

# Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programmes

Expert meeting on higher education in youth work

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EDUFI - International Higher Education Cooperation

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Enriching lives, opening minds.



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# Erasmus+ 2021–2027 in a nutshell

- covers early childhood education and care, education and training, youth and sport
- supports the educational, professional and personal development of individuals and plays an important role in increasing open-mindedness, inclusion and encounters between people from different cultures
- global cooperation in addition to European cooperation
- Erasmus+ also has a sister programme, the European Solidarity Corps, which supports volunteering

# Four key objectives of the European Strategy of Universities

## 1 Strengthen the European dimension in higher education and research

Bringing transnational cooperation to a higher level contributes to a culture of excellence and inclusion, a true European identity, and global competitiveness and attractiveness

## 2 Consolidate universities as lighthouses of our European way of life

### Strengthen quality and relevance for future-proof skills

*In a fast changing environment, universities need to strengthen their capacities to equip young people, lifelong learners and researchers with the right competences and skills*

### Foster diversity, inclusiveness and gender equality

More institutional changes are needed for universities to become places of truly equal opportunities

### Promote and protect European democratic values

Universities need to be places of freedom: for speech, thought, learning, research

## 3 Empower universities as key actors of change in the twin green and digital transitions

### Develop skills, competences and technological innovation for the green and digital transition

Universities are key actors for the green transition and for a more sustainable world. We need to make 'connected universities' a reality

## 4 Reinforce universities as drivers of Europe's global role and leadership

Universities are instrumental in building Europe's connections with the world





## **The new Erasmus+ programme emphasises**

- **inclusion**
- **a greener approach,**
- **digitalisation, and**
- **active participation in democratic society.**

# Erasmus+ programme funds versatile international cooperation

- Mobility projects offer learners opportunities to learning experiences and/or gaining professional competences abroad
- For staff mobility periods offer professional development, networking opportunities and exchange of good practices.
- In cooperation projects institutions can exchange good practices, develop curricula, design joint degree programmes and develop education and training and youth policies.

# Who can take part in Erasmus+?

- Erasmus+ programme offers opportunities for different kinds of organisations from kindergartens to higher education institutions, from youth and community centres to museums and from sports associations to enterprises.
- In the youth sector also informal groups of young people can apply for funding.
- Private individuals cannot directly apply for funding from the Erasmus+ programme (except in the DiscoverEU action). E.g. students and staff of higher education institutions should always apply for mobility grants from their own sending institution or organisation.

# Erasmus+ for Higher Education

## KA1 – Learning Mobility of Individuals

- KA131 “European mobility”
- KA171 International Credit Mobility
- Accreditation of Mobility Consortia
- Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges

**i.a. Blended Intensive Programmes, student, trainee, teacher and staff mobility**

Applied from Erasmus+ National Agencies

## KA2 – Cooperation among organisations and institutions

- Cooperation partnerships
- European Universities
- Erasmus+ Teachers Academies
- Erasmus Mundus Action
- Alliances for Innovation
- Forward-looking projects
- Capacity Building projects

## KA3 – Support to policy development and cooperation

- Support to policy development, experimentation and dialogue in the EU level on education, training, youth and sport, including sectoral agendas for higher education, vocational education and training, schools and adult learning.
- (The European Youth Together Action)
- European Commission and the Executive agency EACEA publish calls and tenders from time to time

Applied from the European Commission / Executive Agency EACEA

## Jean Monnet Actions

- Jean Monnet Modules
- Jean Monnet Chairs
- Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence

# Blended Intensive Programmes - BIPs

- short, intensive programmes that use innovative ways of learning and teaching, including the use of online cooperation
- may include challenge-based learning where **transnational and transdisciplinary teams work together**
- to tackle challenges for example those linked to the United Nations' sustainable development goals or other societal challenges identified by regions, cities or companies



# Goals of blended mobility and BIPs

1. reaching all types of students from all backgrounds, study fields and cycles  
→ enhance inclusion & diversity among programme participants
2. increasing mobility by providing more versatile and flexible mobility opportunities
3. offering opportunities to higher education teaching staff to experiment in designing innovative programmes in multidisciplinary subjects
4. offering opportunities for new ways of learning, teaching and training that can lead to the development of new types of competences
5. offering opportunities to design, develop and try out digital/online teaching and learning → promoting digitalisation
6. allow institutions and participating individuals to explore more direct cooperation with enterprises, organisations, municipalities and other stakeholders
7. enhance internationalisation at home

# Blended Intensive Programmes – BIPs

a new more flexible mobility type

combine short-term physical mobility and virtual learning (e.g. COIL)

enable participation from different backgrounds (→ inclusion)

should provide added value compared to the already existing courses

can be open also to other participants from outside of the actual BIP partnership

learner participants can be students or staff

staff teaching in BIPs can be HEIs' own staff or invited experts from enterprises (also from abroad)

## Minimum composition

- 3 higher education institutions from
- 3 different programme countries
  - inter-institutional agreement (IIA) at least between the receiving and sending institution
  - multilateral agreement between all participating institutions is optional
- 15 mobile learner participants (students/staff)
- 5 – 30 days physical mobility combined with cooperative online international learning
- minimum scope 3 ECTS credits incl. both the physical and virtual component

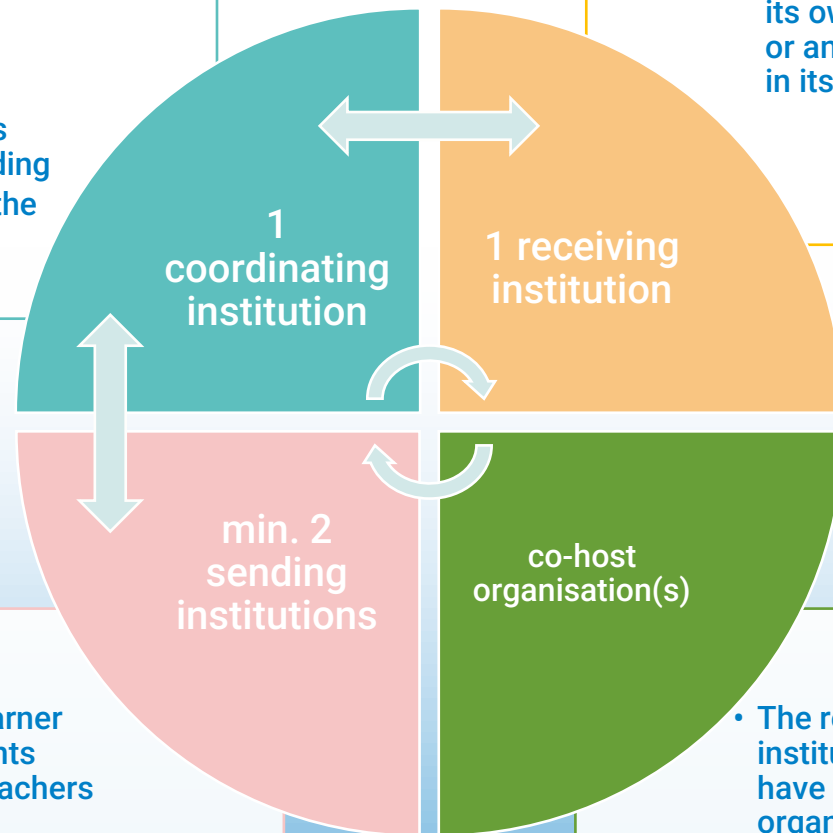


# Institutions' roles in a BIP partnership

## Partner country HEIs:

- cannot organise a BIP
- can take part in a BIP by their own funding
- can send participants with ICM funding (KA171) or own funding (partner country participants are not included in the minimum number of participants)

- Coordinates the project
- Applies for funding
- Administers BIP OS funding
- Reports to the National Agency



- Hosts the BIP in its own premises or another venue in its own country

- Sends learner participants and/or teachers to a BIP

- The receiving institution can have co-host organisations in the same country

Depending on the partnership and division of tasks, a HEI can assume different roles:

- Coordinating & receiving
- Coordinating & sending
- Only sending
- Only receiving
- Only coordinating (e.g. if the BIP is organised by another HEI in the same country in the framework of a mobility consortium)

# Funding for BIP Cooperation

## Coordinating HEI

applies for and is awarded financial support (BIP OS) for the BIP

- BIP OS is calculated based on the estimated number of mobile learner participants (400€/participant)
  - Minimum number of participants 15, maximum number taken into account 20\*
- Funding 6000 – 8000€/BIP

**Usage:** coordination, planning, development and arrangement costs; e.g. personnel costs, rental of equipment and venues, communication, activities... → BIP OS is meant for expenses incurred to all participating organisations, not only those of the coordinating institution  
**BIP OS cannot be used to cover accommodation, subsistence or travel costs of mobile participants!**

## Sending HEI

pays grants to outgoing mobile participants from its own normal KA131 mobility support budget

- **Students:** short-term student mobility grant (SMS)
- **Staff learners:** Staff Training grant (STT)
- **Mobile teachers/trainers:** Teaching Assignment grant (STA)
- also zero-grant participation is possible

+ the sending HEI is entitled to normal OS support for the students and staff it sends to a BIP

## Receiving HEI

pays grants to teachers invited from enterprises abroad from its own normal KA131 mobility support budget

- Teaching Assignment grant (STA)

+ the receiving HEI is entitled to normal OS support for the invited staff to a BIP

- Receiving HEI's own students and staff can participate as local students and local staff (not included in the minimum number of participants, nor entitled to a grant).

**NB!** If a BIP is organised outside of the locality of the receiving HEI, the travel, subsistence and accommodation costs of local participants must be covered from other sources, as the Erasmus+ does not have funding for in-country travel in one's country of residence.

\*) The number of participants is not limited to 20, but that is the maximum taken into account when awarding BIP OS funding.

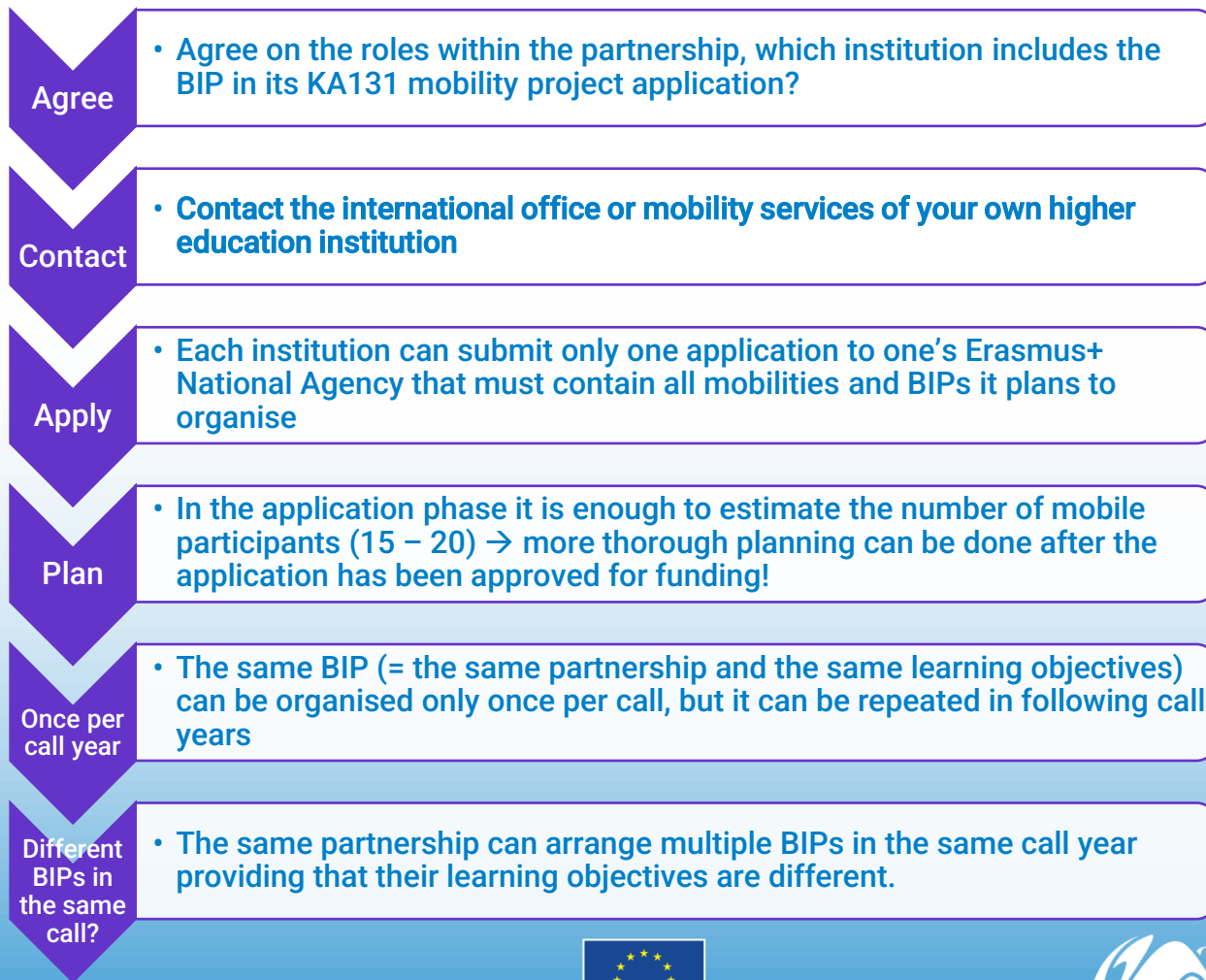


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# How to apply?



Application deadline is annually in **February**.  
The exact date is published usually in October – November.



Projects last **26 months**  
e.g. 1.6.2022 – 31.7.2024

# Further reading

- [Erasmus+ Programme Guide > Mobility project for higher education students and staff](#)
- [European Commission's Blended mobility implementation guide for Erasmus+ higher education mobility KA131](#)



# An example

- Youth services of a Finnish municipality are pondering how to engage young people with fewer opportunities in their activities.
- They propose this problem/challenge to local HEI's youth worker programme's coordinator as they would like get students to work on this challenge and help in solving it.
- The programme coordinator contacts some of her counterparts in the partner universities and they decide to organise a multidisciplinary workshop session for solving the problem as a BIP.
- The coordinator applies eventually for BIP funding with the help of the IRO of her own institution.



- Once the funding has been awarded the partners plan the contents and programme of the BIP more thoroughly together.
- There are 4 partner institutions + the coordinator, each of them decide to engage 1-2 staff members and 5 students in the BIP. (→ 20 mobile learner participants)
- They include a 2-day virtual component where the participants get to know each other, learn about and start working on the problem in multi-disciplinary and multi-national teams.
- The physical part lasts for 10 days and includes workshops, seminars, site visits, teamwork, as well as some free time activities.
- After the physical part the teams have two weeks to finalise their work online and after that the student teams present the results in an online session to the municipality youth services.
- After presenting the results of their work, students are awarded 5 ECTS cr that is included in their degree programmes in their home institutions.
- Reporting on the content and realisation of the BIP takes place electronically afterwards, at the latest in conjunction of the final report of the entire mobility project.

# Thank you!

## Questions or comments?

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or contact the international office or mobility services of your own higher education institution or the [Erasmus+ National Agency](#) in your country.



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