Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence

What is a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence?

A Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence is a focal point of competence and knowledge on European Union subjects.

A Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence gathers the expertise and competences of high-level experts and aims at developing synergies between the various disciplines and resources in European studies, as well as at creating joint transnational activities and structural links with academic institutions in other countries. It also ensures openness to civil society.

Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence have a major role in reaching out to students from faculties not normally dealing with European Union issues as well as to policy makers, civil servants, organised civil society and the general public at large.

Which Activities are supported under this Action?

A Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence must develop a strategic three-year annual plan including a wide range of activities, such as:

- organising and coordinating human and documentary resources related to European Union studies;
- leading research activities in specific European Union subjects;
- systematic publication of the results of research activities;
- developing content and tools on EU subjects to update and complement the current courses and curricula (teaching function);
- enhancing the debate and exchange of experiences about the EU, where possible in partnership with local stakeholders and/or EU Representations Offices in Member States and EU Delegations in third countries (think-tank function).

What is the role of organisations participating in a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence?

Higher education institutions planning to establish a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence are expected to reflect on its strategic development. They should provide guidance and a vision for the best experts available among the teaching and research staff for creating synergies allowing high-level collaborative work on specific EU subjects. They should support and promote the initiatives of the Centre and assist their development.

Higher education institutions are obliged to maintain the activities of a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence during the entire duration of the project including replacing the academic coordinator if the need arises. If the institution is obliged to replace the original academic coordinator, a written request for approval has to be sent to the Executive Agency.
A Centre of Excellence may involve the co-operation of several institutions/organisations established in the same city or region. In any case, it must be a clearly labelled institute or structure specialised in European Union studies and must be hosted by a higher education institution.

### What are the criteria used to assess a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence?

Here below are listed the formal criteria that a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence must respect in order to be eligible for an Erasmus+ grant:

**Eligibility Criteria**

**Who can apply?**

- A higher education institution (HEI) established in any country of the world.
- HEIs established in Programme Countries must hold a valid Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). An ECHE is not required for participating HEIs in Partner Countries.
- Individuals cannot apply directly for a grant.

**Duration of project**

- Three years.

**Where to apply?**

- To the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, located in Brussels.

**When to apply?**

- Applicants have to submit their grant application by **20 February at 17:00 (Brussels time)** for projects starting on 1 September of the same year.

**How to apply?**

- Please see Part C of this Guide for details on how to apply.

**Other criteria**

- Only one Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence can be supported at the same time in any given higher education institution.

Applicant organisations will be assessed against exclusion and selection criteria. For more information please consult Part C of this Guide.

**Award criteria**

**Projects will be assessed against the following criteria:**
• The extent the proposal fits within the **scope** of European Union studies:
  - comprising the study of the European Union in its entirety, with particular emphasis on the EU integration process in both its internal and external aspects;
  - link to the EU acquis (acquis communautaire) and existing EU policies;
  - promoting active EU citizenship and values;
  - enhancing awareness of the EU and facilitating future engagement and people-to-people dialogue;

• The relevance of the proposal to one or several of the following objectives of the Jean Monnet Activities:
  - promotion of excellence in teaching and research on EU studies;
  - promoting the creation of new teaching/activities in EU studies;
  - generating knowledge and insight that can support EU policy-making and strengthen the role of the EU in a globalised world;
  - carrying benefits for the policy systems within which it is framed.
  - fostering dialogue between the academic world and society;
  - involvement of civil society actors, policy makers, civil servants, education and media representatives at different levels;
  - spreading of knowledge about the EU to the wider society, beyond academia and specialized audiences;
  - bringing the EU closer to the public.

**The extent** the proposal reaches **priority target groups:**
  - institutions or academics not yet in receipt of Jean Monnet funding;
  - students/audiences who do not automatically come into contact with European studies (in fields beyond law, economics and political science);
  - For third countries, the project potential to enhance EU public diplomacy.

**Quality of the project design and implementation** (Maximum 25 points)

• The clarity, completeness and quality of the proposal and **work programme**, including **appropriate planning** of preparation, implementation, evaluation, follow-up and dissemination phases;

• The coherence between project objectives and activities;

• The quality, novelty and feasibility of the project itself and the viability of the proposed methodology.

**Quality of the project team** (Maximum 25 points)

• The pertinence and complementarity of the profile and expertise of the key staff involved in the activities proposed in the project (both in the academic and non-academic fields, if appropriate).
Impact and dissemination (Maximum 25 points)

- The expected impact of the project by having long lasting effects:
  - on the institution hosting the Jean Monnet Action;
  - on the students and learners benefiting from the Jean Monnet Action;
  - on other organisations and individuals involved at local, regional, national, and/or European levels.
- The appropriateness and quality of measures aimed at disseminating the outcomes of the activities within and outside the institution hosting the Jean Monnet Action:
  - spreading the word;
  - raising awareness of projects and results, enhancing visibility of participants and organizations;
  - reaching out to groups outside the higher education institutions;
  - transferability and translation into new policies and improved practices.
- The extent to which the dissemination tools foreseen will reach the target audience via:
  - media exposure (including social media, publications, etc.);
  - events;
  - training courses;
  - the use of new technologies (multimedia tools), including open educational resources (OER).

To be considered for funding, proposals must score at least 60 points. Furthermore, they must score at least 13 points in each of the categories of award criteria mentioned above.

What else should you know about a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence?

Dissemination and Impact

Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence are required to disseminate and exploit the results of the organised teaching and research activities beyond the stakeholders directly involved. This will considerably increase the impact and contribute to a systemic change.

To increase their impact they should include in their dissemination activities the creation and offer of open educational resources (OER) and involve open education activities to respond to technological progress. This will foster more flexible and creative ways of learning and reach out to a considerably increasing number of students, professionals, policy makers and other interested groups.

Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence will be asked to update their respective section of the Erasmus+ specific online tool where all the information about the Jean Monnet Activities will be hosted. They will be strongly encouraged to use the relevant existing platforms and tools (i.e. the Jean Monnet directory, the Jean Monnet virtual community). These functions, as part of the general IT tool for Erasmus+, will ensure that the wider public is informed about the institutions and their Jean Monnet courses. Grant holders will be asked to regularly update the tool with the results of their work.

Centres of Excellence are encouraged to:
• participate in dissemination and information events at European and national level;
• organise events (lectures, seminars, workshops, etc.) with policy makers at local (e.g. mayors and counsellors), regional and national level as well as with organised civil society and schools;
• disseminate the results of their activities via the organisation of seminars or lectures geared and adapted to the general public and civil society representatives;
• network with other Centres of Excellence, Jean Monnet Chairs, coordinators of Modules, etc;
• apply open educational resources (OER), publish the summaries, content and schedule of their activities as well as the expected outcomes.

What are the funding rules?

If the project is selected, the following funding rules will apply to the grant:

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<th>Eligible costs</th>
<th>Financing mechanism</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Rule of allocation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligible direct costs</td>
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<td>• Staff costs</td>
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<td>• Travel and subsistence costs</td>
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<td>• Subcontracting costs (maximum 30% of eligible direct costs)</td>
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<td>• Equipment costs (maximum 10% of eligible direct costs)</td>
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<td>• Teaching costs</td>
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<td>• Other costs (including costs for any compulsory financial audit/audit certificate)</td>
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<td>Eligible indirect costs</td>
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<td>A flat-rate amount not exceeding 7% of the eligible direct costs of the project is eligible under indirect costs, representing the beneficiary’s general administrative costs which are not already covered by the eligible direct costs (e.g. electricity or Internet bills, cost for premises, etc.) but which can be regarded as chargeable to the project.</td>
<td>80% of the total eligible costs (unless a lower % of grant is requested by the applicant)</td>
<td>Maximum € 100 000</td>
<td>Conditional: costs are incurred in connection with the activity and are necessary for its implementation.</td>
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