

ERASMUS+

PROGRAMME GUIDE

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

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH

WHAT IS A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP?

- *Strategic Partnerships offer the opportunity to organisations active in the fields of education, training and youth, as well as enterprises, public authorities, civil society organisations active in different socio-economic sectors to cooperate in order to implement innovative practices leading to high quality teaching, training, learning and youth work, institutional modernisation and societal innovation.*
- *Erasmus+ offers great flexibility in terms of activities that Strategic Partnerships can implement, as long as the proposal demonstrates that these activities are the most appropriate to reach the objectives defined for the project.*

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP?

To support the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices at organisational, local, regional, national or European levels with the aim of:

- enhancing the quality and relevance of the learning offer in education, training and youth work by developing new and innovative approaches and supporting the dissemination of best practices
- fostering the provision and the assessment of key-competences, including basic skills and transversal skills particularly entrepreneurship, languages and digital skills

- increasing labour market relevance of learning provision and qualifications and reinforcing links between education, training or the youth fields with the world of work
- promoting take-up of innovative practices in education, training and youth
- promoting structured inter-regional and cross-border cooperation
- enhancing the professional development of those working or active in the education, training and youth fields
- improving the capacities of organisations active in the fields of education, training and youth

- fostering equity and inclusion in education, training and youth
- promote entrepreneurship education to develop active citizenship, employability and new business creation
- increasing participation in learning and employability
- facilitating the transition of learners through different levels and types of formal/non-formal education and training through the use of European reference tools for the recognition, validation and transparency of competences and qualifications.

These objectives will be achieved through projects that:

- address policy objectives, challenges and needs of a specific field (i.e. higher education, vocational education and training (VET), school education, adult education, youth)
- address policy objectives, challenges and needs relevant to several fields of education, training and youth

In addition, in line with the annual Work Programme adopted by the Commission, priority will be given to Strategic Partnerships that aim to:

- foster the assessment of transversal skills and promote the take-up of practical entrepreneurial experiences in education, training and youth work
- promote the professional development of staff and youth workers in ICT methodologies and support the production and adoption of OER in diverse European languages
- facilitate the validation of non-formal and informal learning and its permeability with formal education pathways
- pursue one or more of the priorities described in the introduction chapters "Education and Training" and "Youth" in Part B of this Guide

WHAT ARE THE ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED IN A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP?

Over the lifetime of a project, Strategic Partnerships may typically realise a broad range of activities, for example:

- activities that strengthen the cooperation between organisations with a view to establishing exchanges of practices
- activities that promote the development, testing and/or implementation of innovative practices in the field of education, training and youth
- activities that facilitate the recognition and validation of knowledge, skills and competences acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning
- activities of cooperation between regional authorities to promote the development of education, training and youth systems and their integration in actions of local and regional development
- transnational initiatives fostering entrepreneurial mind-sets and skills, to encourage active citizenship and entrepreneurship (including social entrepreneurship)

WHO CAN TAKE PART IN A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP?

- Open to any type of organisation active in any field of education, training and youth or other socio-economic sectors as well as to organisations carrying out activities that are transversal to different fields
- Depending on the objective of the project, Strategic Partnerships should involve the most appropriate and diverse range of partners in order to benefit from their different experiences, profiles and specific expertise and to produce relevant and high quality project results.
- As a general rule, Strategic Partnerships target the cooperation between organisations established in Programme Countries. However, organisations from Partner Countries can be involved in a Strategic Partnership, as partners (not as applicants), if their participation brings an essential added value to the project.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA USED TO ASSESS A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP?

Eligible participating organisations

A participating organisation can be any public or private organisation, established in a Programme Country or in any Partner Country of the world (see section "Eligible Countries" in Part A of this Guide).

For example, such organisation can be:

- a higher education institution
- a school/institute/educational centre (at any level, from pre-school to upper secondary education¹⁹, and including vocational education and adult education)
- a non-profit organisation, association, NGO
- a public or private, a small, medium or large enterprise (including social enterprises)
- a public body at local, regional or national level
- a social partner or other representative of working life, including chambers of commerce, industry, craft/professional associations and trade unions

Eligible participating organisations

- a research institute
- a foundation
- an inter-company training centre
- enterprises providing shared training (collaborative training)
- a cultural organisation, library, museum
- a body providing career guidance, professional counselling and information services
- a body validating knowledge, skills and competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning
- a European Youth NGO
- a group of young people active in youth work but not necessarily in the context of a youth organisation (i.e. informal group of young people 20)

Higher education institutions (HEIs) established in a Programme Country must hold a valid Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). An ECHE is not required for participating HEIs in Partner Countries, but they will have to sign up to its principles.

Who can apply?

Any participating organisation established in a Programme Country can be the applicant. This organisation applies on behalf of all participating organisations involved in the project.

Number and profile of participating organisations

A Strategic Partnership is transnational and involves minimum three organisations from three different Programme Countries. All participating organisations must be identified at the time of applying for a grant.

However, the following types of projects may involve two organisations from minimum two Programme Countries:

- Strategic Partnerships involving only schools;
- Strategic Partnerships promoting cooperation between local/regional school authorities. These projects must involve minimum two local or regional school authorities from two different Programme Countries. From each respective country, the partnership must also include at least:
 - one school; and
 - one local organisation active in another fields of education, training and youth or in the labour market.
- Strategic Partnerships in the youth field.

Duration of project

Partnerships in the youth field: between 6 months and 2 years.

Other types of Partnerships: 2 or 3 years.

The duration has to be chosen at application stage, based on the objective of the project and on the type of activities planned over time.

In exceptional cases, the duration of a Strategic Partnership may be extended, upon request by the beneficiary and with the agreement of the National Agency, of up to 6 months and provided that the total duration does not exceed 3 years. In such a case, the total grant will not change.

Where to apply?

To the National Agency of the country in which the applicant organisation is established.

Per deadline, the same consortium of partners can submit only one application and to one National Agency only.

When to apply?

Partnerships in the youth field:

applicants have to submit their grant application by:

- **30 April at 12pm (midday Brussels time)** for projects starting between 1 September of the same year and 28 February of the following year;
- **1 October at 12pm (midday Brussels time)** for projects starting between 1 February and 30 September of the following year.

Other types of Partnerships:

applicants have to submit their grant application by:

- **31 March at 12pm (midday Brussels time)** for projects starting as of 1 September of the same year.

How to apply?

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

If the Strategic Partnership foresees **training, teaching or learning activities**, the following criteria must be respected, in addition to those listed above:

Eligible Activities	<p>Blended mobility combining short-term physical mobility (less than 2 months) with virtual mobility;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short-term exchanges of groups of pupils (5 days to 2 months);• Intensive Study Programmes (5 days to 2 months);• Long-term study mobility of pupils (2 to 12 months);• Long-term teaching or training assignments (2 to 12 months);• Long-term mobility of youth workers (2 to 12 months);• Short-term joint staff training events (5 days to 2 months) <p>Activities of learners as well as long-term activities of staff or youth workers from or to Partner Countries are not eligible.</p>
Venue(s) of the activity	<p>Activities must take place in the countries of the organisations participating in the Strategic Partnership.</p>

Eligible participants

Students registered in a participating HEI and enrolled in studies leading to a recognised degree or other recognised tertiary level qualification, up to and including the level of doctorate (in Intensive Study Programmes and blended mobility activities);

- Apprentices, VET students, adult learners, and young people in blended mobility;
- Pupils of any age, accompanied by school staff (in short-term exchanges of groups of pupils);
- Pupils aged 14 or older enrolled in full-time education at a school participating in the Strategic Partnership (in long-term study mobility of pupils);
- Professors, teachers, trainers and educational and administrative staff employed at a participating organisation, youth workers.

AWARD CRITERIA

Projects will be assessed against the following criteria:

Relevance of the project (maximum 30 points)

- The relevance of the proposal to:
 - the objectives of European policies relevant to one or more fields of education, training and youth
 - the objectives and the priorities of the Action (see section "What are the aims of a Strategic Partnership")
- The extent to which:
 - the proposal is based on a genuine and adequate needs analysis
 - the objectives are clearly defined, realistic and address issues relevant to the participating organisations and target groups
 - the proposal is suitable of realising synergies between different fields of education, training and youth
 - the proposal is innovative and/or complementary to other initiatives already carried out by the participating organisations
 - the proposal brings added value at EU level through results that would not be attained by activities carried out in a single country

Quality of the project design and implementation (maximum 20 points)

The clarity, completeness and quality of the work programme, including appropriate phases for preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and dissemination

- The consistency between project objectives and activities proposed
- The quality and feasibility of the methodology proposed
- The existence and relevance of quality control measures to ensure that the project implementation is of high quality, completed in time and on budget
- The extent to which the project is cost-effective and allocates appropriate resources to each activity

If the project plans training, teaching or learning activities:

- The extent to which these activities are appropriate to the project's aims and involve the appropriate number of participants
- The quality of arrangements for the recognition and validation of participants' learning outcomes, in line with European transparency and recognition tools and principles

Quality of the project team and the cooperation arrangements (maximum 20 points)

- The extent to which:
 - the project involves an appropriate mix of complementary participating organisations with the necessary profile, experience and expertise to successfully deliver all aspects of the project
 - the distribution of responsibilities and tasks demonstrates the commitment and active contribution of all participating organisations
 - if relevant for the project type, the project involves participation of organisations from different fields of education, training, youth and other socio-economic sectors
 - the project involves newcomers to the Action
- The existence of effective mechanisms for coordination and communication between the participating organisations, as well as with other relevant stakeholders
- If applicable, the extent to which the involvement of a participating organisation from a Partner Country brings an essential added value to the project (if this condition is not fulfilled, the project will not be considered for selection)

**Impact and dissemination
(maximum 30 points)**

- The quality of measures for evaluating the outcomes of the project
- The potential impact of the project:
 - on participants and participating organisations, during and after the project lifetime
 - outside the organisations and individuals directly participating in the project, at local, regional, national and/or European levels
- The quality of the dissemination plan: the appropriateness and quality of measures aimed at sharing the outcomes of the project within and outside the participating organisations
- If relevant, the extent to which the proposal describes how the materials, documents and media produced will be made freely available and promoted through open licences, and does not contain disproportionate limitations
- The quality of the plans for ensuring the sustainability of the project: its capacity to continue having an impact and producing results after the EU grant has been used up

FUNDING RULES

**Maximum grant awarded for a Strategic Partnership: 150 000 EUR
per year (i.e. 12 500 EUR per month)**

Eligible costs		Financing mechanism	Amount	Rule of allocation	
Project management and implementation	Project management (e.g. planning, finances, coordination and communication between partners, etc.); small scale learning/teaching/training materials, tools, approaches etc. Virtual cooperation and local project activities (e.g. class room project work with learners, youth work activities, organisation and mentoring of embedded learning/training activities, etc.); information, promotion and dissemination (e.g. brochures, leaflets, web information, etc.).	Unit costs	Contribution to the activities of the coordinating organisation: 500 EUR per month	Maximum 2750 EUR per month	Based on the duration of the Strategic Partnership and on the number of participating organisations involved
		Unit costs	Contribution to the activities of the other participating organisations: 250 EUR per participating organisation per month		
Transnational project meetings	Participation in meetings between project partners and hosted by one of the participating organisations for implementation and coordination purposes. Contribution to travel and subsistence costs	Unit costs	For travel distances between 100 and 1999KM: 575 EUR per participant per meeting	Maximum 23 000 EUR per year	Conditional: applicants must justify the need for the meetings in terms of number of meetings and participants involved. Travel distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission.
			For travel distances of 2000 KM or more: 760 EUR per participant per meeting		

**FUNDING RULES FOR TRANSNATIONAL TRAINING, TEACHING
AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
(OPTIONAL FUNDING)**

Eligible costs		Financing Mechanism	Amount		Rule of allocation	
Travel	Contribution to the travel costs of participants, including accompanying persons, from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and return	Unit costs	For travel distances between 100 and 1 999KM: 275 EUR per participant		Conditional: applicants will have to justify that mobility activities are necessary to achieve the objectives and results of the project. Travel distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission	
			For travel distances of 2 000KM or more: 360 EUR per participant			
Individual support	Unit cost per day covering the subsistence of participants during the activity	Unit costs	Long term teaching or training assignments Long term mobility of youth workers	Up to the 14 th day of activity: B1.5 per day per participant & Between the 15 th and 60 th day : B1.6 per day per participant & Between the 61 th day of activity and up to 12 months: B1.7 per day per participant		
			Short term joint staff training events	up to the 14 th day of activity: 100 EUR per day per participant & between the 15 th and 60 th day of activity: 70 EUR per day per participant		
			Long term mobility of pupils	B1.8 per day per participant		
			Short term activities for learners (blended mobility, short term pupils' mobility, intensive programmes)	up to the 14 th day of activity: 55 EUR per day per participant & between the 15 th and 60 th day of activity: 40 EUR per day per participant		
Linguistic support	Costs linked to the support offered to participants in order to improve the knowledge of the language of instruction or work	Unit costs	Only for activities lasting between 2 and 12 months: 150 EUR per participant needing linguistic support			Conditional: the request for financial support must be motivated in the application form

TABLE A – INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS (AMOUNTS IN EURO PER DAY)

	Manager	Teacher/Trainer /Researcher/ Youth worker	Technician	Administrative staff
	B1.1	B1.2	B1.3	B1.4
Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland	294	241	190	157
Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Finland, United Kingdom, Iceland	280	214	162	131
Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia	164	137	102	78
Bulgaria, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey	88	74	55	39

TABLE B – INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS (AMOUNTS IN EURO PER DAY)

	Manager	Teacher/Trainer /Researcher/ Youth worker	Technician	Administrative staff
	B1.1	B1.2	B1.3	B1.4
Australia, Canada, Kuwait, Macao, Monaco, Qatar, San Marino, United States of America	294	241	190	157
Andorra, Brunei, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Vatican City State	280	214	162	131
Bahamas, Bahrain, Equatorial Guinea, Hong Kong, Israel, Korea (Republic of), Oman, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan	164	137	102	78
Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Chile, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea (Republic of), Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (DPR), Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe	88	74	55	39

**TABLE C - SUBSISTENCE OF PARTICIPANTS IN TRANSNATIONAL
TRAINING, TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES
(IN EURO PER DAY/MONTH)**

	Long-term teaching or training assignments -mobility of youth workers (in euro per day)			Long-term activities of pupils (in euro per month)
	B1.5	B1.6	B1.7	B1.8
Belgium	105	74	53	110
Bulgaria	105	74	53	70
Czech Republic	105	74	53	90
Denmark	120	84	60	145
Germany	90	63	45	110
Estonia	75	53	38	85
Ireland	120	84	60	125
Greece	125	74	53	100
Spain	90	63	45	105
France	105	74	53	115

Croatia	75	53	38	90
Italy	105	74	53	115
Cyprus	105	74	53	110
Latvia	90	63	45	80
Lithuania	75	53	38	80
Luxembourg	105	74	53	110
Hungary	105	74	53	90
Malta	90	63	45	110
Netherlands	120	84	60	110
Austria	105	74	53	110
Poland	105	74	53	115
Portugal	90	63	45	100
Romania	105	74	53	60

Slovenia	75	53	38	85
Slovakia	90	63	45	95
Finland	105	74	53	125
Sweden	120	84	60	115
United Kingdom	120	84	60	140
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	90	63	45	60
Iceland	105	74	53	135
Liechtenstein	105	74	53	120
Norway	105	74	53	135
Switzerland	105	74	53	130
Turkey	105	74	53	80