



## GINCO Tools & Training The Manual

### KA1 in Erasmus+

The KA1 action in Erasmus+ deals with international professional development of educational staff. The rules in this action have determined the relationships between the stakeholders involved.

#### The sending organisations

The sending organisations in the KA1 system are all kinds of educational and training organisations spread over Europe. They apply for a KA1 grant and, if successful, look out for appropriate courses (abroad) to suit their training needs, send their staff out and (try to) profit from the new competences acquired by those members of staff.

#### The National Agencies

The NAs decide on grants: they approve or disapprove the KA1 projects of the organisations who sent in their KA1 application based on their staff development plan and training needs. The assessment criteria are related to clarity of the plan, staff development needs, dissemination and impact, European priorities etc. This assessment process is the only phase in the grant system where direct quality control comes in: the quality of the application and the plan of the 'sender'.

#### The course providers

Since the sending organisations, after approval of their application, can pick any course that suits their needs, the group of course providers consists of a large variety of organisations:

public training organisations as well as private bodies offering education related topics and content.

- Some of these providers used to be in the former LLP training database, others were not,
- some of them are used to work with grantees, others are new, just picked out by a sending organisation, even unaware of the KA1 grant system and European priorities,
- some of them come out of former LLP projects and others don't,
- some of the courses are specially created for a grant based audience and are flexible to respond to needs, others are fixed courses only picking up an occasional KA1 grantee
- some of them are in a mobility project with the sending organisation, others aren't.

These different (types of) providers have different objectives and different needs. This group also is scattered over Europe and 'hard to reach'.

## **Quality**

Course quality is a big issue but the present system does not support a direct impact on the providers and the quality of the course offer. The course providers are in a competitive free market system and are asked to offer value for money. But providers and 'clients' live far from each other. Courses are not directly evaluated and so far (end of 2014) there is no public feedback system.

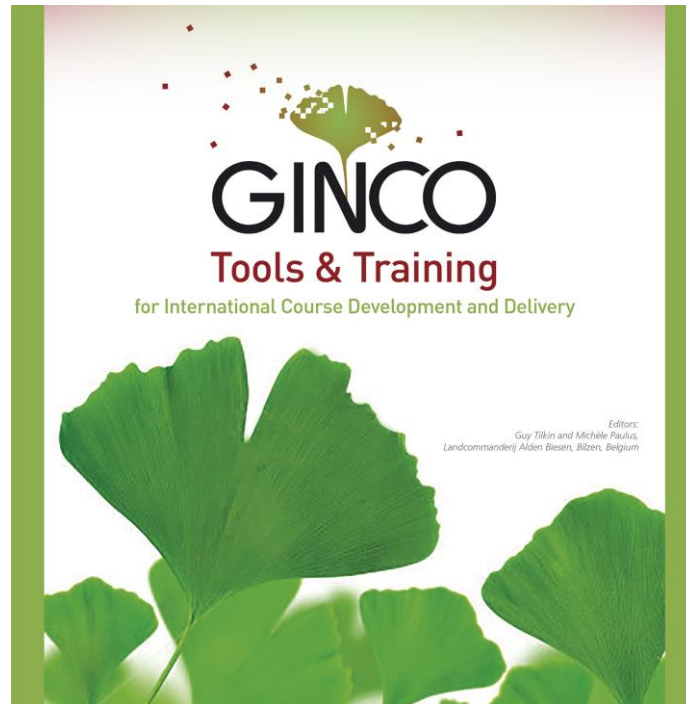
The KA1 action in Erasmus+ calls for competence development, a needs oriented approach, an international profile, validation, strives for working with learning agreements and puts forward a number of priority themes. Most of these elements are reflected in the criteria of the KA1 applications of the sending organisations. These applicants are looking for the courses answering their needs and fitting their European development plan. The European policy is present on the demand side so it must also be present in the course offer.

So for GINCO the course quality criteria are clear. Courses should:

- be innovative and competence oriented
- care for quality and have a self-evaluation system on board
- link up with European education priorities
- include a European dimension and exploit the European added value
- engage in learning agreements and validation of the individual learning outcomes
- use ICT in an appropriate way
- take care of transfer and impact

## **Competence development of course organisers**

In order to promote and support these quality elements GINCO T&T offers support material for the competence development of course organisers willing to create a quality offer for the 'KA1 market'. One of the project outcomes is the GINCO T&T manual. Each chapter in the manual deals with one of the competences in the profile of the course organiser. The GINCO website offers additional training material and background information on each competence.



You are welcome to read it on-line or download it from [www.ginconet.eu](http://www.ginconet.eu)

In the future the GINCO team will also organise training courses for course organisers based on the approaches and material of the GINCO T&T project.

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