



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

## EAEA recommendations for the improvement of Erasmus+

The European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) asked its members to send feedback on the new Erasmus+ programme, with a special focus on the experiences with the application procedure.

### *General Remarks*

#### ➤ Participation of Third Countries

Many of our members in the European Neighbourhood countries see adult education as a way to interact with the EU, they are interested and often enthusiastic about European policy developments in lifelong learning and are keen to contribute to the further development of adult education and vocational training. It is therefore a pity that the participation of Third Countries has been severely limited. EAEA therefore **proposes a more accessible participation of European Neighbourhood countries in Erasmus+**.

#### ➤ Coordinate better between NAs

The information and the standards coming from different National Agencies differ considerably. **We therefore propose a stronger standardisation in the information, selection and administrative procedures.**

#### ➤ Create a 'European pot' at the EACEA

EAEA was planning to apply for two strategic partnerships but after discussing the financial situation of the Belgian agencies, we decided to propose only one with a reduced budget. It does not make sense for European associations to apply at the national level as our projects tend to be truly European in both scope and content and generally do not relate directly to the Belgian lifelong learning system. So far we do not know whether our project has been approved, but we would not be surprised if it was rejected because of a lack of connection to Belgium. **EAEA therefore proposes a separate pot to be administered by the EACEA which European associations can apply to.**

#### ➤ Larger-scale projects for adult education

There are some issues that are of key European importance for adult education, active aging and the participation of low-skilled adults, to name but two. Unfortunately, Erasmus+ does not foresee any larger scale projects for adult education any more, which unfortunately also limits the impact of the sector. **EAEA**



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**therefore proposes the introduction of larger scale adult education projects along the lines of the knowledge alliances for higher education and the sector skill alliances in vocational training.**

- Introduce an information campaign to potential applicants in countries with low participation

Some countries have both low participation rates of adults in lifelong learning and a low participation rate in Erasmus+. EAEA therefore proposes a targeted information campaign about the possibilities of Erasmus+ in these countries.

### **Mobilities**

- Enable umbrella organisations to apply for all their members

In a number of European countries, umbrella organisations either at the national or the regional levels represent the interests of their members. It would make sense that these umbrella organisations actually apply for mobilities for their membership and then administer them. In the preparation for Erasmus+, we were also told that this was intended by the programme and would actually simplify mobilities both for adult education organisations and the National Agencies. EAEA informed its members accordingly. Some umbrella organisations actually tried to go ahead but then were told that they had to identify a limited number of members (=partners) and would have to fill in separate European development plans for every one of them. For umbrella organisations to really become involved, there needs to be the possibility to apply for all their members. **EAEA therefore proposes a widened and simplified opportunity for umbrella organisations to apply for and on behalf of their members.**

- Lack of course overview

The Grundtvig/Comenius database of courses was not perfect, but it did provide the possibility to search for courses that had been approved. EAEA members see a lack of offer that has been validated. We therefore propose that an at least minimal validation takes place and that courses can then be advertised in one place.

- At least a 2<sup>nd</sup> (if not 3<sup>rd</sup>) deadline is necessary

EAEA proposes at least one more deadline per year for mobilities.

- Are conferences learning activities?

Some of our members were informed by their NAs that conferences are not covered by mobility grants, others not. **EAEA therefore proposes that conferences are seen as learning activities and can be part of mobilities across Europe.**

## Strategic partnerships

- Simplify the form

The fact that we are now operating under a 'one size fits all' approach has led to the fact that application procedures have become more complicated – it seems to be a step back. **EAEA therefore proposes to concentrate on the key information about the planned project and simplify the questions in the form.**

- What's an intellectual output?

It is absolutely unclear what an intellectual output is. **EAEA therefore proposes a clearer description and guidelines what is actually meant by an intellectual output.**

- Rethink the management fee urgently

The administration fee of 1.000 Euro per month is applied across Europe and is valid for any strategic partnership, whether it plans intellectual outputs, dissemination activities or not. For a simple strategic partnership with some mobilities, especially if it is coordinated in a country with lower salary levels, this seems sufficient. If one wants to do a project with a number of activities in a country with high salary levels, then this is almost impossible. (We do understand that the former 25% co-financing rate has been included in the lump sum, but this goes very much beyond 25% - it is more like 50 – 75%).

The lump sum is meant to cover all administration, all management and all dissemination and exploitation! **EAEA therefore urgently proposes to adapt the administration fee according to country / region and number of activities.**

- Rethink dissemination / exploitation for financing

All dissemination and exploitation activities are meant to be covered by the management fee. As dissemination and exploitation are meant to be crucial elements of the project, there needs to be a budget for any products that can support and promote the dissemination. Whether it is leaflets or videos or articles or a website, this needs to be financed. **EAEA therefore proposes the introduction of a separate budget for dissemination / exploitation.**

- Participants with less than 99 km



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Participants who travel to an event also have costs and will need to be taken into account when organising. **EAEA therefore proposes a small amount for them.**

- Lack of preparatory visits

Preparatory visits have disappeared although these were the occasions when partners could get to know each other better and really work out how to work together and how to best structure the project. While the form makes it obvious that inexperienced partners are welcome, the lack of this opportunity makes it much more difficult for a partnership to work efficiently. **EAEA therefore proposes the reintroduction of preparatory visits.**

- Definition of “extraordinary costs”

There is no definition of extraordinary costs, just a budget line. It would be worth to have space to justify these costs and explain their added value in the project. These are also possible important costs for dissemination, but no further explanation is given. **EAEA therefore proposes a wide and clear definition of this budget post.**

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