



## **How does Erasmus+ affect the organisation of your KA1 IST course for trainers and educators?**

In the next seven years the new Erasmus+ programme will set the rules for the international in-service training and mobility action. Key Action 1 (KA 1) offers opportunities for individual learning mobility and in-service training (IST). This action is open for adult education and school staff.

New rules apply for course grant applicants and this will affect the organisation of IST courses and outreach strategies of course providers.

In short the following issues affect the organisation of your course

- Organisation based applications
- Free course market
- Minimum 2 full days (on site) instead of 5
- The COM and GRU IST database is no longer available
- No European dimension rules any more
- Smaller grant for beneficiaries, different composition
- Needs driven IST
- Closer relation to European objectives & priorities
- Competence driven approach, learning outcomes description, learning agreement
- Validation of learning outcomes
- Transfer and follow up

### **Organisation based applications.**

All IST grant applications are 'organisation based'. This means that an individual teacher or trainer cannot apply for a grant anymore. All individuals have to apply via the organisation they work for. A school or adult education organisation will have to create a 'European Development Plan' including staff development needs and international in-service training plans for a predefined number of staff and activities.

The plan should also include IST objectives, activities, course topics/themes, impact, exploitation ... . It is not necessary to indicate a specific course name at application stage (but details about the future course(s) can add to the quality of the application) but the country of destination of the course must be indicated because this defines a part of the grant level.

This application (forms available on the website of each National Agency) must be sent to

the National Agency in the country of the school or AE organisation. The first deadline is 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (but recently extended till 24 March !!).

When (if) the European Development Plan is approved by the NA the organisation can look for courses and decide who to send to which course. Grant holders can then contact course organisers and reserve a place at the course.

### **Free market and outreach**

In the new programme there is no European training database anymore and there are no specific eligibility requirements as to the organisers of the course. It is a free market situation. This also means that the course organisers have to arrange the publicity for their courses themselves.

The KA1 action is also conceived as 'demand driven' and not as 'offer driven'. Schools and adult education organisations create their continuing professional development (CPD) plans and apply for funding and then look 'on the market' for an appropriate course offer.

Grant holders will have to be able to find the courses they need. Course providers will have to make effective publicity for their courses.

### **Finances**

The grant calculation has been changed considerably in the new programme. For a participant in a course the applicant (sending) organisation receives:

- Travel costs based on lump sums relative to the distance from home organisation to course venue (online distance calculator provided by the Commission).
- Daily allowances for accommodation & subsistence based on the country where the course takes place.
- Course fee at 70 Euro per (full) day (with a max. of 700 Euro).
- Organisational cost cover at 350 Euro lump sum (first 100 persons in the plan) or 200 Euro (over 100 persons in the plan) per person per course.

The daily allowances and course fee level are not set for covering the real costs. Course participants may have to contribute from other sources. These sources could be covered with own organisation CPD funds.

A course provider of course must consider real costs, related to quality and realistic costs, taking into account the grant level. These considerations may affect the number of trainers involved in the course, the country where the course takes place, the level of provided accommodation and meals, the activities related to the course.

### **Course duration**

IST can last from 2 days (2 full days on site) to 2 months.

### **Competence driven approach and validation**

The European Development Plan (KA1 application form) contains a number of fields - to be filled in by the sending organisation – concerning the competences participants are going to develop when attending a course and what validation (of individual learning outcomes) and certification will be offered.

Course providers will have to describe their course(s) in terms of competence development and learning outcomes and, as a consequence, will have to conceive their courses as competence driven courses. In the next couple of years also a 'learning agreement' between organiser and participant must be described before the course takes place. While promoting

the course an organiser should also pay attention to what competences and CPD needs are addressed by the course.

Validation of non-formal learning and certification will more and more play an important role in professional development (Europass is put forward in the application form). International IST will have to follow this trend in order to gain recognition on the course market.

### **European education objectives & priorities**

The European development plan of the applicant organisation will have to give proof that the proposed IST not only meets the needs of the professional development of the organisation but also that it leads to an internationalization of the organisation meeting European objectives and priorities. Course provision therefore should also be based on these requirements. In Annex 5 the Erasmus+ Guide for Experts offers an overview of reference documents on policy priorities.

[http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/expert-guide\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/expert-guide_en.pdf)

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