



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Erasmus+: Higher Education - International Capacity Building

Brussels,
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Programme	EPPKA2 - Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices
Action	CBHE-JP - Capacity Building in higher education - Joint Projects
Proposal	Call for Proposals 2019 - EAC-A03-2018
Application No	610456-EPP-1-2019-1-FR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
Title	Latin-american Alliance for Capacity building in Advanced physics
Decision	ACCEPTED

Dear Applicant,

You have submitted an application to the Erasmus+ programme, 2019 call for proposals of the action specified above. The call for proposals closed on 07/02/2019. The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) received 833 eligible applications for this call.

I am writing to inform you about the selection decision taken by the Head of Department of the Agency, acting in her capacity as authorising officer, based on the recommendations of an Evaluation Committee assisted by external experts.

The selection decision is based on the quality of the application, its relative position in comparison to the other applications submitted and the budget available. Applications were assessed on a scale from 0 to 100 and were ranked by Region according to merit.

In addition, and in line with the provision of the Programme Guide regarding the definition of the list of projects recommended for funding, the Evaluation Committee has also taken into account the results of the consultation with the EU Delegations in the Partner Countries. On the basis of the information provided by the EU Delegation(s), the Evaluation Committee confirmed the feasibility of your project in the local contest.

Lastly, the selection decision took into account the geographical balance within a Region in terms of the number of projects per country (within the limits of the available budget), the need to ensure that the overall results of the selection guarantees a sufficient coverage of the priorities of the Action and the respect of the condition that an applicant organisation cannot receive more than three grants under a CBHE call.

I am pleased to inform you that your application has been selected for EU co-funding. The maximum amount of funding to be awarded to your project is 899,595.00 Euro.



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The table below provides you with an indication where your proposal was situated. Your application was considered as Group I.

Groups		Number 833 (100%)
I	Applications of very good quality (score higher than 75 points out of 100)	133 applications (16%)
II	Applications of good quality (score between 60 and 75 points out of 100)	475 applications (57%)
III	Applications of weak quality (score less than 60 points)	225 applications (27%)

For your information, out of the 840 applications submitted 163 have been selected for funding and 19 have been placed on a reserve list.

The list of all selected projects will be published on the website of the Executive Agency when all applicants have been notified about the selection results.

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/selection-results_en

Attached to this letter you will find an evaluation report drawn up by the Evaluation Committee (Annex 1)

On behalf of the EACEA, the Research Executive Agency Validation Services (REA Validation Services) may contact you via the messaging system embedded in the [Participant Register](#), requesting you to submit certain documentation within a specified deadline.

- This is in order to prove – in the event that your PIC number (Participant Identification Code) has not yet been validated – the legal existence and status of your organisation. In case of a multi-applicant proposal, each applicant will be contacted individually.
- The REA Validation Services may also contact your organisation requesting documentation to assess the financial capacity of your organisation.

Please ensure that your bank account is registered in the new bank account section of the [Participant Register](#).

This new functionality will allow you to see the bank accounts registered through the new bank account section for your organisation and the status of the validation.

During the registration process, you will have to enter your data in a wizard and upload relevant supporting documents. The preferred option is to upload a bank statement or equivalent document. As a last resort, you can also download a pre-filled Financial Identification Form to be stamped by the bank.

You will be guided through the registration process. If you need further support, please have a look at the [IT manual](#) or contact the [IT helpdesk](#) in case of technical issues.

If you have any question on the validation process, please refer to the Research Enquiry Service and [Participant Validation](#) webpage.



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The process of awarding a grant can only be finalised once the Executive Agency has received and analysed the additional documents that will be requested by the Agency in a separate email that you will receive shortly. The documents specified in the email must be submitted within a period of 10 working days from the date of receipt of the email. Should the period for submission fall within the holiday period of the Applicant Organisation, the deadline will be extended until the Applicant Organisation is open. Please inform the Agency as soon as possible about the date you will be able to submit the requested documents. However, all the requested documents/information needs to be received by the Agency no later than 10 September 2019.

The information specified in the list of documents to be submitted should be sent to the following address by email:

EACEA-EPLUS-CBHE-PROJECTS@ec.europa.eu

This letter does not represent a financial or legal commitment of the Executive Agency. The offer of an award is confirmed only when the legal representative of the Executive Agency signs the Grant Agreement associated with this application.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Ralf RAHDERS

Head of Unit

Appendix:
Annex 1 - Evaluation report



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Annex 1

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	Award Criteria	Comments
1	Relevance of the project	<p>The main aim of the proposal is to modernise the target Latin American higher education institutions through the use of new technologies with connected instrumentation laboratories, and by offering updated modules for a Master's programme in high-energy Physics. The application is thus clearly in line with the objectives of the Capacity Building action in the target countries. As such, the project has the potential to improve the quality of higher education and enhance its relevance for the labour market. Furthermore, it will improve the level of competences and skills and foster regional integration and international cooperation.</p> <p>The application clearly addresses the selected regional priority "New technologies in Higher Education" within the project category "Developing the Higher Education sector within society at large". The project will create an e-learning platform, implement new learning methods and provide training in digital technologies.</p> <p>The proposal identifies several target groups and highlights the similarities of the needs identified in the involved Partner Country universities. For each target group, it is well explained how activities and expected results will meet their specific needs. The justification is however somewhat less convincing for administrative staff.</p> <p>The proposal will clearly accompany the modernisation and development of the Physics departments and potentially the target universities themselves. The cooperation with the European partners in this advanced topic will also to a large extent be able to support their internationalisation, in particular by contributing to convergence of curricula between the Latin American and European partner institutions. The application also aims to consider gender balance and the participation of students from different social sectors.</p> <p>The needs analysis of the target Latin American universities is particularly compelling and realistic, while the analysis at national level is less convincing, since it is less developed and not supported by any relevant references. Nevertheless, the objectives are excellent as they are clearly defined to respond to the main needs of the target groups in a solid manner. Also, the objectives are highly realistic because the project builds on existing tools and networks.</p> <p>The proposal demonstrates sufficiently to be innovative because the facilities and virtual communities will be new in the region. In addition, the proposal will build on previous Latin American initiatives and networks, for which the added value to the application is suitably shown.</p> <p>The proposal presents clear information on the unavailability of sufficient financial support to the proposed activities from Partner Countries or the target region. However, there may be other international sources of funding that have not been considered.</p>

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	Award Criteria	Comments
2	Quality of the project design and implementation	<p>The activities are of high quality and pertinent to achieve the objectives and expected results. They are fully appropriate to create a new curriculum in the Partner Countries in a specialised domain of Physics in line with the best European standards. However, the link with the activity related to popularisation of science is not fully demonstrated. Also, part of the activities in the preparation stage should have been carried out before the preparation of the proposal unless they refer to an updated report, which is not stated.</p> <p>The methodology appropriately structures the project into different phases (in-depth review of teaching, development of tools, education and training). It considers the need of a progressive appropriation of the contents; hence, part of the training will start in Spanish to move progressively on to English and this is really very good. The innovative character of this methodology relies on the pedagogical engineering behind the development of the overall proposal.</p> <p>The project is cost-effective. It allocates a very good number of staff days to ensure its overall success. All staff costs have been allocated to teachers and this is not coherent with the project design that significantly involves technical staff. Further, the equipment, travel costs and subcontracting costs are very fair and below maximum thresholds. Likewise, the co-funding proposed is quite significant, which demonstrates the commitment of the partnership to support this action. In addition, a real major share of the budget goes to the development phase and to Latin American partners, which is excellent. In contrast to that, the option to fund intra-regional and international internships for students generates large expenses in the development work package.</p> <p>The logical framework matrix is well-detailed and shows an excellent consistency between objectives, results, activities and budget.</p> <p>The work plan is also very solid and well-developed. The proposal allocates sufficient time for the correct implementation of the actions and foresees sound phases of preparation with a quite short duration, development with the core activities, monitoring and dissemination and exploitation. All these actions will produce deliverables in due time, targeting the appropriate groups and in the most adequate language to reach them. In contrast to that, the last year of the project lifetime corresponds to the second students' uptake in the Master's programme and shows the same activities as for the previous year.</p> <p>Several relevant risks are clearly defined, and concrete mitigating actions are adequately foreseen. A good number of appropriate indicators are identified as well as their sources of verification. Adequate internal quality control structures and mechanisms are in place for measuring the pedagogical achievements. The assessment of the entire project will be carried out by an External Advisory Committee, whose composition, however, is not described.</p>

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	Award Criteria	Comments
3	Quality of the project team and the cooperation arrangements	<p>The consortium gathers European and Latin American universities with clear complementarity in the field of high-energy physics. They have all cooperated in various actions in the past but never worked jointly. The partner institutions require the support offered by the European partners to build capacities in the target field.</p> <p>The staff members involved in the implementation of the project are mostly academics with a strong background on the topic involved. Most of them (in particular the applicant) have already participated in different cooperation actions, mostly research projects. However, the number of key staff involved is rather low in most of the partner institutions, including the European ones; this is a clear drawback of this proposal.</p> <p>The partnership includes a large number of associated partners from different sectors. They will mainly ensure the relevance of the study programme to the industry through their advice and supervision of students.</p> <p>The distribution of responsibilities amongst partners with regard to the work packages is clear, coherent and clearly based on their backgrounds. The diversity of the activities, and the cutting-edge training courses will offer opportunities for an active contribution from the partners.</p> <p>The management structure and decision bodies are excellent as they include an officer dealing with the equality aspects in addition to the more conventional executive board, where all the partners will be involved, including in the decision making. Furthermore, the European and Latin American main coordinators will have the support of a project manager and an external advisory committee, which is very good. Although there will be regular meetings, other communication means are not explicitly indicated in the proposal.</p> <p>The Latin American partners as the recipients of cutting-edge knowledge and modern learning methodologies will play an active role in the project through other activities (such as labs operation, internship supervision, outreach activities, and summer schools). They will fully participate in decision making and conflict resolution but the mechanism to address conflicts is not clearly specified.</p> <p>Most of the involved Partner Country higher education institutions have not benefited from previous support for Capacity Building actions.</p>
4	Impact and sustainability	<p>The impact of this proposal on the target Latin American universities will be very significant. Clearly, all the modern technological approaches in teaching, the instruments, the modular courses and the virtual community have the potential to address adequately the needs of teachers and students. Moreover, the project will participate to the internationalisation of the universities and their opening to the socio-economic environment. A project of a double Master's programme in the involved field will be discussed in the course of the project implementation and would bring additional development perspectives to Partner Country universities.</p> <p>The multiplier effects outside the partnership are not explicitly indicated. However, the quantitative and qualitative indicators to monitor the short and the long-term impacts are very good and convincing, in particular those related to raising awareness towards science and the creation of double diplomas.</p> <p>The internal and external dissemination plan during and after the project lifespan is clear on a wide range of targets, and it will use diverse channels of communication. Furthermore, the leadership of this work package is given to institutions of the same Latin American country, which may result in lower impact in the other involved target countries.</p> <p>The proposal foresees actions with focus on sustainable value, like the training on e-learning. The overall sustainability is however not convincing in all the aspects related to the maintenance and renewal of the sensitive and constantly evolving equipment requested. In addition, the potential re-accreditation has not been addressed in the proposal, and this may impede continuity of the courses.</p>