

SOME OF THE MODIFICATIONS AT THE 2018 ERASMUS+ PROGRAM GUIDE

- “ErasmusPro” launched in 2018 within vocational education for long-term mobility of learners. Thus, vocational education mobility activities will be organized in two ways:

Mobility lasting between 2 weeks-3 months,

Long-term mobility lasting 3-12 months

ErasmusPro aims at increasing quality, attractiveness and employability of students via longer stays at mobility activities abroad and long-term work placements. It's expected to improve occupational skills, foreign language competences, cultural aspects and integration performance at work place by this long-term mobility.

There is no distinctive difference on its technical criteria. It necessitates submitting a clear work-based learning component, as it used to be in VET mobility activities, and to plan the activity more like a real work placement. A new activity is introduced with the long-term mobility defined as “Advance Planning Visits-APV”. This activity supports sending personnel from sending organization to receiving organization to exercise more effective mobility and to reinforce inter-organizational cooperation. Each APV activity is limited to one participant and 3 weekdays excluding travel days. It is possible to arrange as much APV activities as the number of host organizations.

There are a few additional criteria related to ErasmusPro mobility in the eligibility criteria of vocational education mobility projects. These are stated as “extent of a long-term mobility, clarity of planning, applicability”. Besides, it's expected by the ErasmusPro mobility to improve transnational cooperation and recognition tools.

- Another modification on the guide is related to Strategic Partnerships. “Schools Exchange Partnerships” format is added under the title of ‘exchange of good practices’ this year, while it used to be classified as ‘Innovation’ and ‘Exchange of Good Practices’ in 2017. The guide proposes a different funding and contact model for this kind of partnership. Fund to be granted for each project year and for each participating school is limited to 16 500€. Within the Schools Exchange Partnerships, the following activities are supported:

Short-term exchanges of groups of pupils (3 days-2 months)

Long-term exchanges of groups of pupils (2-12 months)

Short-term joint staff training events (3 days-2 months)

Long-term teaching or training assignments (2-12 months)

Eligibility criteria of proposals submitted in the field of Schools Exchange Partnerships;

Number of participating organizations: a minimum of two and a maximum of six schools from at least two different Program countries,

Only schools from Program Countries can participate,

Duration of project: minimum 12 months, maximum 24 months. However, if justified by work plan, only projects organizing long-term mobility of pupils may last up to 36 months.

- The action "Sector Skills Alliances" has been reintroduced to this Program Guide. It was taken to the guide under a separate title unlike last year and it's detailed.
- "Use of Erasmus+ online tools such as eTwinning, EPAL, School Education Gateway at preparation, implementation, follow-up stages of project" presents among the funding criteria of 2018 Strategic Partnerships.

HORIZONTAL PRIORITIES MODIFIED IN THE FIELD OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Actions will be prioritized related to:

Development of relevant and high-quality skills and competences; encouraging lifelong learning between education institutions, businesses and intermediary bodies and promoting cooperation to increase the quality and effectiveness of mobility experience,

Social inclusion; supporting and assessing new approaches anticipating reducing disparities in access to digital technologies in formal and informal education,

Open education and innovative practices in a digital era; developing and updating digital learning materials and tools, in particular Open Educational Sources, open textbooks, Free and Open Source Educational Software and effective use of digital technologies in the fields of education, training and youth.

Another point emphasized in the 2018 Guide is related to prioritizing actions for increasing awareness on the importance of cultural heritage of Europe within the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.