



European
Commission

Amendment of the 2014 annual work programme for the implementation of 'Erasmus+': the Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport

C(2014)1372 of 7 March 2014

Summary

The annual work programme 2014 Erasmus+ was adopted by the Commission on 27 November 2013 by Commission Implementing Decision C(2013)8193. It is necessary to put forward an amending decision in order to modify some essential elements of certain actions. These modifications, having no impact on the budget allocation of the 2014 actions foreseen in the budget tables of Appendix 1 of Annex 1 of Commission Implementing Decision C (2013)8193 are the following:

Under Key Action 1 (budget line 15.020101):

- Point 6.3.1 and Appendix 1 (WPI 1.20 and 1.21) - Joint Master Degrees: The maximum EU co-financing rate has been changed from 80% to 95% taking into account the actual level of co-financing rate.

Under Key Action 2:

- Point 7.4.3, Appendix 1 (WPI 2.34) and Appendix 3: The method of calculation for the budget allocation for EPAL National Support Services (Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe) has been modified in order to take into account the total population, in line with the Erasmus+ Regulation.

Under Key Action 3:

- Point 8.4.3.1 and Appendix 1 (WPI 3.40): The maximum EU co-financing rate for Europass has been changed from 50% to 60% taking into account the necessary level of support for the tasks in question.
- Point 8.4.3.2 and Appendix 1 (WPI 3.41): The maximum EU co-financing rate for Euroguidance has been changed from 50% to 60%, taking into account the adequate level of support for the tasks in question.
- Point 8.4.3.8 and Appendix 1 (WPI 3.49): The maximum EU co-financing rate for EQF National Coordination Points (Part A) has been changed from 75% to 85%, taking into account the necessary level of support for the tasks in question, and the date of submission of grants has been modified.
- Point 8.4.3.10, Appendix 1 (WPI 3.49) and Appendix 3: The method of calculation for the budget allocation for National Coordinators for the implementation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning has been modified in order to take into account the total population of the countries, in line with the Erasmus+ Regulation.
- Point 8.4.5.2 and Appendix 1 (WPI 3.64): The eligibility criteria of the call for National Authorities on Apprenticeships have been modified to include a partnership and the implementation mode has been modified accordingly, as grants awarded with a call for proposals implemented by the EACEA. The indicative date of publication of the call is March 2014 instead of December 2013.

- Point 8.5.1 and Appendix 1 (WPI 3.65) - Cooperation with OECD: the studies on Vocational Education and Training (VET), the cooperation activity on Conditions for Uptake of Innovative and Open Learning Environments and the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) have been added, whereas the action on Education and Skills On-line and the study on Cooperation on innovative learning environments and OER have been cancelled. The two above-mentioned activities have been cancelled because, in the first case, the recently negotiated 2013 agreement with OECD will cover the years 2014 and 2015 and, in the second case, cooperation with OECD on this particular issue is replaced by the new activity mentioned-above. These changes are budgetary neutral.
- Point 8.7.1 and Appendix 1 (WPI 3.90): The action on the Indicators of the programme will be carried out via a call for tender or by using an existing framework contract.

Under Sport (budget line 15.0203):

- Point 10.2.3 and Appendix 1 (WPI 5.12; 5.14): the study on trade in doping substance has been deleted under the action Support for strengthening the evidence base for policy making, and the indicative number of contracts is 5.

It is not foreseen to sub-delegate any of these actions to other DGs.

The revised text concerning the points, Appendix 1 and Appendix 3 of the original Annex 1 of Commission Implementing Decision C (2013)8193 mentioned in Article 1 to this Decision, is detailed in the Annex to this Commission Implementing Decision.

Résumé

La Commission a adopté, par sa décision d'exécution C(2013) 8193 du 27 novembre 2013, le programme de travail annuel du programme Erasmus+ pour l'année 2014. Il y a lieu de présenter une décision visant à modifier quelques éléments essentiels de certaines actions. Ces modifications, qui n'ont pas d'incidence sur la dotation budgétaire des actions pour 2014 telle que prévue dans les tableaux budgétaires figurant à l'appendice 1 de l'annexe 1 de la décision d'exécution C(2013) 8193 de la Commission, sont les suivantes:

Sous l'intitulé «Action-clé 1» (ligne budgétaire 15.020101):

- Point 6.3.1 et appendice 1 (IPT 1.20 et 1.21) – Masters communs: le taux maximal de cofinancement par l'UE passe de 80 % à 95 %, compte tenu du niveau réel du taux de cofinancement.

Sous l'intitulé «Action-clé 2»:

- Point 7.4.3 et appendice 1 (IPT 2.34): la méthode de calcul de la dotation budgétaire allouée aux bureaux d'assistance nationaux EPALÉ (plateforme électronique pour l'éducation et la formation des adultes en Europe) est modifiée pour tenir compte de la population totale, conformément au règlement Erasmus+.

Sous l'intitulé «Action-clé 3»:

- Point 8.4.3.1 et appendice 1 (IPT 3.40): le taux maximal de cofinancement par l'UE d'Europass passe de 50 % à 60 %, compte tenu du niveau nécessaire du soutien aux tâches en question.
- Point 8.4.3.2 et appendice 1 (IPT 3.41): le taux maximal de cofinancement par l'UE d'Euroguidance passe de 50 % à 60 %, compte tenu du niveau adéquat du soutien aux tâches en question.
- Point 8.4.3.8 et appendice 1 (IPT 3.49): le taux maximal de cofinancement par l'UE des points de coordination nationaux du CEC (partie A) passe de 75 % à 85 %, compte tenu du niveau nécessaire du soutien aux tâches en question; la date d'introduction des demandes de subvention est également modifiée.
- Point 8.4.3.10, appendice 1 (IPT 3.49) et appendice 3: la méthode de calcul de la dotation budgétaire allouée aux coordonnateurs nationaux coordonnant la mise en œuvre de l'agenda européen dans le domaine de l'éducation et de la formation des adultes a été modifiée pour tenir compte de la population totale des pays, conformément au règlement Erasmus+.
- Point 8.4.5.2 et appendice 1 (IPT 3.64): les critères d'éligibilité appliqués dans le cadre de l'appel à propositions destiné aux autorités nationales concernant les apprentissages ont été modifiés pour inclure un partenariat et les modalités de mise

en œuvre modifiées en conséquence; il en est de même pour les subventions octroyées avec appel à propositions lancé par l'EACEA. La date indicative de publication de l'appel à propositions est fixée à mars 2014 au lieu de décembre 2013.

- Point 8.5.1 et appendice 1 (IPT 3.65) – Coopération avec l'OCDE: l'action est complétée par des études sur l'enseignement et la formation professionnels, l'activité de coopération sur les conditions nécessaires à l'adoption d'environnements d'apprentissage innovants et ouverts, ainsi que l'enquête sur les compétences des adultes (PIAAC), alors que sont annulées l'action sur l'éducation et la formation en ligne et l'étude portant sur la coopération dans le domaine des environnements d'apprentissage innovants et les ressources éducatives libres (REL). L'annulation de ces deux activités s'explique, pour la première d'entre elles, par la négociation récente d'un accord avec l'OCDE s'étendant aux années 2014 et 2015 et, pour la seconde, par la substitution de la coopération menée avec l'OCDE dans ce domaine par l'activité nouvelle mentionnée ci-dessus. Ces modifications sont neutres pour le budget.
- Point 8.7.1 et appendice 1 (IPT 3.90): l'action sur les indicateurs pour le programme sera exécutée au moyen d'un appel d'offres ou en ayant recours au contrat-cadre existant.

Sous l'intitulé «Sport» (ligne budgétaire 15.0203):

- Point 10.2.3 et appendice 1 (IPT 5.12 et 5.14): l'étude sur le commerce de substances dopantes est supprimée dans l'action de soutien au renforcement de la base de connaissances à l'appui de l'élaboration des politiques; le nombre prévu de contrats est par ailleurs fixé à 5.

Il n'est prévu de sous-déléguer aucune de ces actions à d'autres DG.

Le texte révisé des points et des appendices 1 et 3 auxquels l'article 1^{er} de la présente décision fait référence, originellement inclus dans l'annexe 1 de la décision d'exécution C(2013) 8193 de la Commission, est présenté à l'annexe de la présente décision d'exécution de la Commission.

Zusammenfassung

Das Jahresarbeitsprogramm 2014 zur Durchführung des Programms Erasmus+ wurde am 27. November 2013 von der Kommission mit Durchführungsbeschluss C(2013) 8193 der Kommission angenommen. Zur Änderung einiger wesentlicher Elemente bestimmter Aktionen ist ein Änderungsbeschluss erforderlich. Diese Änderungen haben keine Auswirkungen auf die Mittelzuweisungen für die 2014 vorgesehenen Aktionen, die in den Budget-Tabellen von Appendix 1 des Anhangs 1 des Durchführungsbeschlusses C(2013) 8193 der Kommission aufgeführt sind.

Leitaktion 1 (Haushaltslinie 15.020101):

- Nummer 6.3.1 und Appendix 1 (WPI (Arbeitsprogramm-Nr.) 1.20 und 1.21) - Gemeinsame Masterabschlüsse: Der Höchstsatz für die EU-Kofinanzierung wurde unter Berücksichtigung der tatsächlichen Höhe des Kofinanzierungssatzes von 80 % in 95 % geändert.

Leitaktion 2:

- Nummer 7.4.3 Appendix 1 (WPI 2.34) und Appendix 3: Die Berechnungsmethode für die Mittelzuweisung für EPALÉ (elektronische Plattform für Erwachsenenbildung in Europa) wurde geändert, um im Einklang mit der Erasmus+-Verordnung die Gesamteinwohnerzahl zu berücksichtigen.

Leitaktion 3:

- Nummer 8.4.3.1 und Appendix 1 (WPI 3.40): Der Höchstsatz für die EU-Kofinanzierung wurde für Europass unter Berücksichtigung des für die betreffenden Aufgaben notwendigen Förderniveaus von 50 % in 60 % geändert.
- Nummer 8.4.3.2 und Appendix 1 (WPI 3.41): Der Höchstsatz für die EU-Kofinanzierung wurde für Euroguidance unter Berücksichtigung des für die betreffenden Aufgaben notwendigen Förderniveaus von 50 % in 60 % geändert.
- Nummer 8.4.3.8 und Appendix 1 (WPI 3.49): Der Höchstsatz für die EU-Kofinanzierung wurde für die nationalen Koordinierungsstellen für den Europäischen Qualifikationsrahmen (EQR) (Teil A) unter Berücksichtigung des für die betreffenden Aufgaben notwendigen Förderniveaus von 75 % in 85 % geändert; außerdem wurde die Antragsfrist geändert.
- Nummer 8.4.3.10 Appendix 1 (WPI 3.49) und Appendix 3: Die Berechnungsmethode für die Mittelzuweisung für die nationalen Koordinierungsstellen für die Umsetzung der Europäischen Agenda für Erwachsenenbildung wurde geändert, um im Einklang mit der Erasmus+-Verordnung die Gesamteinwohnerzahl zu berücksichtigen.

- Nummer 8.4.5.2 und Appendix 1 (WPI 3.64): Die Förderkriterien für den Aufruf an ationale Behörden zur Berufsausbildung wurden geändert, um eine Partnerschaft einzubeziehen, und der Durchführungsmodus wurde entsprechend angepasst in Finanzhilfen auf der Grundlage einer von der EACEA durchgeführten Aufforderung zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen. Der voraussichtliche Zeitpunkt der Veröffentlichung der Aufforderung wurde von Dezember 2013 in März 2014 geändert.
- Nummer 8.5.1 und Appendix 1 (WPI 3.65) - Zusammenarbeit mit der OECD: Hier wurden die Studien zur beruflichen Aus- und Weiterbildung (VET), die Zusammenarbeit in Bezug auf Bedingungen für die Übernahme innovativer und offener Lernumgebungen und die Erhebung zur Kompetenzmessung bei Erwachsenen (PIAAC) hinzugefügt, während die Aktion zur Online-Bewertung von Bildung und Qualifikationen und die Studie über die Zusammenarbeit im Bereich innovative Lernumgebungen und offene Bildungsressourcen (OER) gestrichen wurden. Grund für die Streichung der beiden obengenannten Aktivitäten war im ersten Fall, dass die vor kurzem, mit der OECD ausgehandelte Vereinbarung von 2013 sich auf die Jahre 2014 und 2015 erstreckt, und im zweiten Fall, dass die Zusammenarbeit mit der OECD zu diesem besonderen Thema durch die neue obengenannte Aktivität ersetzt wird. Diese Änderungen sind haushaltsneutral.
- Nummer 8.7.1 und Appendix 1 (WPI 3.90): Die Aktion zu den Programmindikatoren wird über eine Ausschreibung oder mittels Nutzung eines bestehenden Rahmenvertrages ausgeführt.

Sport (Haushaltlinie 15.0203):

- Nummer 10.2.3 und Appendix 1 (WPI 5.12, 5.14): Die Studie über den Handel mit Dopingmitteln unter der Aktion Förderung des Ausbaus der Evidenzbasis für politische Entscheidungen wurde gestrichen; die voraussichtliche Zahl der Aufträge beträgt nunmehr 5.

Es ist nicht geplant, irgendeine dieser Aktionen an eine andere GD zu übertragen.

Der überarbeitete Text der aufgeführten Punkte, des Appendix 1 und des Appendix 3 des ursprünglichen Anhangs 1 des in Artikel 1 dieses Beschlusses genannten Durchführungsbeschlusses C(2013) 8193 der Kommission ist im Anhang dieses Durchführungsbeschlusses der Kommission aufgeführt.

ANNEX 1

The annual work programme 2014 Erasmus+ was adopted by the Commission on 27 November 2013 by Commission Implementing Decision C(2013)8193. It is necessary to put forward an amending decision in order to modify some essential elements of certain actions. These modifications, having no impact on the budget allocation of the 2014 actions foreseen in the budget tables of Appendix 1 of Annex 1 of Commission Implementing Decision C (2013)8193 are the following:

Under Key Action 1 (budget line 15.020101):

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Under Key Action 2:

- Point 7.4.3, Appendix 1 (WPI 2.34) and Appendix 3: The method of calculation for the budget allocation for EPAL National Support Services (Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe) has been modified in order to take into account the total population, in line with the Erasmus+ Regulation.

Under Key Action 3:

- Point 8.4.3.1 and Appendix 1 (WPI 3.40): The maximum EU co-financing rate for Europass has been changed from 50% to 60% taking into account the necessary level of support for the tasks in question.
- Point 8.4.3.2 and Appendix 1 (WPI 3.41): The maximum EU co-financing rate for Euroguidance has been changed from 50% to 60%, taking into account the adequate level of support for the tasks in question.
- Point 8.4.3.8 and Appendix 1 (WPI 3.49): The maximum EU co-financing rate for EQF National Coordination Points (Part A) has been changed from 75% to 85%, taking into account the necessary level of support for the tasks in question, and the date of submission of grants has been modified.
- Point 8.4.3.10, Appendix 1 (WPI 3.49) and Appendix 3: The method of calculation for the budget allocation for National Coordinators for the implementation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning has been modified in order to take into account the total population of the countries, in line with the Erasmus+ Regulation.
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It is not foreseen to sub-delegate any of these actions to other DGs.

The revised text concerning the points, Appendix 1 and Appendix 3 of the original Annex 1 of Commission Implementing Decision C (2013)8193 mentioned in Article 1 to this Decision, is the following:

<p>6. KEY ACTION 1: LEARNING MOBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS</p>

6.3.1. Joint Masters Degrees

Index references in budget table: 1.20 and 1.21

A Joint Master Degree (JMD) is a high-level integrated international study programme of 60, 90 or 120 ECTS, delivered by an international consortium of higher education institutions (HEI) and (where relevant) other educational and/or non-educational partners with specific expertise and interest in the study area(s) / professional domain(s) covered by the joint programme.

All participating higher education institutions should be degree-awarding institutions and the corresponding degrees - covering the full content of the JMD - must be fully recognised by the competent national authorities in the countries concerned. The successful completion of the joint master programme must lead to the award of either a joint degree (i.e. one single diploma issued on behalf of at least two higher education institutions from different programme countries and fully recognised in these countries) or multiple degrees (i.e. at least two diplomas issued by two higher education institutions from different programme countries and fully recognised in these countries).

Joint Master Degrees will support the following activities:

- the delivery of a joint master programme corresponding to 60, 90 or 120 ECTS, organised by an international consortium of higher education institutions including the participation of invited scholars (guest lecturers) for teaching, training and/or research purposes
- the award of scholarships to excellent students worldwide for their participation in one of these joint master programmes.

Eligibility criteria

Joint Masters Degrees are open to any public or private organisation located in programme and partner countries (such as: higher education institutions; non-academic partners, in particular enterprises and other representatives of the world of work; research institutions; bodies active in the area of education and training; non-profit organisations, NGOs; associations, foundations, and other bodies involved in the fields of education and training; local, regional and national public authorities; etc.).

Joint Masters Degrees must be composed of at least three higher education institutions from three different programme countries.

Who can apply:

The coordinator of the applicants must be higher education institutions located in a programme country and must hold an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). For HEIs located in partner countries, the ECHE is not required, but the quality framework will be established through inter-institutional agreements between HEIs.

Expected results

Joint Master Degrees contribute to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and of the Education and Training strategic framework 2020 (ET2020), including the corresponding benchmarks established in those policies by aiming at:

- fostering quality improvements, innovation, excellence and internationalisation in HEIs
- increasing the quality and the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and supporting the EU external action in the higher education field, by offering full degree scholarships to the best Master students worldwide
- improving the level of competencies and skills of Master graduates, and in particular their relevance for the labour market, through an increased involvement of employers.

JMDs will continue and strengthen the successful experience initiated with the Erasmus Mundus Master Courses (EMMCs) in raising the attractiveness of the EHEA worldwide and demonstrating the excellence and high level of integration of the joint study programmes delivered by European HEIs.

Erasmus+ will continue to provide funding to the 138 existing Joint Master Degrees (in average 7 scholarships each) in the framework of the framework partnership agreements concluded under the Erasmus Mundus Programme, through an invitation

to apply, in the context of calls published in previous years. The master programmes are included in the framework partnership agreements. The framework partnership agreements and the action are fully in line with the Erasmus+ Regulation.

Selected JMDs will receive long term support so as to allow them to increase their worldwide visibility and reinforce their sustainability prospects. This long term support will be composed of an initial funding period of 4 or 5 years, covering three consecutive student intakes followed - through a selection procedure for the best JMDs - by an additional funding period of up to three student intakes under the JMD Catalogue.

Award criteria

Mobility actions will be evaluated on the basis of the following award criteria:

- Relevance of the project
- Quality of the project design and implementation
- Quality of the project team and the cooperation arrangements
- Impact and dissemination

JMDs will be offered a variable number of student scholarships of €25,000 maximum per year (approximately 40 scholarships for the three intakes). The actual amount of the individual scholarships will vary in accordance with the JMD length (60, 90 or 120 ECTS), the student country/region of origin and the JMD admission and enrolment fees.

The framework partnership agreements and the action plan are fully in line with the Erasmus+ Regulation.

The implementation of the action and the monitoring of results will be managed by EACEA.

The financial support will take the form of individual scholarships to students worldwide for their participation in one of these joint master programmes. The financial support to cover the management costs of the consortium delivering the JMD will take the form of a lump sum. The maximum EU co-financing rate will be 95%.

7. KEY ACTION 2: COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES

7.4.3. EPALE National Support Services (Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe)

Index references in budget table: 2.34

EPALE – Electronic Platform for adult learning in Europe will be pursued to complete the set-up of Central Support Service (CSS). In 2014, the financial support for the Central Support Service (EPALE) will be covered by the existing 2-year contract, signed in 2013.

National authorities will be asked to nominate the EPALE National Support Service (NSS) organisation in their countries. The EPALE NSS are designated by the competent national authorities on the basis of their level of responsibility, technical competence and high degree of specialisation (Article 190(1)(f) RAP). This appointment is made on the following criteria:

- The National Support Services should demonstrate a good understanding of the adult learning sector in their respective countries, a good knowledge of its stakeholders and a good comprehension of their needs.
- The National Support Service should have the capacity to perform the following tasks: linguistic support to the Central Support Service and to the national / local stakeholders, networking and communication expertise, identification and quality check of local / regional / national resources in adult education.

An invitation to submit a work programme proposal will be issued by EACEA for supporting the activities of the NSS covering the period September 2014-December 2015.

The total EU contribution will be allocated to EPALE National Support Services in the programme countries based on the combination of a minimum allocation distribution equally among all countries, the size of the total population (EUROSTAT) and cost of living in the country (EUROSTAT). The country distribution of the total amount available for the action is provided in [Appendix 3](#).

The allocated grant will not cover more than 80% of the eligible costs.

Award criteria

- Relevance of the proposal
- Quality of the activity plan
- Cost-benefit ratio
- Impact

The EPALE platform (CSS and NSS) will perform the following main functions:

- support the process of building a European adult learning community through enhancing and speeding up the process of closer cooperation, networking and exchanges
- capitalize on the results of projects, products and activities funded through Grundtvig and other European programmes, as well as strategies, tools and results produced at local, regional or national level
- provide accessible, good quality information about policy and practice and learning products
- offer a virtual space for learning and for cooperation between adult learning providers.

8. KEY ACTION 3: SUPPORT FOR POLICY REFORM

8.4.3.1. Europass National Centres

Index references in budget table: 3.40

Established by the decision of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ on a single EU framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences, the Europass action implements a direct service to citizens, as well as to training centres, schools, higher education institutions and enterprises, through a European portal and the network of national Europass centres. The EU contribution finances up to 60% of the eligible costs of the Europass centres, which implement the Europass action at national level.

Expected results

The main objectives and expected results are:

- Provision, through a European portal and the network of National Europass Centres (NECs), of several instruments for the transparency of skills and qualifications, aiming in particular at better communication between job-seekers and employers, thus better mobility on the European labour market. The European portal will be further developed and NECs will be asked to contribute with expert views, country related advice, and linguistic support.
- Promotion of these instruments to the public concerned (citizens, training centres, schools, higher education institutions and enterprises). Special attention is given to the cooperation between services for employment, guidance and youth.

The detailed tasks are defined by the Commission and the application form for the grant facilitates the preparation of an accurate work programme, with concrete and verifiable indications.

The Europass centres are instruments for the implementation at national level of the programme. As they are explicitly identified in Article [9.1(d)] of the Regulation, the grants will be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 190(1)(d) RAP. The final beneficiaries of the Europass service are the citizens, as well as learning centres, schools, universities and enterprises.

The grant is subject to approval of a work programme and an estimated budget. Each grant application must also be accompanied by a declaration from the competent national authorities with their commitment to cover at least 40% of the costs. The country distribution of the budget is provided in [Appendix 3](#).

Award criteria

- Relevance of the work plan in relation to expected deliverables and policy objectives
- Quality of the work plan in terms of methodology, data sources, work organisation and budget
- Cost effectiveness of the proposed work plan.

8.4.3.2. Euroguidance Network

Index references in budget table: 3.41 and 3.42

¹ 2004/2241/EC of 15.12.2004

Part A

The EU contribution finances up to 60% of the eligible costs of the national centres of the Euroguidance network, whose mission it is to develop the European dimension in guidance for education and vocational training. Euroguidance centres establish information tools for guidance counsellors, students, pupils and their parents, as well as the trainers of the guidance counsellors and personnel in education and training. They train and advise the guidance centres in terms of European mobility opportunities and contribute to the joint EQF-Ploteus portal.

Expected results

The results foreseen are as follows:

- Better targeted communication for the various users, as well as intensified cooperation with the relevant European networks in the field of mobility
- The centres will keep their tasks related to the joint EQF-Ploteus portal (providing guidance to individuals, providing information to the portal).

Euroguidance centres are beneficiaries of the EU financial contributions, as identified in Article 9.1(d) of the Regulation. The grants will be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 190(1)(d) RAP. The final beneficiaries of the Euroguidance service are the citizens, either directly or via the guidance counsellors and local guidance centres.

The EU financial support is subject to approval of a work programme and an estimated budget. Each application must also be accompanied by a declaration from the competent national authorities with their commitment to cover at least 40% of the costs. The country distribution of the budget is provided in [Appendix 3](#).

Award criteria

- Relevance of the work plan in relation to expected deliverables and policy objectives
- Quality of the work plan in terms of methodology, data sources, work organisation and budget
- Cost effectiveness of the proposed work plan.

Part B

A separate budget is foreseen for activities relating to setting up or developing national databases for learning opportunities that will be interconnected to the joint EQF/Ploteus portal. Indeed, the Euroguidance centres have important tasks in relation to the current Ploteus and future joint EQF/Ploteus portal, such as the production and/or translation of texts for the portal, the management of the quality of information feeding in the portal and mapping of the data from relevant data sources to the portal in order to reflect the national education and training system. Given their role in the Ploteus Portal, the Euroguidance centres play a pivotal role in the setting up and further developments of national databases on learning opportunities. The grant for action will cover 24 months.

The beneficiaries of these grants are the Euroguidance centres as indicated under part A. The maximum co-financing percentage is 75%, and the maximum indicative grant will be €100,000.

8.4.3.8. EQF National Coordination Points (European Qualification Framework)

Index references in budget table: 3.49 and 3.52

The Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council of 23 April 2008 on the establishment of a European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning² (EQF) recommends Member States to designate EQF national coordination points (NCPs), which will coordinate the implementation of the EQF at national level.³ The EQF national coordination points shall support National Authorities in establishing national qualification frameworks. Under the EQF there are two milestones towards which the activities of the EQF-NCPs are geared, namely:

- the referencing of national qualifications systems to the European reference levels, and
- the referencing to the appropriate EQF level on qualification certificates, diplomas and "Europass" documents issued by the competent authorities.

Related to the second milestone is the setting up of databases or registers for qualifications which the Commission will support. The 2014 grants available to NQF-NCPs are divided in two parts. One part will relate to activities in support of the referencing process (including the application of the learning outcomes approach and activities related to the involvement of stakeholders) and in support of indicating EQF levels on qualifications and Europass documents. The other part will relate to the setting up of national databases or registers for qualifications.

The EQF NCPs are designated by national authorities to implement and promote the EQF process at national level and are identified in Article [9.1(b)] of the Regulation. The grants will be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 190(1)(d) RAP.

Part A

In 2014, most National Coordination Points (NCPs) will focus on bringing the EQF closer to citizens and companies, though the indication of EQF levels on individual qualifications, whereas other NCPs will still be in charge of supporting the referencing process. The grants to EQF NCPs may include support to activities in relation with the following tasks:

- Referencing levels of qualifications within national qualifications systems to the European Qualifications Framework levels. This may include meetings, seminars or studies for the definition of qualifications through an approach based on learning outcomes, the development of a transparent referencing methodology, exchange of views with other EQF NCPs or relevant international experts

² 2008/C 111/01 of 23.04.2008

³ OJ C 111/1 of 6.5.2008

- Applying the learning outcomes approach to qualifications which underlies the EQF; this may include the development or revision of national qualifications frameworks
- Supporting activities in relation to the referencing to the appropriate EQF level on qualification certificates, diplomas and ‘Europass’ documents issued by the competent authorities.

It should however be noted that:

- This support is given to facilitate a policy process, so that the use of resource in a country may be related less to efficiency than to the policy framework in that country, and may change significantly from one year to the other.
- Small adjustments may take place based on information from programme countries (for instance, if a country decides not to apply or to ask for less, the others may use the amount made available).

EQF NCPs will be invited to submit their grant requests in March 2014 at the earliest, so that the activities may start in spring 2014 (the 2014 grants cover activities until April 2015). In 2014, the total amount available distributed between the countries is based on weighted demographic size, cost of living and to some extent previous use of resources. The maximum EU co-financing rate will be 85%. The 2014 country distribution of the budget available for the action is provided in the table in [Appendix 3](#).

Award criteria

- Relevance of the work plan in relation to expected deliverables and policy objectives
- Quality of the work plan in terms of methodology, data sources, work organisation and budget
- Cost effectiveness of the proposed work plan.

Part B

- As indicated above the implementation of the second milestone of the EQF Recommendation will be facilitated by the setting up or development of databases or registers for qualifications that will be interconnected with the joint EQF/Ploteus portal. A separate budget is foreseen for these activities. The development and maintenance of the joint EQF/Ploteus portal are covered through a specific item of this work programme (see point 7.4.4.; budget table index 2.3.5). The grants for action will cover a maximum period of 24 months.
- The beneficiaries of these grants are the EQF-NCPs as indicated under [part A](#). The maximum co-financing percentage is 75%, and the maximum indicative grant will be €100,000.

8.4.3.10. National Coordinators for the implementation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning

Index references in budget table: 3.51

The Council Resolution on a European Agenda for Adult Learning, adopted by the Education Council on 28 November 2011⁴, concentrated on increasing participation among the low qualified and disadvantaged adults, with a focus on developing their

⁴ 16743/11, EDUC 268 SOC

basic skills, for example through guidance, validation and access to second chance initiatives.

The Agenda encouraged the programme countries to take concrete steps to enhance, intensify and coordinate policies to provide adult learning, in particular offering lower qualified adults a "second chance" to go "one step up" in their qualification level.

The EU funding is intended to finance the effective implementation of the Agenda at national level and to cooperate with the Commission in its implementation at European level (1 year activity). The total EU contribution will be allocated across the programme countries based on size of the total population (EUROSTAT), cost of living (EUROSTAT) and rate of participation in adult learning⁵. The country distribution of the total amount available for the action is provided in [Appendix 3](#). The national coordinators are designated on the basis of their level of responsibility, technical competence and high degree of specialisation of the action (Article 190(1)(f) RAP). The allocated grant will not cover more than 75% of the eligible costs.

The purpose of the grant is to support national administrations, through the coordinators, in implementing the Agenda with a wide range of stakeholders and in a wide range of settings. The objectives are to:

- Inform and raise awareness of the Agenda and the importance of adult learning more generally
- Organise exchange and debate with all relevant stakeholders at national, regional and local level to mobilise cooperation that could help reach a maximum number of adult learners
- Act on the guidance derived from the Thematic Working Groups on Financing and Quality of Adult Learning and use the relevant studies on Quality and Efficiency in Adult Learning
- Support transnational cooperation in the development and implementation or consolidation of national and regional initiatives offering adults a second chance to acquire basic skills and their integration in working life and society.

Expected results

- Better awareness and stronger commitment of all relevant actors and stakeholders active in the field of adult learning to support the implementation of the key objectives of the European Agenda for Adult Learning at national and regional level
- Increased awareness of basic skills deficits among the adult population, also in light of the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) results, and stronger commitment from public authorities and all relevant actors, including improved coherence and cooperation in the provision of second chance opportunities to overcome them
- Better dissemination of EU policy on adult learning and the existing tools and programmes to support it, as well as good practices that have been successfully implemented in other programme countries (e.g. through information activities, including media campaigns, publicity events, etc.)
- Better dissemination of existing European tools or reference material.

⁵ The criterion "participation rate" will be applied in an inverse manner, thereby favouring countries with a low participation rate.

Eligible applicants

Only national administrations implementing the Agenda, or the agencies appointed by them for this purpose, are eligible.

Award criteria

The essential award criteria to be applied are:

- Relevance of the proposal
- Quality of the work programme / activity plan
- Cost-benefit ratio
- Impact.

8.4.5.2. National Authorities on apprenticeships

Index references in budget table: 3.64

This activity supports the objectives of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships, and notably the goal of increasing the quality and supply of apprenticeships throughout Europe. Given the specific role of National Authorities in determining the legislative framework in which apprenticeships are organised and financed, grant applications submitted under this call for proposals should include as a leading applicant (coordinator) a National Authority or an organisation designed by it.

Grants will support National Authorities' reform programmes, and may include activities such as bilateral cooperation with other countries, targeted study visits, feasibility studies for pilot sectors to be involved in apprenticeships, definition of a strategy for training of in-company trainers, expert advice on draft apprenticeship regulations, etc. Close cooperation with social partners and other relevant stakeholders will be reflected in the grant award criteria, as will transnational collaboration.

Eligible applicants

Grant applications must be submitted by at least two entities from at least two different programme countries. The eligible leading applicant (coordinator) must be a National Authority or an organisation designated by the National Authority which are responsible for VET and for defining, monitoring and potentially revising the legislative framework for apprenticeships and are located in a programme country.

Eligible co-applicants may be ministries and other stakeholders, such as social partners, businesses, chambers of commerce, VET providers, etc. Natural persons and sole traders are not eligible. Where the leading applicant (coordinator) is an organisation designated by a National Authority, the National Authority designating it must be included in the application either as a co-applicant, or as an affiliated entity or as an associated partner participating in the implementation on a no cost basis.

Expected results

The goal of the call is to support the introduction or modernisation of apprenticeships within initial VET systems.

Award criteria

The award criteria to be applied are:

- Relevance of the project
- Quality of the project design and implementation
- Quality of the cooperation arrangements
- Impact and dissemination.

These criteria will be detailed in the terms of reference of the specific call.

8.5.1. Cooperation with OECD

Index references in budget table: 3.65

Country analysis in the field of Education and Training: Europe 2020 priority

A deep knowledge of the national educational systems is indispensable to assess the relevance of national policy measures and progress towards the Europe 2020 headline and national targets. It is therefore necessary to monitor the benchmarks, indicators and recommendations, agreed in the framework of the Open Method of Coordination in the field of education and training (ET 2020). Without it, it is not possible to legitimate meaningful country specific recommendations (CSRs) or to provide guidance for investment and reform in education and training systems through the Annual Growth Survey (AGS) and employment guidelines, namely to drive down youth unemployment.

Launched in 2013 under the Lifelong Learning Programme, this action, which is part of a global framework of cooperation with the OECD Directorate of Education, will aim at a more fruitful alliance between OECD's stronger analytical capacity and the Commission's political and financial capacity regarding country analysis in the field of education and training. The budget will cover a part of the expenses of the OECD country reviews for the countries previously identified as priority countries. The maximum Commission co-financing rate will be 80%.

Secondary analysis of PIAAC and PISA data

In 2014, data collected in the course of the first round of the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) and of the 2012 round of the Programme for the International Student Assessment (PISA) will be available. OECD has already developed analytical strategies for both surveys, covering thematic analysis on relevant topics that go beyond the initial international reports published in 2013. Drawing on the considerable analytical expertise of the OECD as the institution "owning" both surveys, it is intended to support this analytical work in order to produce additional evidence for topics of particular relevance to the EU, such as skills development at different age levels or the returns to skills. The maximum Commission co-financing rate will be 80%.

Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC)

The purpose of this action is to support the participation of the programme countries in further PIAAC surveys. The results will permit a better understanding of the development of skills through formal education, adult learning processes and the outcomes of adult education initiatives. The maximum Commission co-financing rate will be 80%.

National Skills Strategies

The OECD offers support to countries that engage in preparing their national skills strategy. As a first step, a diagnostic tool has been developed, based on a set of indicators and a set of guiding qualitative questions. The tool should help map strengths and weaknesses of a skills system, stimulate policy dialogue and identify areas for actions. The action will provide financial support to countries deciding to engage in a policy dialogue at national level and in implementing a national skills strategy in line with the OECD framework and agreed EU policy priorities. The maximum Commission co-financing rate will be 80%.

Guiding Framework for the Entrepreneurial Education Institution - Schools/VET

OECD and the European Commission are already engaged in a development project to establish a Guiding Framework for the Entrepreneurial Education Institution particularly focusing on schools and VET, provisionally called *Entrepreneurship360*. In 2014, work will focus on the implementation of the tool on-line, ensuring its dual role as a tool to provide feedback at both institutional and policy level, and wider roll-out. The maximum Commission co-financing rate will be 80%.

Conditions for Uptake of Innovative and Open Learning Environments

The OECD is analysing the conditions of systemic ICT-supported innovations in education, by analysing several innovative learning and teaching environments. In light of the Commission Communication on Opening up Education⁶, it is proposed to join efforts and to set up cooperation to cover all EU countries through this activity. The maximum Commission co-financing rate will be 80%.

Studies in the field of Vocational Education and Training (VET)

The OECD is preparing a series of studies on topical VET issues. In this context it is in the interest of the EU to work with the OECD to gain more insights on work based learning, including costs and benefits of apprenticeship systems. The results of those studies will feed in to current efforts to support mutual learning between the Member States on work based learning. The results will also support the newly launched European Alliance for Apprenticeships. Cedefop will be involved in the cooperation. The maximum Commission co-financing rate will be 80%.

⁶ COM(2013)654 final of 13.09.2013.

Guiding Framework for Entrepreneurial Universities - HE

OECD and the European Commission are both already involved in a number of activities promoting the development of the key competences in entrepreneurship. OECD and the European Commission have developed an on-line self-assessment tool for higher education institutions wishing to assess, diagnose and improve their performance and development as entrepreneurial institutions, and will work together on the roll-out of the operational version of the Guiding Framework for Entrepreneurial Universities. Further collaboration will include the preparation of policy briefs, implementation notes, seminars and reviews. The maximum Commission co-financing rate will be 80%. For the cases of "Secondary Analyses of PIAAC and PISA", "Studies in the field of VET" and "Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC)", OECD is considered to be in a position of *de facto* (possibly also *de jure*) monopoly (Article 190(1)(c) RAP), as it owns the intellectual property rights of these "products" and it is in the Commission interest to engage in partnership with the "owner" rather than any external body.

For the actions "Country analysis in the field of Education and Training: Europe 2020 priority", "National Skills Strategies", "Conditions for Uptake of Innovative and Open Learning Environments", Entrepreneurial tools, as well as the possible study on Apprenticeships, OECD is considered to be the only body technically competent to carry out these analyses and actions (Article 190(1)(f) RAP). Indeed, all these actions require specific technical competences as well as administrative capacity - including the capacity to analyse the issue in the context of world leading economies - which only OECD have, in order to be credible for the Member States and for the countries participating in these actions. In addition, these actions will not fall under any of the calls for proposals within the Erasmus+.

Award criteria

For the above actions, the following award criteria will be applied:

- Relevance of the work plan in relation to expected deliverables, policy objectives and geographic coverage
- Quality of the work plan in terms of methodology, data sources, work organisation and budget
- Cost effectiveness of the proposed work plan.

8.7.1. Indicators of the programme

Index references in budget table: 3.90

In order to ensure a proper monitoring of the Erasmus+ programme from the early beginning of its implementation, and on top of the indicators included in the Regulation, it is foreseen to launch a call for tender in June 2014 or to use an existing framework contract, to get support on the qualitative impact of mobility and partnership activities. The aim will be to complement self-assessment from the beneficiaries with long term and more in depth analysis.

10. SPORT

10.2.3. Support for strengthening the evidence base for policy making

Index references in budget table: 5.12, 5.14

EU added value in the field of sport can be achieved by spreading good practices from programme countries and sport organisations and by reinforcing networks at EU level so that national members of those networks benefit from synergies and exchanges with their partners. The EU can provide both opportunities for cooperation among stakeholders and synergy with, and between, national, regional and local policies to promote sport and to address sport-related challenges. The following activities are foreseen:

- studies; data gathering, surveys; networks; conferences and seminars.

In particular, the studies will focus on issues relevant for sport policy, notably on sport qualifications, on selected aspects of dual careers and on the implementation of the EU Physical Activity Guidelines.

These activities will be implemented through calls for tender and/or existing framework contracts.

Appendix 1: Modifications

Title: Erasmus+ Programme

Budget Line 15 02 01 01: Promoting excellence and cooperation in the European education and training area and its relevance to the labour market

WPI (*)	Actions	2014 Budget	Mode of implementation	Number of grants / contracts	Average value of grants / contracts	Maximum rate of cofinancing	Publication of calls for proposals / calls for tenders
1.20	Joint Masters Programmes	17.300.000	CFP-EA	9	1.922.222	95%	Dec-13
1.21	Joint Masters Programmes - "partnerships agreements"	47.000.000	CFP-EA	138	340.580	95%	N/A
2.34	EPALE National Support Services (platform for EU adult cooperation)	6.500.000	SPE-EA	34	191.176	80%	first semester 2014
3.40	Europass National Centres	2.400.000	D-EA	36	66.667	60%	Mar-14
3.41	Euroguidance network (part A)	2.400.000	D-EA	36	66.667	60%	Mar-14
3.42	Euroguidance network: data basis on learning opportunities (part B)	1.300.000	D-EA	33	39.394	75%	Mar-14
3.49	EQF National Coordination Points (European Qualifications Framework) (part A)	1.500.000	D-EA	38	39.474	85%	Mar-14
3.51	National Coordinators for the implementation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning	3.000.000	SPE-EA	34	88.235	75%	N/A
3.52	EQF National Coordination Points (European Qualifications Framework): qualifications data basis and registers (part B)	1.300.000	D-EA	33	39.394	75%	Mar-14
3.64	National Authorities on Apprenticeships	4.000.000	CFP-EA	15	266.667	75%	Mar-14
3.65	OECD - Cooperation on Education and Training	3.000.000	SPE	8	375.000	80%	N/A
3.90	Indicators for the Programme	300.000	PP	1	300.000	100%	Jun-14

Budget Line 15 02 03: Developing the European dimension in sport

WPI (*)	Actions	2014 Budget	Mode of implementation	Number of grants / contracts	Average value of grants / contracts	Maximum rate of cofinancing	Publication of calls for proposals / calls for tenders
5.12; 5.14	Support the strengthening of the evidence base for policy making	1.500.000	PP; PP-EA	5	300.000	100%	First semester 2014

(*) WPI : Work Programme Index

<<Mode of implementation>>

- CFP-EA: Grants awarded with a call for proposals implemented by the EACEA
- D-EA: Grants to bodies identified by a basic act - Art 190.1(d) RAP, implemented by the EACEA
- SPE: Grants for actions with specific characteristics - Art 190.1(f) RAP
- SPE-EA: Grants for actions with specific characteristics - Art 190.1(f) RAP, implemented by the EACEA
- PP: Public Procurement
- PP-EA: Public Procurement, implemented by the EACEA

Appendix Table 3 -

Country		EPALE National Support Services 2014	Amended EPALE 2014	National Coordinators EU Agenda for Adult learning 2014	Amended National Coordinators EU Agenda for Adult learning 2014
Belgium	BE	172.988	164.400	91.634	89.800
Bulgaria	BG	117.212	123.200	92.961	91.200
Czech Republic	CZ	147.706	149.900	77.411	76.200
Denmark	DK	168.246	160.300	22.411	21.900
Germany	DE	486.275	468.700	208.005	209.700
Estonia	EE	106.878	108.300	56.315	54.700
Greece	EL	159.216	159.100	99.113	97.600
Spain	ES	318.693	314.500	138.756	140.500
France	FR	384.095	409.600	173.905	188.100
Croatia	HR	116.932	122.200	87.428	85.700
Ireland	IE	147.279	141.600	80.205	77.500
Italy	IT	387.755	382.200	173.751	176.800
Cyprus	CY	114.702	110.600	70.923	67.800
Latvia	LV	107.450	111.400	72.073	70.300
Lithuania	LT	106.952	112.000	77.498	75.800
Luxembourg	LU	140.077	123.200	58.056	53.700
Hungary	HU	135.782	146.200	94.942	94.500
Malta	MT	103.517	107.600	69.831	68.000
Netherlands	NL	195.299	191.300	75.511	75.500
Austria	AT	160.307	155.900	68.477	66.900
Poland	PL	260.579	268.000	137.920	140.100
Portugal	PT	154.859	151.700	78.731	77.000
Romania	RO	184.781	190.200	117.783	117.000
Slovenia	SI	117.107	116.500	56.368	54.500
Slovakia	SK	122.111	127.200	87.713	85.900
Finland	FI	155.474	151.900	38.263	37.700
Sweden	SE	178.502	175.300	40.137	40.300
United Kingdom	UK	389.086	417.000	150.432	162.100
Iceland	IS	127.632	122.300	21.993	20.800
Liechtenstein	LI	190.117	148.900	32.552	18.200
Norway	NO	178.260	168.900	52.680	50.800
Turkey	TR	382.683	424.600	186.495	206.700
Switzerland	CH	190.117	183.300	32.552	32.100
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	MK*	91.333	92.000	77.176	74.600
Albania	AL	0	0	0	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA	0	0	0	0
Montenegro	ME	0	0	0	0
Serbia	RS	0	0	0	0
Total		6.500.000	6.500.000	3.000.000	3.000.000

* Provisional code which does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which will be agreed following the conclusion of negotiations currently taking place under the auspices of UN.