

Erasmus+ International credit mobility for students and staff

What are the EU's priorities?

In 2015, Erasmus+ will for the first time fund Erasmus-like student and staff mobility to and from Partner Countries outside Europe. This note is intended to help Higher Education Institutions in "Programme Countries"¹, who will apply for funding, to tailor their applications taking into account the EU's priorities.

Mobility can be both incoming and outgoing and the funding for this comes from the EU's budget for external cooperation, which means that this action has to follow the EU's external priorities.

In terms of **budget**, the different regions of the world are prioritised as follows:

1. The first priority is given to the **EU's neighbourhood regions**, both Eastern (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine), and Southern (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia);
2. then comes **Asia**, including Central Asia;
3. followed by the **Western Balkans** (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia)
4. **Latin America**;
5. the **industrialised Americas** (Canada, United States of America) and **industrialised Asia**, (Australia, Brunei, Hong Kong, Japan, (Republic of) Korea, Macao, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan);
6. and finally **South Africa**.

As of the 2016 Erasmus+ Call for Proposals, mobility will also be possible with the rest of Africa (+ Caribbean and the Pacific).

For each region, the EU has set a number of targets which will need to be achieved at European level during the 7-year period of the Erasmus+ programme:

- ✓ With Neighbouring countries (East and South), mobility should be mainly incoming to Europe: no more than 10% of the mobility should be outgoing to these countries. This does not apply to Russia;
- ✓ in Asia and Latin America, 25% of the mobility should be organised with the least developed countries of the region;
- ✓ no more than 30% of the budget available for Asia should be spent on mobility with China and India,
- ✓ and no more than 35 % available for Latin America on Brazil and Mexico.

These targets have to be attained at EU level and by 2020, not by individual higher education institutions. However, in order to attain these targets, HEIs are encouraged to work with partners from less developed countries and regions.

¹ The Programme Countries are the EU28, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Turkey.

In addition, a few more rules apply:

- ✓ Outgoing mobility of European students to Asia, Latin America and South Africa cannot be funded by the EU's external cooperation budget. Outgoing mobility from Europe can therefore only be at doctoral level and for staff. There will however be a few exceptions for students and staff from certain European countries. Please check your National Agency's website.
- ✓ Higher education institutions are free to apply for 100% staff mobility or 100% student mobility or anything in between.
- ✓ In the smaller European countries, where budgets for mobility are limited, there might be specific limitations. Higher education institutions are therefore encouraged to check the website of their National Agency to find out if any additional limitations apply.
- ✓ In general the funds will have to be used in a geographically balanced way. For this reason, higher education institutions are strongly encouraged to work with partners in the poorest and least developed Partner Countries in addition to the large emerging economies.