Call for Proposals: EACEA/35/08 - Lot 8 (Iran, Iraq and Yemen)

**Coordinating Institution:**
International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation – The Netherlands

**Members of the partnership:**
- Université Bordeaux 1 - France
- Universidade do Algarve - Portugal
- Uniwersytet Warszawski - Poland
- Freie Universität Berlin - Germany
- Universidad de Deusto - Spain
- Lunds Universität - Sweden
- Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam - The Netherlands
- University of Southampton - United Kingdom
- Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi - Turkey
- University of Dohuk - Iraq
- IBB University - Yemen
- Sana’a University - Yemen
- Thamar University - Yemen
- University of Tehran - Iran
- Shahid Beheshti University - Iran
- Islamic Azad University - Iran
- Shiraz University - Iran
- Ferdowsi University of Mashad - Iran
- Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz - Iran

**Associates:**
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – Switzerland
- Khajeh Nasir Toosi University of Technology - Iran
- Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Research Institute - Iran
- Shahrood Technical University - Iran
- Office of International Scientific Cooperation – Ministry of Science, Research and Technology - Iran
- Khavaran Higher Education Institute - Iran
- Woman National Committee - Yemen
- University of Mosul - Iraq
- University of Salahaddin - Iraq

**Project objectives:**
The objective of this programme is to further sustain and develop a vibrant exchange programme with professional graduates and staff, who experience international opportunities and gain qualifications and knowledge in education, culture, languages, skills for economic development, as well as social and cultural empowerment. This enhances the political, cultural, educational and economical links between the European Union (EU) and the Third-countries of Lot 8 (L8C) (Iran, Iraq and Yemen).
The partnership, comprising 20 University partners with a broad geographic distribution, has an enviable track record in attracting able young women and men to the EU. All EU partners have proven their ability to attract and manage complex educational networks; indeed all EU partners currently coordinate or are partners in successful Erasmus Mundus (EM) and External Cooperation Window (ECW) programmes. In these programmes, the consortium partners have demonstrated an ability to implement components of the Bologna agreement, have tackled and found practical solutions to many of the more intractable problems such as visas, multiple and joint degrees, fees and financing, ECTS, and quality assurance protocols, and the partners offer excellent services to the visiting students and scholars. This proposal is designed to address all of the stated objectives in the Call, and significant attention has again been paid to the mechanisms through which these objectives are met, as well as solving known and potential challenges. These mechanisms are described in this proposal in detail, and are summarised below.

Lot 8 countries (L8C) have been, and are, undergoing tumultuous political periods. Iran has been subject to economic and cultural isolation, Yemen has a need to improve justice and civil society and reduce crime, while Iraq is subject to civil war. These are challenging countries where this consortium, as ambassadors for the EU, can make a big impact by enhancing political, cultural, educational and economical links between the EU and L8C, as well as disseminating EU social and democratic values. In other words, though the major challenges are recognised, this partnership is uniquely placed to maximize the opportunities for, and delivery of, a successful exchange programme with Iran, Iraq and Yemen.

The partnership is especially confident because the coordinating applicant (ITC) has a specific mission of educating students from less developed countries for over 60 years, with many alumni (over 400) coming from L8C. The aim is to focus on achieving a flourishing exchange framework based upon real opportunities and realistic objectives. The extensive alumni and contact network of the partnership ensures that where opportunities exist, the consortium will know of them and be best placed to take advantage of them. In addition, a number of Iraqi and Iranian staff members work for the European partners and are available to guide and advise visiting students and scholars. These staff members are known to the consortium partners and are being advertised to staff and students.

Most of the mobility flows are envisaged to predominately occur from L8C to the EU-partners due to the above mentioned safety concerns. All mobility levels (undergraduates, master, doctoral, post-doctoral and staff) are catered for by all partners. This represents a significant opportunity to engage in collaborative activities with Iran, Iraq and Yemen by attracting Target Groups 1, 2 and 3 students and staff, especially vulnerable groups. Such mobility increases the capacity of the L8C partners, as the knowledge and experience gained is returned to the L8C institutions at the end of the study period. Not only knowledge of thematic fields (please note that all priority thematic fields in the Call are covered in this proposal), but also knowledge of the EU’s higher education system, instils an open culture of learning and invigorates students and staff with new ideas and methodologies within the principles of the Bologna agreement. Students and staff return home with new skills suited to leadership positions in government, NGOs and business. In particular, graduates appreciate the culture and languages of the hosting universities, have worked on case studies and developed solutions relevant to their problems, and are exposed to up-to-date research methods and outcomes. Specific actions are described to minimise ‘brain-drain’ and asylum claims from participating students and staff. A second, and very important, mobility available is the EU-to-L8C exchange. Despite the challenges outlined, the partnership has identified opportunities for such exchange through detailed discussion and planning involving partner institutions in L8C and alumni, as well as the EU Delegations and National Embassies. A key objective in EU-to-L8C exchange remains the selection of students, and staff, who act as ambassadors for the EU.
### Number of Individual Mobility Activities foreseen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Mobility</th>
<th>Europeans</th>
<th>Third-Country nationals</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target Group 1</td>
<td>Ctry code</td>
<td>Target Group 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctorates</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-doctorates</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching staff</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>37</td>
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