

## 1. Background and context

Article 14(2) of the Decision establishing the Lifelong Learning Programme<sup>1</sup> (LLP) states that:

*"Up to 1 % of the allocations of the Lifelong Learning Programme may be used to support the participation in partnership, project and network actions organised under the Lifelong Learning Programme of partners from third countries which do not participate in the Lifelong Learning Programme under the provisions of Article 7."*

The aim of this document is to outline the rules relating to the participation of organisations in third countries.

## 2. Purpose of opening the LLP for international cooperation

The purpose of including Participation of third country organisations in the LLP will be to help the programme attain the objectives set out in Article 1 of the Decision. The key statement of these is in Article 1(2), where it is stated that the programme shall *"contribute through lifelong learning to the development of the Community as an advanced knowledge-based society"*.

The primary purpose of cooperating with third countries in the framework of the LLP is therefore not to provide assistance and support for the countries concerned – this vital objective of EU policy is addressed essentially by the Union's external cooperation activities – but to underpin the process of improving the quality of education and training within Europe. Naturally, if the quality enhancement process can be two-way and the networking opportunities mutually beneficial, this will be more conducive to productive cooperation and generating the highest possible added value for all involved.

## 3. Actions to be opened for third country participation

2010 is a pilot year which will enable experience to be obtained in the opening of the programme for third country participation over the next two years. The table below outlines the Sub-programmes and actions which are included in the measures for third countries.

Sub-programme	Links to detailed information
	<a href="#">Guide to the programme 2010 - Explanations on the actions</a>
<b>Comenius</b>	<a href="#">COMENIUS Multilateral projects</a>
	<a href="#">COMENIUS Multilateral networks</a>
<b>Erasmus</b>	<a href="#">ERASMUS Academic Networks</a>
	<a href="#">ERASMUS Structural Networks</a>
	<a href="#">ERASMUS Curriculum Development Projects</a>
	<a href="#">ERASMUS Modernisation of Higher Education</a>
	<a href="#">ERASMUS Co-operation between Higher Education Institutions and Enterprises</a>
	<a href="#">ERASMUS Virtual Campuses</a>
<b>Leonardo da Vinci</b>	Multilateral Projects <a href="#">LEONARDO DA VINCI Development of innovation</a>
	<a href="#">LEONARDO DA VINCI Multilateral networks</a>
<b>Grundtvig</b>	<a href="#">GRUNDTVIG Multilateral projects</a>
	<a href="#">GRUNDTVIG Multilateral networks</a>
<b>KA 2 Languages</b>	Multilateral Projects <a href="#">New materials / online courses / awareness raising</a>
	<a href="#">Multilateral networks</a>

<sup>1</sup> Decision No 1720/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 establishing an action programme in the field of lifelong learning, OJ L327/45 of 24 November 2006.

Sub-programme	Links to detailed information <a href="#">Guide to the programme 2010 - Explanations on the actions</a>
KA3 ICT	<a href="#">Multilateral projects</a>
	<a href="#">Multilateral networks</a>
KA4	<a href="#">Multilateral projects</a>

#### 4. Third countries eligible to participate and geographical priorities

The provisions and priorities are set out in the [LLP Guide Part 1](#), Section 1.C.

Organisations in any third country (outside the 31 European countries included in the general framework of the programme) may participate in a project if the applicant can justify the participation in the terms outlined in the LLP Guide:

projects and networks are at liberty in their applications to make a case for including partners **from other countries where the organisations concerned have demonstrably important expertise to share with their European counterparts**. In all instances the involvement of partners from third countries must be justified in terms of **the value added to experience within the European countries** participating in the programme.

This therefore underlines the importance of Third country participation enhancing the experience of the rest of the consortium in the project and the impact on the European participating countries.

Although any country could therefore be eligible to participate, the Programme Guide specifies a certain number of **priorities**, notably:

Definition from the LLP Guide	List of countries
Countries identified in Article 7 as being eligible to participate in the LLP in the future under certain circumstances, but for which the relevant agreements have not yet been concluded	The Republic of Croatia The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Countries addressed by the European Union's Neighbourhood Policy and Russia	Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. Russia
Countries identified by the EU as being of particular priority in the context of developing a strategic policy dialogue in education and training or multilingualism	Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, USA

#### 5. Practical implementation

##### *Application and selection*

Applicants may request involvement of partners from third countries, as **an additional option** in an otherwise normal application. For applicants wishing to pursue third country involvement, a specific attachment to the normal application form must be completed which contains a description of the proposed partners, their activities, the cost and the added value of their involvement. In other words, the project should have sufficient intrinsic quality as a “European” proposal to be selected for support; the involvement of one or more partners from third countries should be seen as an added optional element in the project, though one which contributes clearly to the added value of the project as a whole.

The main (“European”) part of the application will be assessed as normal with the assistance of external experts, against the published award criteria. The optional (“third country”) part will be assessed separately by the experts against an additional, specific award criterion:

**9. International cooperation (where applicable).**

Third country participation adds value to the grant application, the activities proposed for the third country partner(s) are appropriate and the budget required for this purpose represents good value for money.

The decision on which projects’ “third country” option to select, will depend on the projects’ scoring against the specific award criterion. A minimum quality threshold has been set at >2 out of 5. The score achieved for the 9<sup>th</sup> Award criterion will not be added to the score achieved in the main body of the application, so all European projects will be assessed on their own merits.

As a result the results of the selection for the Actions concerned could reflect any of the following situations:

- An application with third country participation
  - could achieve a high score against the 8 general award criteria for the substantive (European) project and a high score in the third country part. As a result the European part could be accepted and the Third country part could be accepted if there is funding available.
  - could achieve a high score against the 8 general award criteria for the substantive (European) project and a low score in the third country part. As a result the European part could be accepted depending on the funding available and the Third country part could be rejected.
  - could achieve a low score against the 8 general award criteria for the substantive (European) project and a high score in the third country part. In this scenario the whole proposal will be rejected.
- An LLP application with no third country participation could be accepted, rejected or placed on a reserve list according to the scores achieved against the 8 general award criteria.

There is therefore no specific advantage or disadvantage in opting for the possibility to include partners in third countries as the deciding factor in the selection is the quality of the substantive (European) application. Please note: no organisation may appear in a single application more than once (organisations in third countries may not appear as both an associated partner and as a full partner in the Third Country application)

***Allocation of funds for third country participation to projects and networks***

The maximum amount available for the substantive (European) project remains unchanged.

The maximum grant allowed for a project/network will increase in cases where third country participation is foreseen. The maximum additional allowable amount for third country participation in a project / network is fixed at €25,000. If a project/network wishes to involve more than one partner from a third country, the maximum grant of €25,000 applies.

Please note:

A grant allocated to third country participants can only be used for the activities of these participants (no part of it may be used by the partners in the 31 European participating countries). If the activities of third country participants are not realised or only partly realised, the final grant awarded will be reduced accordingly.

A simplified budget table must be completed following the general schema outlined below. Please note that not all budget heads are eligible for organisations in third countries.

<b>Budget heading</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Staff costs	<p>Applicants should base the third country staff budget on real daily staff cost rates. Staff costs may not exceed the normal costs for each staff category in the country concerned. Staff costs must be broken down into categories 1 to 4 of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO). Under no circumstances may the daily rate exceed the following maximum amounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff category 1 (maximum amount EUR 450/day)</li> <li>• Staff category 2 (maximum amount EUR 300/day) – University Professors</li> <li>• Staff category 3 (maximum amount EUR 250/day)</li> <li>• Staff category 4 (maximum amount EUR 125/day)</li> </ul>
Travel	Real cost for travel to the European participating countries and within the home country
Subsistence	Maximum eligible daily subsistence rates for the destination country of the trip <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/per_diems/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/per_diems/index_en.htm</a> .
Equipment	not eligible for 3rd country participants
Subcontracting	not eligible for 3rd country participants
Other costs	based on real costs
Indirect costs	eligible on same basis as other organisations (up to a max 7% of total direct costs)
Maximum grant	€25.000 per project
Maximum co-financing	75% of total eligible cost for third country participation