents

<u>To keep with project accounts (may be requested in case of financial check):</u>

- Invoice(s) and proof of payment
- > EUR 25.000 < EUR 134.000: tendering procedure and three quotations from different suppliers
- > EUR 134.000: tendering procedure according to national legislation
- Proof that equipment is recorded in inventory of the institution

To send with Final Financial statement:

- Equipment with value > EUR 25.000, copy of invoice(s) and competitive offers
- Any prior authorisation from the Agency







Subcontracting

Implementation of specific tasks, by third party, to which a contract is awarded by one/several beneficiaries

Specific, time-bound, project-related tasks which cannot be performed by Consortium members. It includes self-employed / free-lance experts

Examples (provided that it cannot be carried out by beneficiaries' staff):

- Evaluation activities/auditing (Audit Certificate on Financial Statement)
- IT courses, Language courses
- Printing, publishing and dissemination activities
- Translation services
- Web design and maintenance
- Logistic support for the organisation of events

Not foreseen in the application/budget? authorisation from Agency



NO project-management related tasks



Supporting documents

To keep with project accounts (may be requested in case of financial check):

- Invoices, subcontracts and proof of payment
- > EUR 25.000 < EUR 134.000: tendering procedure and three quotations from different suppliers
- > EUR 134.000: tendering procedure applied according to national legislation
- Tangible outputs/products
- Travel activities of subcontracted service provider: copies of travel tickets, boarding passes, invoices and receipts

To send with Final Financial statement:

- Total value of subcontract > EUR 25.000: copies of subcontract, invoice and competitive offers
- Any prior authorisation from the Agency



Staff Costs

Performing tasks necessary to achievement of the project

Formal contractual relationship

Calculation of the grant 3 variables: staff category, country in which staff member is employed, <u>number of days</u> worked

Each unit cost corresponds to an amount in Euro per working day per staff

Categories: Managers/Researchers, Teachers and trainers/Technical staff /Administrative staff

Staff category: ___ nature of work performed, not status of individual

Unit cost: country in which staff is employed, independently of where tasks are executed

Foundations of the beneficiary need to be included in the partnership





Staff Costs

Example: a staff employed in Lithuania performing teaching activity for 3 days



222 Euro (3 unit costs of 74 Euro each)

Calculation of the grant:

- based on application of unit costs and independent from actual remuneration (defined in the Partnership Agreement)
- obtained by multiplying unit cost (corresponding to category of country and staff) by number of working days spent on the project per staff member

One working day defined according to applicable national legislation

Declared working days per individual should not exceed 20 days per month or 240 days per year



Staff Costs - Supporting Documents

To keep with project accounts (requested in case of financial check):

- STAFF CONVENTION for each person employed
- TIME-SHEETS (attached to each staff convention), indicating number of days worked for corresponding month/year, description of tasks, outputs produced and related work package
- FORMAL CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP (EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT)
- ANY EVIDENCE allowing to verify that declared workloads correspond to actual activities/outputs (e.g. attendance lists for lectures given, tangible outputs / products, salary slips, etc.)

To send with Final Financial statement:

Any prior authorisation from the Agency







Travel costs and Costs of Stay

Rules for Special Mobility Strand are defined in separate Guidelines

Staff/students participating in activities related to the achievement of the project

Unit costs to apply 3 variables: travel distance (for travel costs), duration for costs of stay and type of participant

Prior authorisation for activities not taking place in countries represented in the partnership Prior authorisation for activities not described in the Guidelines (section 3.3.1.2)

Staff

- Under contract with beneficiary institutions and involved in the project
- Travels intended for the activities listed in the Guidelines
- Duration: Max. 3 months

Students

- Registered in one of the beneficiary institutions
- Targeted mainly at Partner Country students and intended for activities listed in the Guidelines (overview table)
- Duration: Min. 2 weeks Max. 3 months (Max. 1 week for short term active
 linked to the management of the project)



Travel and Costs of Stay - Supporting documents

Justification for the following elements:

- Journeys actually took place
- Journeys connected to specific and identifiable project-related activities

To be retained with project accounts:

INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL REPORT + Supporting documents (e.g. travel tickets, boarding passes, invoices, receipts, proof of attendance in meetings and/or events, agendas, tangible outputs/products, minutes of meetings)

To be provided with Final Financial statement:

Any prior authorisation from the Agency





Travel costs: specific rules

Staff/students from place of origin (home institution within the partnership) to venue of the activity and return

Carried out in project beneficiaries' countries - Exceptions must be authorised

How the grant is calculated?

For each participant and for each travel unit cost corresponding to applicable distance band

Each unit cost corresponds to a fixed amount in Euro per travel per person

- 1) Check travel distance of a one-way travel http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_en.htm
- 2) Apply corresponding unit cost Each unit cost contributes to costs of travel for the round trip, regardless of the expenses actually incurred





Travel costs: specific rules

Example: A participant from Madrid (Spain) takes part in activity in Rome (Italy)

distance from Madrid to Rome (1365 Km) + apply unit cost (distance band 500/1999 Km): fixed contribution of 275 Euro covering travel from Madrid to Rome and return

If place of departure different from place of home institution: prior authorisation

Circular travels (A to B, B to C and return A): sum of:

unit cost corresponding to distance band from A to B

+

unit cost corresponding to distance band from B to C Final travel not taken into account for the calculation of the grant

Not applicable to air travels with stopover(s)

Unit cost for Travel for a distance band 10-99 km = 20€ (costs of stay eliginal No financial contribution for travels < 10 km²





Cost of stay specific rules

Staff/students for activities outside city of participant's home institution

Activities in project beneficiaries' countries. Exception must be authorised

Unit costs for staff



unit costs for students

For each staff: unit cost corresponding to the duration of the activities (in days), up to 14th day/between 15th and 60th day/between 61st day and up to 3 months For each student: unit cost corresponding to duration of activities (in days), up to 14th day/between 15th and 90th day

Each unit cost corresponds to a fixed amount in Euro per day per participant How to apply unit costs?

(1) Identify the duration in days of the activity (including the travel from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and vice-versa) (2) Number of unit costs = numbers of days of activity performed.

Each unit cost contributes to costs of stay regardless of expenses actually incurred



Cost of stay specific rules

Examples:

A staff from Paris (France) takes part in an activity in Brussels (Belgium) during 2 days (including travel):

Max. 2 unit costs of 120 Euros each (TOTAL: 240 Euros)

A staff from Paris (France) takes part in an activity in Brussels (Belgium) during 20 days (including travel):

Max. 14 unit costs of 120 Euros each + 6 unit costs of 70 Euros each (TOTAL: 2.100 Euros)

A student from Paris (France) takes part in an activity in Berlin (Germany) during 22 days (including travel):

Max. 14 unit costs of 55 Euros each + 8 unit costs of 40 Euros each (TOTAL: 1.090 Euros)





Supporting Documents

Originals kept by beneficiaries. Copies kept by coordinator and submitted with Final report, when requested

In case of financial checks/audits, or if doubts on implementation of any particular activity or expenditure, the Agency may request corresponding supporting documents

Quality of documentation

For all grants:

Audit Certificate ("Report of Factual Findings on the Final Financial Report - Type II") must be sent with the Final report







| Reimbursement basis | Budget Headings | Documents to retain with project accounts | Documents to be sent with the Final report |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| | Equipment | Invoices Bank statements Tendering procedure for expenses exceeding 25.000€ Proof that the equipment is recorded in the inventory of the institution | Invoices and three quotations from different suppliers for expenses exceeding 25.000€ Any prior authorisation from the Agency |
| ACTUAL | Subcontracting | Subcontracts Invoices Bank statements Tendering procedure for expenses exceeding 25.000€ Tangible outputs/products* | Subcontracts, invoices and three quotations from different suppliers for expenses exceeding 25.000€ Any prior authorisation from the Agency |
| | Staff | Formal employment contract Staff convention Time sheets Salary slips* Agendas* Attendance / Participant lists* Tangible outputs/products* Minutes of meetings* | No supporting documents should be sent with the Final report, except for any prior authorisation from the Agency |
| UNIT | Travel and Costs of Stay | Individual Travel Report (ITR) Invoices, receipts, boarding passes* Agendas* Attendance / Participant lists* Tangible outputs/products* Minutes of meetings* | No supporting documents should be sent with the Final report, except for any prior authorisation from the Agency |

For all grants, a Certificate on the action's financial statements and underlying accounts ("Report of Factual Findings on the Final Financial Report – Type II") must be sent with the Final report (see Annex VII of the Agreement).

^{*} Examples of supporting documents. Please note that in the case of unit costs this list cannot be exhaustive as it depends on the actual outputs of the project and the quality of the documentation provided. As a general rule, please keep all possible results to be able to show-case your activities.







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