

## EMAP 2 / ERASMUS MUNDUS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION Vol. 2

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE TRAINING SEMINAR IN LATVIA 17 – 20 February 2011

---

Q = question

A = answer

EM = Erasmus Mundus

EACEA = Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

---

Q: In the presentation “Application Procedure step by step” it was given the advice to get the administration staff involved from the beginning of the application process. Who is going to pay for these expenses?

A: Your university should pay for these expenses. The university should be motivated and willing to have this particular Erasmus Mundus Master Course and therefore it should be committed to the project. You have to discuss these issues with the university administration from the beginning. The grant is not the objective. The university should have a strategy to recruit, accept and select students from third countries. You and your partners will need all this information together to fill the application.

Q: Does the maximum number of characters required for the application include the spacing?

A: Yes.

Q: What happens if a project is re-submitted but the title has changed?

A: The project will be examined as a different one.

Q: In the Infoday in Brussels on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011 it was mentioned that the reviewers will not look at the previous application and also that the reviewers are not the same persons. What is actually happening?

A: In the past all the reviewers were different from the previous ones. This year, there will be at least one of the assessors of the previous application. However, we must bear in mind that the assessors may have different views and they have to compare an application with others. It is a new round of assessment.

Q: Are we interested in getting more EU students?

A: Yes, we are interested in getting more EU students. During the first phase of the programme there were no scholarships for EU students. But now we have scholarships for them but not enough EU students.

Q: Is the attraction of EU students part of the application process?

A: In general, if the project is excellent it will attract EU students. However, you definitely have to show how you will attract EU students. All the information should be clear. You should give coherent information on how you will evaluate the students. One problem in attracting EU students is that the amount granted for EU students is lower comparing to the one granted to third country students, although they have the same expenses.

Q: What happens if we start/continue the programme that was not accepted without the support and we show that we can do it? Can we get funding next time?

A: You could re-apply to be accepted and get funding.

Q: What is the relation between national accreditation and EM accreditation. There are differences between the criteria in the PhD application of EM and the criteria set by some countries.

A: In the Programme Guide there are general conditions given (length of thesis etc). This is a big challenge of the new EM programme. How to find a solution to meet the standards of EM, but at the same time to respect national rules? Each country should provide for recognition.

Q: Erasmus Mundus programme finances certain part of the projects. Who finances the rest? For example Swedish government cut down expenses. Nevertheless, Swedish universities have higher fees.

A: Negotiate with the partner universities to charge only EUR 8 000 for students from third countries.

Q: On a presentation it was mentioned that students ask more questions on the application than on the scholarship. What is the difference? In the EACEA webpage there are more questions on the amount of scholarship than on the application.

A: This is why at the university webpage students are asking questions on the application procedure because they already know the amount of scholarship from the EACEA webpage.

Q: In one of the presentations it was mentioned the issue of an external cooperation window. Does this exist? Can you give some information about it?

A: In the new phase of the programme the external cooperation window does not exist. It is incorporated in Action 2. It is possible to have exceptional window in Action 1 for scholarships for students coming from specific countries.

Q: Is there any common practice for internships?

A (university from Norway): We recruit organizations in all partner countries that can accept internships. The student gets an assignment for four week which is evaluated by the teachers responsible for the programme. One person from the receiving institutions acts as a mentor in voluntary basis. Ideas that are developed during the internship are included in the thesis.

Q: There is gap between the deadline of the application and the deadline for recognition. What happens if the deadline is passed and the recognition is not assured? Is the project still valid?

A: If there will not be any assurance of recognition then the project is not valid. If an application is excellent, it is given the time so that all the necessary procedures are made for the recognition of the course. It is mandatory that the degree that will be awarded is recognized. Therefore the consortium has to make sure that the recognition is assured before the deadline. The National Structures have to check for the recognition before the deadline.

Q: It was mentioned in a presentation the issue of “buddy system”. Can you explain?

A: Local students sign up to be responsible for an incoming student from a third country so that the third country student will have somebody to help him in the country.

Q: In page 28 of the programme guide is mentioned that 30 ECTS are needed for every placement. But this seems impossible. What is your comment on this?

A: Each partner involved in the consortium should be ready for 30 ECTS contribution. Therefore, the curriculum should be developed in such a way that a partner will be able to offer courses up to 30 ECTS. It should not be included in the consortium any silent partner. The requirement is that every student should spend time in at least two EU countries. It could be arranged that in the second edition of the course, students go to other partner so that all partner countries will be involved. The general rule is that the partners should recognize the time that students spend in the other partners.

---

## Disclaimer

*This project has been carried out with the support of the European Commission in the framework of the [Erasmus Mundus programme](#). The contents of this website are the sole responsibility of the [project partners](#). The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein. The information is subject to change.*