Erasmus
Multilateral Projects
Virtual Campuses

[ERA 12]

Objectives and description of the action

The objectives of Virtual Campuses Multilateral Projects are:

- To increase virtual mobility as a complement or substitute to physical mobility in addition to any other type of independent mobility
- To integrate a virtual mobility dimension in Erasmus multilateral Curriculum Development projects
- To increase the availability of high-quality European Open Educational Resources in a life long learning context
- To contribute to the modernisation agenda for universities and of higher education in Europe.

European higher education institutions (HEI) are at very different stages in the level of their effective integration of ICT in their education, training and research systems. The Virtual Campus action within Erasmus seeks to support the development/ mainstreaming of innovative ICT-based content, services, pedagogies and practice for lifelong learning supported by sustainable organisational, educational and economical models. Grants are provided for two-year projects involving higher education institutions and other relevant organisations from azt least three countries participating in the LLP.

The action supports dissemination and deployment, building on existing assets. To engage in this process requires from the institutions organisational maturity and willingness to support the necessary change at all levels. Adequate technical infrastructure is a prerequisite. There is no ideal 'one size fits all' model as reflected by the various situations of European higher education institutions as regard the development of virtual campuses[1].

Projects should be demonstrably embedded in a global strategy for the effective integration of ICT in the participating higher education institutions. The following are some of the key issues which such projects can usefully address:

- developing and disseminating at European level replicable approaches for establishing and sustaining virtual campuses;
- providing open educational resources, ensuring that organisational, technical and quality-related issues are addressed in order to share content and make it easily accessible at European level;
- developing or revising integrated programmes covering a complete cycle of study (bachelor, master, or doctorate levels) and leading to a recognised double or joint degree in which ICT tools and services are used to allow the virtual mobility of students and staff;
- promoting cooperation and exchange of strategic experience between decision–makers in the area of virtual campus developments.

Proposals should:

- Take into consideration the definition of virtual campus, virtual mobility and 'Open Educational Resources' (OER) provided in the glossary;

[1] see http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/elearning/studies_en.html

- Ensure that full academic recognition is given to the students for studies and courses based on agreements for the evaluation, validation and recognition of competences acquired via virtual mobility;
- Ensure that the relevant aspects (organisational, pedagogical, research, economical) are adequately taken into consideration.

Full details of the conditions for participation are contained in the general call for proposals relating to the academic year concerned.

Who can benefit
• Higher Education Institutions • Public Bodies • Enterprises • Associations

Who can apply	The coordinating organisation of the project, on behalf of the project consortium; coordinating organisations which are higher education institutions must hold an Erasmus University Charter

Selection Procedure	COM	**Management of selected projects**	Executive Agency

Minimal size of the consortium	Please refer to EAC Executive Agency website
Participating countries	Please refer to Part II – section 3.1 of the Lifelong Learning Programme 2008-2010 General Call for Proposals
Duration , methods of funding, level of funding	Please refer to EAC Executive Agency website
Funded activities	Please refer to Part II – section 7 of the Lifelong Learning Programme 2008-2010 General Call for Proposals
Political priorities for this action	Please refer to Part I of the Lifelong Learning Programme 2008-2010 General Call for Proposals

Application Form