

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME GUIDE

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

KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCES

WHAT IS A KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCE?

- ❑ Knowledge Alliances are transnational, structured and result-driven projects, notably between higher education and business.
- ❑ They are open to any discipline, sector and to cross-sectoral cooperation. The partners share common goals and work together towards mutually beneficial results and outcomes.
- ❑ Knowledge Alliances are meant to have a short and long-term impact on the wide range of stakeholders involved, at individual, organisational and systemic level.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF A KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCE?

- To develop new, innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning
- To stimulate entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills of higher education teaching staff and enterprise staff
- **To facilitate the exchange, flow and co-creation of knowledge**

Supported Activities

- 1. Boosting innovation in higher education, business and in the broader socio-economic environment:**
 - jointly developing and implementing new learning and teaching methods (like new multidisciplinary curricula, learner-centred and real problem-based teaching and learning)
 - organising continuing educational programmes and activities with and within companies
 - **jointly developing solutions for challenging issues, product and process innovation (students, professors and practitioners together).**

2. Developing entrepreneurship mind-set and skills:

- creating schemes of transversal skills learning and application throughout higher education programmes developed in cooperation with enterprises aiming at strengthening employability, creativity and new professional paths
- introducing entrepreneurship education in any discipline to provide students, researchers, staff and educators with the knowledge, skills and motivation to engage in entrepreneurial activities in a variety of settings
- opening up new learning opportunities through the practical application of entrepreneurial skills, which can involve and/or lead to the commercialisation of new services, products and prototypes, to the creation of start-ups and spin-offs

3. Stimulating the flow and exchange of knowledge between higher education and enterprises:

- study field related activities in enterprises which are fully embedded in the curriculum, recognised and credited
- **set-ups to trial and test innovative measures**
- exchanges of students, researchers, teaching staff and company staff for a limited period; involvement of company staff teaching and research

WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF A KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCE?

- Innovation in higher education and innovation through higher education in enterprises and their socio-economic environment: innovation is considered as state-of-the-art project-specific and related to the partnerships context and analysed needs.
- Sustainability of university-business cooperation. A strong and committed partnership with a balanced participation from enterprises and higher education institutions are pivotal for the success of Knowledge Alliances. The role and contribution of each participating organisation and associate partner have to be specific and complementary.
- Impact going beyond the project's lifetime and beyond the organisations involved in the Alliance. It is expected that partnership and activities persist. Changes in higher education institutions and enterprises have to be measurable. Results and solutions have to be transferable and accessible to a broader audience.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN A KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCE?

- **Applicant/coordinator:** a participating organisation that submits the project proposal on behalf of all the partners. The coordinator has the full responsibility to ensure that the project is implemented in accordance with the agreement. Its coordinating covers the following duties:
 - represents and acts on behalf of the Alliance towards the European Commission
 - bears the financial and legal responsibility for the proper operational, administrative and financial implementation of the entire project
 - coordinates the Alliance in cooperation with project partners

- **Full partners:** participating organisations which contribute actively to the accomplishment of the Knowledge Alliance. Each full partner must sign a mandate by which the signatory grants power of attorney to the coordinator to act in his name during the implementation of the project. The same applies for partners from Partner Countries.
- **Associated partners (optional):** Knowledge Alliances can involve associated partners who contribute to the activities of the Knowledge Alliance. They are not subject to contractual requirements because they do not receive funding.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA USED TO ASSESS A KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCE PROPOSAL?

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 an organisation can be:

- a higher education institution;
- a public or private, small, medium or large enterprise (including social enterprises)
- a research institute
- a public body at local, regional or national level
- an organisation active in the field of education, training and youth
- an intermediary or association which represents education, training or youth organisations
- an intermediary or association which represents enterprises
- an accreditation, certification or qualification body

Higher education institutions 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

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 of participating organisations	<p>Knowledge Alliances are transnational and involve minimum six independent organisations from at least three Programme Countries, out of which at least two higher education institutions and at least two enterprises. If associate partners are to be involved, they have to provide an evident added value and their role should be clearly described</p>
Duration of project	<p>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 Knowledge Alliance may be extended, upon request by the beneficiary and with the agreement of the Executive Agency, of up to 6 months. In such a case, the total grant will not change.</p>
Where to apply?	<p>To the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, located in Brussels.</p>
When to apply?	<p>Applicants have to submit their grant application at the latest by 3 April at 12pm (midday Brussels time) for projects starting not earlier than 1 November of the same year.</p>
How to apply?	<p>Please see Part C of this Guide for details on how to apply.</p>

AWARD CRITERIA

Relevance of the proposal (maximum 25 points)

Purpose: the proposal is relevant to the objectives of the Action (see section "What are the aims of a Knowledge Alliance")

- Consistency: the objectives are based on a sound needs analysis; they are clearly defined, realistic and address issues relevant to the participating organisations and to the Action
- Innovation: the proposal considers state-of-the-art methods and techniques, and leads to project-specific innovative results and solutions
- European added value: the proposal demonstrates clearly the added value generated through its transnationality and potential transferability;

Quality of the project design and implementation (maximum 30 points)

- Coherence: the proposal presents a coherent and comprehensive set of appropriate activities to meet the identified needs and lead to the expected results;
- Structure: the work programme is clear and intelligible, and covers all phases;
- Management: timelines, organisation, tasks and responsibilities are well defined and realistic. The proposal allocates appropriate resources to each activity;
- Quality and financial control: specific measures for evaluation of processes and deliverables ensure that the project implementation is of high quality and cost-efficient.

Quality of the project team and the cooperation arrangements (maximum 25 points)

- **Configuration:** the proposed Knowledge Alliance involves an appropriate mix of higher education and business partners with the necessary profiles, skills, experience, expertise and management support required for its successful realisation;
- **Commitment:** each participating organisation demonstrates full involvement corresponding to its capacities and specific area of expertise;
- **Partnership:** contributions of higher education and business partners are significant, pertinent and complementary;
- **Collaboration/Team spirit:** the proposal includes clear arrangements and responsibilities for transparent and efficient decision-making, conflict resolution, reporting and communication between the participating organisations;
- **Involvement of Partner Countries:** if applicable, 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 20
points)**

- **Exploitation:** the proposal demonstrates how the outcomes will be used by the partners and other stakeholders. It provides means to measure exploitation within project lifetime and after;
- **Dissemination:** the proposal provides a clear plan for the dissemination of results, and includes appropriate activities, tools and channels to ensure that the results and benefits will be spread effectively to the stakeholders and non-participating audience within and after the project's lifetime;
- **Impact:** the proposal shows societal and economic relevance and outreach. It provides pertinent measures to monitor progress and assess the expected impact (short and long-term);
- **Open access:** If relevant, 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;
- **Sustainability:** the proposal includes appropriate measures and resources to ensure that the partnership, project results and benefits will be sustained beyond the project lifetime.

WHAT ARE THE FUNDING RULES?

Maximum EU contribution awarded for a 2-year Knowledge Alliance: 700 000 EUR

Maximum EU contribution awarded for a 3-year Knowledge Alliance: 1 000 000 EUR

Eligible costs		Financing mechanism	Amount	Rule of allocation
Implementation support	<p>Contribution to any activity directly linked to the implementation of the project (except for possible embedded mobility) including: project management, project meetings, intellectual outputs (such as curricula, pedagogical materials, <u>open educational resources</u> (<u>OER</u>), tools, analyses, studies, etc.), dissemination, participation in events, conferences, travel, etc.</p> <p>The number of days and the profile of staff involved by country is the basis for the calculation of the EU contribution.</p>	Unit costs	B2.1 per manager involved per day of work on the	<p>Conditional: applicants will have to justify the type and volume of resources needed in relation to the implementation of the proposed activities and outputs. The outputs should be substantial in quality and quantity to qualify for this type of grant support.</p>
			B2.2 per researcher/ teacher/trainer involved per day of work on the project	
			B2.3 per technician involved per day of work on the project	
			B2.4 per administrative staff involved per day of work on	

ADDITIONAL FUNDING RULES FOR MOBILITY ACTIVITIES REALISED WITHIN A KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCE (OPTIONAL FUNDING)

Eligible costs		Financing Mechanism	Amount	Rule of allocation
Travel	Contribution to the travel costs of participants, from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and return	Unit costs	For travel distances between 100 and 1999 KM: 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 2000 KM or more: 360 EUR per participant	
Subsistence costs	Contribution to subsistence costs of participants during the activity	Unit costs	Activities targeting staff up to the 14th day of activity: 100 EUR per day per participant + between the 15th and 60th day of activity: 70 EUR per day per participant	
			Activities targeting learners: up to the 14th day of activity: 55 EUR per day per participant + between the 15th and 60th day of activity: 40 EUR per day per participant	

TABLE A - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (AMOUNTS IN EURO PER DAY) PROGRAMME COUNTRIES

The amounts depend on: a) profile of staff involved in the project and b) the country of the participating organisation whose staff is involved.

	Manager	Teacher/Trainer /Researcher/ Youth worker	Technician	Administra tive staff
	B2.1	B2.2	B2.3	B2.4
Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland	353	289	228	189
Belgium, Germany, , France, Italy, Finland, United Kingdom, Iceland	336	257	194	157
Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia	197	164	122	93
Bulgaria, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey	106	88	66	47

TABLE B - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (AMOUNTS IN EURO PER DAY) PARTNER COUNTRIES

The amounts depend on: a) profile of staff involved in the project and b) the country of the participating organisation whose staff is involved.

	Manager	Teacher/Trainer/Researcher	Technician	Administrative staff
	B2.1	B2.2	B2.3	B2.4
Australia, Canada, Kuwait, Macao, Monaco, Qatar, San Marino, United States of America	353	289	228	189
Andorra, Brunei, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Vatican City State	336	257	194	157
Bahamas, Bahrain, Equatorial Guinea, Hong Kong, Israel, Korea (Republic of), Oman, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan	197	164	122	93
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	106	88	66	47