

Bulletin 22



heefs

Higher Education European Funding Services

October 2010

Welcome

Our information events are proving to be very popular. The first two, which provided information about EU funding opportunities for activities related to arts and culture and humanities and social sciences subjects were over-subscribed and have generated a lot of interest amongst colleagues interested in developing transnational projects.

Our next event 'An Introduction to the Lifelong Learning Programme', scheduled to take place on 10 November 2010 is now oversubscribed, all places are taken and we have a reserve list. As a consequence, in response to the high levels of demand, we have decided to host a repeat of this event in London on **Wednesday 15 December 2010**. Details can be found on [page 2](#).

This additional event ties in nicely with the Commission's announcement on 27 October of the 2011 call for proposals under the Lifelong Learning Programme. HEIs need to be aware of significant changes to the Programme, particularly with regard to priorities for projects under the Erasmus sub-programme. Information about the call can be found on [page 9](#).

The European Commission continues to launch public consultations on the future shape of its Programmes. The latest consultation announced relates to the MEDIA Programme. It is our intention to respond on behalf of the UK HE Sector, we would welcome any comments from HEIs with experience of the MEDIA Programme. Information about the consultation process can be found on [page 12](#).

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EU Funding Opportunities for UK HEIs An Introduction to the Lifelong Learning Programme – Event

Wednesday 15 December 2010 at the Offices of Universities UK, London

Background to the event

The 2011 call for applications under the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) was announced on 27 October 2010, with deadlines in February/March 2011. The Programme offers significant opportunities for UK HEIs to collaborate transnationally to develop and deliver projects in some key priority areas. The Programme, however, has more than 60 action lines and funding streams, which can be confusing and time-consuming to interpret. The purpose of our event, therefore, is to highlight and explain the most pertinent opportunities for UK HEIs.

Most UK HEIs are familiar with elements of the LLP, such as the Erasmus exchange programmes that support staff and student mobility. Less well known, however, are opportunities to obtain support for longer term collaboration with partners across the EU and beyond.

The LLP will support collaborative work amongst small groups of partners across the EU and the work of larger academic networks. The programme aims to improve and develop learning provision across Europe, it addresses all levels of learning, from schools, higher education and vocational training to adult learning. It offers opportunities in areas of clear importance and relevance to UK HEIs.

Who should attend?

We expect the event to be of interest to:-

- Academics interested in curriculum development and networking;
- Colleagues involved in community and business engagement and widening participation;
- Those developing new teaching and learning methodologies;
- Colleagues with an interest in internationalisation and modernisation
- Colleagues responsible for external funding.

Timetable for the event

The Programme for the event is as follows:-

9.30	Registration and coffee
10.00	Introductions
10.15	Lifelong Learning Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the Programme and Opportunities • Priorities for 2011 • Project requirements
12.00	Issues for project development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and managing transnational partnerships • Application process • Application timetable • Hints and tips for preparing an application
12.45	Project examples and closing remarks
1.00	Finish

How to reserve a place

If you would like to reserve a place at the event, please send us an email to request a booking form. There will be a charge of £100 per person; invoices will be issued after the event.

Jean Monnet Programme Call for Proposals

European associations active at European level in the field of education and training and European integration

Deadline: 15 December 2010

EACEA/24/10

Background

The Jean Monnet Programme is part of the EU Lifelong Learning Programme; it is concerned with the promotion of European integration in education and training. This call is concerned with Key Activity 3 of the Jean Monnet Programme which allows for support for European Associations active at the European level in the field of education and training. Support takes the form of operating grants to support operational and administrative costs.

The purpose of this call is to support European Associations in the field of education and training active in:-

- European integration subjects and/or
- Pursuing the objectives of the European education and training policy

The total budget available for this call is €1.7m.

Objectives

The specific objectives are:-

- To support high quality European Associations contributing to increasing knowledge and awareness on the European integration process through education and training
- To support high quality European Associations contributing to the implementation of at least one of the strategic objectives of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020)¹

Eligible European Associations

Support is available to European associations in the field of education and training which pursue an objective which is part of an EU policy. The activities of the association must contribute or be capable of contributing to the development of EU cooperation policy and actions compatible with the objectives of the ET 2020 strategic framework and/or contribute to increasing knowledge and awareness of the European integration process through education and training.

Potential beneficiaries therefore are European associations involving education professionals with an interest in specific themes in education and training and/or European integration studies.

An association is eligible to apply if it is:-

- A non-profit making organisation

¹ ET 2020 Objectives include:-

1. Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality
2. Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training
3. Promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship
4. Enhancing innovation and creativity, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc1120_en.htm

- Located and has legal personality and seat for more than two years in 1 or several LLP eligible countries:-
 - The 27 EU Member States
 - Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey, Croatia, Switzerland
- Undertakes the majority of its activities in the Member States of the EU and/or other LLP eligible countries
- Exists as a body pursuing an aim of general European interest (i.e. involved in education, training, information or research and study in European policies or a European standards body; or a European network representing non-profit bodies active in the Member States of in the candidate countries and promoting principles and policies consistent with the objectives of the Treaties)
- Composed of member organisation at transnational, national, regional or local level, specific requirements are:-
 - For framework partnership agreements – associations must involve a minimum of 9 EU Member States
 - For an annual operating grant – associations must involve a minimum of 6 EU Member States

Eligible activities

Framework partnership agreements – for associations wishing to establish long-term cooperation for a partnership lasting 3 years, to enable the association to achieve its long-term European Union policy. The maximum available would be €100,000 in year 1, with the potential to rise to €125,000 in year 2 and €150,000 in year 3.

Annual operating grant agreement – for associations not wishing to make a long-term commitment, annual operating grants of up to €100,000 apply.

In both cases, applicants must submit with the application form a 12 month work programme for 2011 and for Framework partnership agreements, a description of their long term strategy and objectives.

Selection Criteria

Applications for Framework partnership agreements will be assessed against the criteria set out in sections A and B below, whilst applications for annual operating grants will be assessed against the criteria set out in B only.

A. the overall quality of the 3 year action plan, including:-

- The relevance, clarity and coherence of the long term objectives, the coherence of the proposed action plan and the actions carried out in the past
- The strategy for achieving the anticipated results, the methodology and management
- The expected medium and long-term impact of the activities on education and/or training at European level; relevance to ET 2020; appropriateness of the representatives of the organisation as regards the target group it represents, appropriateness of the methods envisaged to ensure the quality of the results and monitor and assess the activities, dissemination and utilisation of the results

B. the quality of the detailed 12 months work programme including:-

- The relevance, clarity and coherence of the short term objectives
- The quality of the management of the work programme
- The expected impact of the activities on education and/or training at European level (in particular in terms of the contribution to the implementation of ET 2020 and/or to increasing knowledge and

awareness of the European integration process); visibility and promotion of planned activities and dissemination of results, European added value.

Technical Features

Key Activity 3 provides operating grants, that provide support to costs necessary for the proper conduct of the association, including for instance, staff costs, costs of internal meetings, publications, information and dissemination and other costs directly linked to the association's work programme.

Applicants can choose between two systems of financing:-

- 1) A flat rate financing (a fixed amount per staff member) – up to a maximum of 75% of the association's expenditure for the year
- 2) The (traditional) eligible costs budget financing – based on a detailed estimate of eligible expenditure

Further Information

All information relating to this call for proposals can be obtained from the following:-

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2011/call_jm_ka3_structural_support_2010_en.php

TEMPUS IV Call for Proposals

Reform of HE through international university cooperation

Deadline: 15 February 2011

EACEA/32/10

Background

This is the fourth call for proposals under the Tempus Programme operating between 2007 and 2013. The total budget available for the call is €48.7m, which is expected to support some 70 projects.

The overall objective of the Tempus Programme is to support cooperation in the field of higher education among EU Member States and Partner Countries in areas neighbouring the EU (the Western Balkans², Southern and Eastern areas³ and Central Asia⁴). In particular, the Programme seeks to promote convergence with EU developments in the field of HE deriving from the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The Tempus Programme is managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) on behalf of the European Commission. Applications are submitted online to the Agency in Brussels.

A summary of the Programme can be found on our website from the link below:-

<http://www.heefs.ac.uk/programmedocs/TEMPUS%20Programme.pdf>

Specific Objectives

The Programme's specific objectives are as follows:-

- To promote the reform and modernisation of HE in the Partner Countries;
- To enhance the quality and relevance of HE in Partner Countries;
- To build up the capacity of HEIs in Partner Countries, in particular their capacity for international cooperation and for a permanent modernisation process, to assist them in opening themselves up to society at large, the world of work and the wider world in order;
 - to overcome the fragmentation of HE between countries and between institutions in the same country
 - to enhance inter-disciplinary and transdisciplinarity
 - to enhance employability of university graduates
- To foster reciprocal development of human resources
- To enhance networking among HEIs and research institutions across the partner Countries and EU Member States

As Tempus is designed to support the modernisation of HE systems in the partner Countries, its themes are structured around the main policy areas governing the current trends for HE worldwide

- Curricular reform
- Governance reform
- HE and society

Each Partner country has identified national and regional priorities from and within the themes.

² **Western Balkans**:- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo

³ **Southern & Eastern neighbours**:- Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, Tunisia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine

⁴ **Central Asian Republics**:- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Activities

There are two types of projects eligible for support:-

- Joint Projects:** projects with a 'bottom-up' approach aiming at modernisation and reform on an institutional level, aimed at transferring knowledge between universities, organisations and institutions from the EU and from the partner countries and between partner countries where relevant;
- Structural Measures:** projects seeking to contribute to the development and reform of HE systems in partner countries, to enhance their quality and relevance and to increase their convergence with EU developments.

National and multi-country projects can be financed:-

- National projects** Aim to improve the situation in HEIs in 1 or more of the Partner Countries. Must adhere to national priorities in the Partner Countries, and must be submitted by groups of institutions involving:-
- At least 3 HEIs from a partner country (except for Montenegro and Kosovo where 1 HEI is permissible)
 - At least 3 HEIs from the EU, each from a different Member State
- Multi-country projects** Aim to improve the HE system as a whole in 1 or more of the Partner Countries. Must comply with regional priorities common to all partners in a region⁵ and must involve the Ministry/ies responsible for HE in the Partner Countries. Proposals must be submitted by groups of institutions involving:-
- At least 2 HEIs from each of the participating partner countries (minimum 2 partner countries) involved in the proposal (except for Montenegro and Kosovo where 1 HEI is permissible)
 - At least 3 HEIs, each from a different EU Member State

Technical Features

- Maximum project duration is 24 or 36 months
- Minimum grant request is €500,000 (except for Montenegro and Kosovo where the minimum is €300,000)
- Maximum grant request is €1.5m
- Maximum grant rate is 90%
- Indirect costs (i.e. overheads or administrative costs) represent a flat-rate funding fixed at 7% of the total eligible direct costs

⁵ Regions in this context refer to the four regions of Western Balkans, Southern Neighbouring Area, Eastern Neighbouring Area, Central Asia

Selection Criteria

All eligible applications will be assessed by independent experts according to the following criteria:-

Criteria	Proportion of total score
The clarity and coherence of the project objectives; relevance to the HE reforms in the institution or system of the partner country and a clear link to how the project will have an impact on these reforms	25%
The quality of the partnership	20%
The quality of the project's content and applied methodology	25%
The sustainability or lasting impact of the project on the institutions, target groups and/or HEI systems	15%
The budget and cost-effectiveness	15%

Further Information

All information relating to this call can be found at:-

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/funding/2010/call_eacea_32_2010_en.php

Lifelong Learning Programme

Call for Proposals

Deadlines: 28 February & 31 March 2011

EAC/49/10

Background

The 2011 call for applications under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) was announced on 27 October 2010.

The Lifelong Learning Programme is the EU's main funding programme in the field of education training. The budget for 2011 is €1,065m. The Programme's main objectives are:-

- To contribute through lifelong learning to the development of the EU as an advanced knowledge society, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion;
- To foster interchange, cooperation and mobility between education and training institutions and systems within the EU so that they become a world quality reference

The Programme and the funding support it provides are key for the development of a range of transnational projects and the Programme offers significant support to HEIs in implementing internationalisation strategies. UK HEIs can work in partnership with organisations in Europe and beyond, as some limited 'third' country participation is allowed.

The Programme funds three main areas of activity:-

Mobility Actions – staff and student exchanges, study visits and programmes

Collaborative actions – multilateral projects and networks

Promotion of European Integration Studies – teaching and research

Having said that, it is a complex Programme with more than 60 action lines or funding streams, some managed centrally by the Commission's agents in Brussels, others managed by organisations in each Member State. In general, **mobility actions** are managed in each Member State, (in the UK by the British Council and Ecorys), and **collaborative actions** and Promotion of European Integration are managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA) in Brussels.

These activities are delivered under 6 sub-programmes, 4 of which target a specific area or level of lifelong learning provision, the 5th addresses key areas of educational development that cut across the lifelong learning spectrum, the 6th concentrates on support for the development of European Integration studies in HE.

The sub-programmes can be summarised as follows:-

Comenius – schools education

Erasmus – higher education and advanced vocational education and training

Leonardo da Vinci – initial and continuing vocational education and training

Grundtvig – adult education

Transversal – cross cutting themes (policy cooperation and innovation; languages; ICT; dissemination and exploitation of results)

Opportunities for UK HEIs

Mobility

Clearly the Programme offers opportunities for UK HEIs to participate in staff and student exchange programmes. Where these relate to HE programmes of study they take the form of Erasmus exchanges and are managed, in the UK, by the British Council. Opportunities for exchanges also occur under the other elements of the Programme for which HEIs are eligible to apply. In the UK for Comenius, mobility actions are handled by the British Council and for the other sub-programmes these actions are managed by Ecorys (formerly ECOTEC). Information about the mobility aspects of the LLP can be obtained from the following links:-

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus.htm>

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/comenius.htm>

<http://www.leonardo.org.uk/>

<http://www.grundtvig.org.uk/>

Collaborative Actions

The LLP offers support for UK HEIs to develop and deliver projects in partnership with organisations in other Member States. Clearly, the main opportunities lie within the Erasmus sub-programme which is aimed specifically at the development of certain aspects of HE, but significant opportunities exist in other areas of the Programme.

Within **Erasmus**, HEIs might deliver multilateral projects in partnership with a small number (minimum no of partners is 3) of HEIs (and/or other organisations). Institutions with a prior interest in Erasmus should note that the principal actions within this sub-programme are different to previous years. Projects are sought to address one of the following issues:-

- Cooperation between HEIs and enterprises
- Social inclusion and HE
- Mobility strategies and removal of barriers to mobility in HE
- Modernisation of HE (including curriculum development, governance reform and funding reform)
- Fostering excellence and innovation in HE

Erasmus also offers support for **academic networks** to share knowledge, discuss methodologies, disseminate good practice and produce and promote creativity and innovation in subject areas.

UK HEIs will also be interested in opportunities offered under other sub-programmes, where they are also eligible applicants. For instance:-

Comenius supports multilateral projects concerned with initial and in-service teacher training and school leadership development.

Leonardo da Vinci supports multilateral projects concerned with the development of programmes designed to provide vocational skills relevant to labour market needs.

Grundtvig supports multilateral projects and networks concerned with the following issues in adult education:-

- Acquisition of key competences
- Strengthening social inclusion and gender equality
- Intergenerational learning; learning for senior citizens; family learning
- Quality assurance and professional development of adult learning staff

- Promoting social cohesion through improved adult learning opportunities for specific social groups

The **Transversal sub-programme** offers opportunities for HEIs to develop innovative language learning programmes and methodologies

Application process and timetable

Applications for collaborative projects are submitted directly to the EACEA in Brussels using an interactive online application form. The deadlines for applications for 2011 are as follows:-

	Submission Deadline
Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo, Grundtvig	28 February 2011
Transversal	31 March 2011

Help from HEEFS

As reported in our Bulletins, UK HEI involvement in the LLP has increased since we started to support the Sector in accessing the Programme in 2009. We have collaborated with two HEIs that were formerly involved in the HE sectors' national ESF Programmes to submit successful applications under Grundtvig.

We have stepped up our information and awareness raising activities in relation to the LLP this year. We are hosting two events, one on 10 November 2010 (now over-subscribed) and a further event on Wednesday 15 December 2010 (bookings now being taken, please contact us to obtain a booking form). It is also our intention to host a number of 'surgery' events, whereby potential applicants can discuss proposals and obtain more detailed guidance on how to address the LLP requirements and selection criteria (dates to be announced).

With regard to collaboration, we are offering to work with a small number of HEI applicants to develop proposals and complete the application process. We will work with HEI colleagues to ensure that the application is completed on time; that all LLP requirements are met and that the selection criteria have been fully addressed. This is intensive work, so the number of collaborations will be limited and will be arranged on a first come, first served basis. If you are planning to apply and would like us to collaborate with you then the earlier you contact us the better.

For those who miss out on our collaboration we can offer support in the form of an application evaluation. This involves an assessment of a near final version of the application, in order to identify any gaps or weaknesses and to highlight any areas that need to be improved or amended. Clearly, for this service to be of any real use to HEIs, we would need to have a near final version of the application at least 2 weeks prior to the application deadline. Again, the earlier you let us know you would like our help in this respect the more likely we are to be able to fit you in.

Please feel free to contact us as soon as you are able about any of the forms of support/collaboration set out above.

Further information

Further information about the call for proposals is available from:-

http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm

More detailed information about the application process and the application forms will be made available in due course at:-

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2011/index_en.php

Consultations on Next Generation of EU Programmes

MEDIA Programme

Introduction

The European Commission is seeking views on the next generation of EU Programmes to operate from 2014. Public consultations relating to EU programmes concerned with education and training, youth activities, and cultural activities were covered in the last edition of this bulletin. The Commission has now launched a consultation on the future of its programme of support for the audiovisual sector, the MEDIA Programme.

The current MEDIA Programme supports the EU audiovisual industry in a number of ways, such as supporting production, distribution and promotion of films and other audiovisual productions. Of most interest to HEIs, however, is the support offered for the development and delivery of training programmes designed to meet the needs of those wishing to enter the sector and those employed as media professionals. The context for the new Programme and therefore, the consultation is one of strategic change for the sector, involving issues around competitiveness, the adoption of new technologies and the drive for new economic models.

In particular the consultation will address how the Programme's objectives and action lines should be revised so that they:

- Respond to current European and global developments and exploit the audiovisual sector's potential to contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;
- Ensure the greatest possible structuring and multiplier effects through its funding, which should have a real European added value.

The deadline for the submission of consultation responses is **30 November 2010**.

Further information and the response form can be obtained from the following link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=futureumedia>

UK HE Sector Responses

Although UK HEI involvement in the MEDIA Programme has been somewhat limited in the past, there is however, a growing interest in the Programme and the opportunities it offers to support both initial training and continuing professional development. We will be preparing a response to the consultation on behalf of the UK HE sector. Our response will be based upon our experience and the knowledge we have gained from discussing the Programme and its opportunities with colleagues in HEIs. We would, however, be interested to receive views from Institutions that have been directly involved in the Programme, so that we can adequately reflect their views, although we would also urge HEIs to respond individually if they have particular areas of concern.

Higher Education European Funding Services (HEEFS)

Who we are

- A Non-profit making Registered Charitable Company, Limited by Guarantee
- Wholly owned and managed by the HE Sector. HEEFS is owned by Universities UK and GuildHE and has strong links with the HE Europe and International Units
- Hosted by Liverpool John Moores University
- Established in 1991 as the Higher Education European Social Fund Unit (HEESF) to manage the HE Sector's participation in national European Social Fund (ESF) Programmes
- As HEESF, the Company enabled 133 HEIs to mount 1750 projects with £207m support from the ESF
- Re-launched in 2009 as HEEFS, with a broader remit, to support UK HEIs to progress their internationalisation strategies through participation in a wide range of EU Programmes

What we do

Represent and act as a central resource for UK HEI participation in EU Programmes by:

- acting as an observatory, monitoring and reporting on UK HEI participation
- representing UK HEIs at EU and national level, responding to consultations and informing policy

Identify and promote EU funding opportunities and developments to HEIs by:

- analysing EU Programmes, identifying opportunities and interpreting them in an HE context
- providing an e-bulletin summarising funding opportunities
- visiting HEIs to promote and explain opportunities
- organising events for HEIs to come together to consider opportunities in specific fields of interest

HEEFS collaborates with HEIs to develop, deliver and manage effective EU funded projects by:

- working with HEIs to map opportunities against Institutional objectives
- helping HEIs to fully prepare for an application round, interpreting call documentation and drawing up a work plan to meet deadlines
- providing professional and technical support throughout the application stage, tailored to the needs of individual HEIs
- working with successful HEIs, ensuring an effective management plan is in place, carrying out project evaluation and completing reports and claims
- providing its expertise to support HEIs delivering transnational collaborative partnerships

For further information about HEEFS, our role and services and the EU Programmes we support please visit our website. Our services range from assisting individual academics to develop proposals and submit applications, to supporting the development of Institutional strategies. We do not operate as a consultancy and have a range of options for recovering our costs, to suit the Institution concerned and the specific EU Programme regulations.

Please feel free to contact us for an informal discussion about how we might be able to assist your Institution.