Erasmus
Multilateral Projects
Co-operation between Universities and Enterprises

[ERA 10]

Objectives and description of the action

Structured partnerships with the business community (including SMEs) can increase the relevance, quality and attractiveness of education and training programmes: accelerated knowledge transfer between higher education institutions and enterprises and vice versa, placements of students, staff and researchers in business and integration of enterprise staff into institutions of higher education can contribute to mutual benefits and enhance the employability and career prospects of graduates and researchers at all stages of their career by adding entrepreneurial skills to their scientific expertise. Links with business can bring additional funding, for example to expand research capacity or to develop and provide new training and retraining courses, and will enhance the impact of university-based research on SMEs and regional innovation. This also implies that the development of entrepreneurial, management and innovation skills should become an integral part of graduate education, research training and lifelong learning strategies for university staff.

Erasmus promotes this process by providing support for two-year projects involving higher education institutions (and other types of organisation from the public or private sector, where appropriate to the topic) from at least three countries participating in the LLP. Key issues to be addressed by such projects include notably the following:

- Promoting entrepreneurship, creative thinking and innovative approaches as part of the curriculum for students and as a skill for teachers/researchers;
- Reinforcing the link between studies and employment needs, for example by promoting business input into course design and content, or through curricular innovation, skills and competence development related to the European Qualification Framework - EQF etc.;
- Developing educational services such as special courses for upgrading knowledge and skills of employees (including language skills to improve competitiveness), provision for part-time students, advanced level vocational training, etc;
- Designing strategies to promote exchanges and cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprises, including the promotion of placements of students and academic staff in industry and analysing the benefits of experiential learning.

Projects which include a strong role for partners from outside academia, notably enterprises (particularly SMEs), professional organisations, chambers of commerce, social partners or local/regional bodies, are particularly encouraged.

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
- Enterprises, in particular SMEs
- Professional organisations
- Chambers of commerce
- Social partners

- Local/regional/national bodies

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