



# Erasmus+ Programme (ERASMUS)

## Call for proposals

Call for a 2-year framework partnership agreement to support Civil Society Cooperation in the field of Education and Training (2026-2027)  
(ERASMUS-EDU-2025-CSC-OG-FPA)

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## EUROPEAN EDUCATION AND CULTURE EXECUTIVE AGENCY (EACEA)

EACEA.A – Erasmus+, EU Solidarity Corps  
EACEA.A.2 – Skills and Innovation

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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## 0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **framework partnerships for grants** in the field of Education and Training under the **Erasmus+ Programme**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2024/2509 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))<sup>1</sup>
- the basic act (Erasmus+ Regulation [2021/817](#))<sup>2</sup>.

The call is launched in accordance with the 2025 Work Programme<sup>3</sup> and will be managed by the **European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)** ('Agency').

 Please note that this call is subject to the final adoption of the budget by the EU budgetary authority. In case there are substantial changes, we may have to modify the call (or even cancel it).

Operating grants provide general financial support to organisations whose statutory activities serve the strategic objectives of EU policies (*mainly non-profit organisations, voluntary associations, foundations, NGOs or similar*). They do not support a specific project (like action grants), but the annual operating budget of the organisation (or part of it). Operating grants are always mono-beneficiary grants supporting the work programme of activities of only one organisation. They follow the same rules for the grant agreements as action grants, but do not differentiate between direct and indirect costs. Receiving an operating grant may however have an impact on the possibility to receive the indirect costs flat-rate in EU action grants (see [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#).)]

Framework partnerships (FPAs) are long-term cooperation instruments that serve as umbrella for regular or recurrent grants in the same field or area and under a common action plan (or work programme of activities). They are a prerequisite for being able to apply for these grants, but don't create any legitimate expectations or entitlement to get them. FPA beneficiaries are normally identified on the basis of a standard evaluation and award procedure and then invited to submit their proposals for grants (closed calls; addressed directly to the framework partners). Grant agreements (SGAs) can only be signed if the FPA has already been signed, and only until the FPA expires (i.e. before the FPA end date).

The call covers the following **topic**:

### **ERASMUS-EDU-2025-CSC-OG-FPA – Civil Society Cooperation in the field of Education and Training**

We invite you to read the **call documentation** carefully, and in particular this Call document, the Model Grant Agreement, the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the [EU Grants AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 1).

<sup>3</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2024)7026 of 11.10.2024 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2025 and the financing decision for the implementation of the Erasmus + Programme as amended by the Commission Implementing Decision [C\(2025\)1334](#) of 05.03.2025.

- the Call document outlines the:
  - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
  - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
  - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
  - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
  - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
  - award criteria (section 9)
  - legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
  - how to submit an application (section 11)
- the Online Manual outlines the:
  - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
  - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:
  - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

You are also encouraged to visit the [Erasmus+ Project Results](#) website to consult the list of projects funded previously.

## **1. Background**

This call aims to set up a 2-years Framework Partnership Agreement with European Civil Society Organisations.

Cooperation with high quality civil society organisations is relevant due to their broad contact with end-users through their extensive networks, at both European and national level. They have a dual role given their top-down multiplier effect and their bottom-up contribution to policy development.

The cooperation will also promote policy transfer, learning and support on EU objectives and priorities, (including equity, inclusion and diversity in line with the objectives of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy<sup>4</sup>), among the relevant stakeholders in the participating countries.

Such cooperation contributes to create a broad sense of ownership in relation to EU actions and policies relevant to people, and to take into consideration ideas and concerns of civil society at all levels.

It is vital for securing the active involvement of civil society stakeholders, for promoting their participation in the Erasmus+ Programme and other European Union

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<sup>4</sup>-[https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-09/implementation-inclusion-diversity\\_apr21\\_en.pdf](https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-09/implementation-inclusion-diversity_apr21_en.pdf)

programmes and for disseminating policy, programme results and good practice among stakeholders through their networks and beyond.

Cooperation with civil society organisations in the field of education and training is important for (i) contributing to and (ii) raising awareness about the achievement of the European Education Area<sup>5</sup>, the Digital Education Action Plan<sup>6</sup>, the Union of Skills<sup>7</sup>, and other relevant European sector-specific policy agendas<sup>8</sup> among Europe's citizens.

Cooperation with civil society organisations is also instrumental in providing the Commission with analysis and advice on the main education and training priorities, as listed above.

## **2. Objectives – Themes and priorities – Activities that can be funded – Expected impact**

### **ERASMUS-EDU-2025-CSC-OG-FPA – Civil Society Cooperation in the field of Education and Training**

#### Objectives

The objective of the present Call is to provide structural support, referred to as operating grants, to European Non-Governmental Organisations (ENGOS) and EU-wide networks active in the field of education and training pursuing the following general aims/objectives:

- ✓ Raise awareness of European policy agendas in education and training, in particular for the European Education Area and for the Union of Skills.
- ✓ Increase stakeholder commitment and cooperation with public authorities for the implementation of policies and reforms in the field of education and training, in particular for the implementation of policies in areas relevant for the country-specific recommendations issued in the framework of the European Semester.
- ✓ Boost stakeholder participation in the field of education and training, including by building upon the potential of digital communication alongside other forms of participation.
- ✓ Boost involvement of stakeholders and civil society in the dissemination of policy and programme actions, including results and good practice among their membership and beyond.
- ✓ Promote active engagement in civic society and raise awareness of the European Union's common principles and values.

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<sup>5</sup> [Council Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond \(2021-2030\)](#) (EEA Strategic framework Resolution);

[Council Resolution on the governance structure of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond \(2021-2030\)](#) (Governance Resolution) & <https://education.ec.europa.eu/>

<sup>6</sup> [Digital Education Action Plan \(2021-2027\) | European Education Area \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social committee and the Committee of the Regions - The Union of Skills, COM(2025) 90 final, published on 5.3.2025 - [Communication - Union of Skills.pdf](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Competitiveness - European Commission, Communication on the Competitiveness Compass for the EU 29-1-2025.pdf](#) and <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/competitiveness-compass/>

The call also embraces the general priorities of the 2024-2029 Von der Leyen Commission<sup>9</sup>. Addressing these priorities will impact and mobilise education and training policies, with a particular focus on the new ambition of building the Union of Skills, relying on the comprehensive approach to education and training under the European Education Area strategic framework<sup>10</sup>.

These general objectives draw on the assets of ENGOs and EU-wide networks, and on their capacity to reach out to large numbers of interested parties and to support EU policy priorities. They should therefore be clearly embedded in the work plans, activities and deliverables of the applicant organisations.

### *Themes and priorities (scope)*

**Civil society organisations active in the field of education and training** are expected to develop and implement **innovative, targeted and creative** strategies and activities to support the effective implementation of reforms and actions in multiple areas:

- Improve quality, equity, inclusion and success for all in education and training;
- Make lifelong learning and mobility a reality for all;
- Enhance competences and motivation in the education profession;
- Reinforce European higher education;
- Support the green and digital transitions in and through education and training;
- Enhance the global perspective in education and training cooperation;
- Stimulate active citizenship and encourage people to participate in democratic processes and in society, by organising events, workshops, trainings, debates on EU values and democracy, also in view of the Eurobarometer results<sup>11</sup>;
- Promote the six core EU values<sup>12</sup> that form the basis of our society: Respect for human dignity; Freedom; Democracy; Equality, Rule of law and Respect for human rights, including those of minorities;
- The Competitiveness Compass<sup>13</sup> for the EU highlights that the foundation of Europe's competitiveness, and preparedness for the future, is its people, with skills as an enabling condition. The Union of Skills proposes a new approach, combining education, training and employment policies, united around a

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<sup>9</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/priorities-2024-2029\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/priorities-2024-2029_en)

<sup>10</sup> Following the Commission communication on Union of Skills, published on 05/03/2025, and in view of the quickly evolving policy context, additional objectives and priorities could be added in the restricted Specific Grant Agreement calls for 2026 and 2027.

<sup>11</sup> [Eurobarometer – Public opinion in the European Union](#)

<sup>12</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12012M002&from=EN>

<sup>13</sup> [Competitiveness - European Commission, Communication on the Competitiveness Compass for the EU 29-1-2025.pdf](#) and <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/competitiveness-compass/>

common vision on competitiveness. The Union of Skills aims to support the development of resilient and adaptable education, training and skills systems to enhance the EU's competitiveness and preparedness. It is equally important to foster a deep understanding of European Union values such as democracy, human rights, solidarity and respect for diversity.

### Activities that can be funded (scope)

Eligible activities must be directly linked to the objectives and priorities of the present call and must be coherent, consistent and cost-effective. Activities may be performed at European, cross-border, national, regional or local level. The activities described should cover the two years of the framework partnership agreement.

Every year, an operating grant, through a Specific Grant Agreement-SGA, may be awarded to the Framework Partners in order to finance their activities, insofar as they are in line with the objectives of the programme in the area concerned and the policy priorities that may be established by the Commission. The costs of general administrative expenditure necessary for the running of these organisations may also be covered within the yearly SGA.

EU-wide networks are expected to actively contribute to reflections on the implementation of the European Education Area, the Union of Skills and other relevant policy initiatives, by engaging their members in preparing, participating and implementing activities that can feed into such reflections. This includes implementing events and conferences where EU work towards the above-mentioned priorities will be the focus.

The organisations active in the field of Education and Training that will be supported under this call are expected to carry out activities such as indicatively:

- Activities facilitating access and participation of stakeholders in the implementation of EU policy priorities in the field of education and training;
- Exchanges of experience and good practice; networking and partnerships with other stakeholders;
- Capacity-building for the member organisations, including peer learning, training, advisory, guidance and coaching activities to improve the effectiveness of policy actions;
- Initiatives and events for developing the membership of the ENGOs/EU-wide network;
- Communication activities<sup>14</sup> on EU values, EU policy priorities in the field of education and training and on related EU funding instruments supporting these priorities (European programmes, in particular Erasmus+, Cohesion Policy funds<sup>15</sup>, Citizenship Equality Rights and Values Programme<sup>16</sup>). Activities establishing synergies between Erasmus+ and other EU or national/regional

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<sup>14</sup> Examples of such activities: awareness-raising, information, dissemination and promotion activities through seminars, workshops, campaigns, meetings, public debates, consultations, etc.

<sup>15</sup> [Inforegio - Available budget of Cohesion Policy 2021-2027](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme overview - CERV](#)



funding sources are encouraged;

- Cooperation activities to increase policy impact on target groups, sectors and/or systems;
- Activities designed to bring to life the founding principles of the EU, enabling citizens to meaningfully engage in civil society and strengthening their knowledge of and connection with European values.

All the above-listed activities ( being indicative, and non-exhaustive) should contribute to widening the outreach using a variety of traditional and digital channels, to ensure a diversity of voices, and reach people within and beyond education and training organisations.

### Expected impact

The expected impact should be described at three levels:

- ✓ The expected quantitative and qualitative impacts of the activities and deliverables on the target group(s), on policy or strategies concerned, in the short and long term and at European, national, regional or local level.
- ✓ The impact of involving target groups in the proposed activities and in the production of the proposed deliverables.
- ✓ The impact of the work programme on awareness and active commitment, and how it will facilitate exchanges and debates between actors from different sectors, levels and countries on key policy issues.

### **3. Available budget**

Depending on the number and quality of proposals, we expect to sign between 25 and 40 framework partnerships.

### **4. Timetable and deadlines**

<b>Timetable and deadlines (indicative)</b>	
<b>FPA</b>	
Call opening:	18 March 2025
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>27 May 2025 – 17:00:00 CET</u> <u>(Brussels)</u>
Evaluation:	June – July 2025
Information on evaluation results:	August 2025
FPA signature:	September/October 2025
<b>First SGA calls</b>	
Invitations to submit proposals:	October 2025
Opening for submission:	October 2025

<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>December 2025 – 17:00:00 CET</u> <u>(Brussels)</u>
Evaluation:	December 2025 - January 2026
Information on evaluation results:	February 2026
GA signature:	April 2026

## 5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Calls for proposals](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:


- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)
- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project (*template to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*)
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*templates to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*):
  - detailed budget table/calculator: not applicable
  - CVs of core project team: not applicable
  - activity reports of last year: not applicable
  - list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (*template available in Part B*)
  - **CSC EDU** - Other Annex.

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (*especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc*). Before signing the framework partnership, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable, accessible and printable** (please check carefully the layout of the documents uploaded).

Proposals are limited to maximum **40 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).

 For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

## 6. Eligibility

### Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - Erasmus+ Programme Countries:
    - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
    - In addition, in accordance with article 19 of the Erasmus+ Regulation, the following third countries are associated to the programme:
      - members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA): Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein;
      - acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates: Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Türkiye, and Republic of Serbia.
- be non-governmental (a voluntary, independent from government, non-profit organisation, which is not a political party or a trade union);
- be a non-profit organisation.

Erasmus+ National Agencies (sole activity of their legal entity) or National Agencies departments of legal entities dealing with activities outside the remit of National Agencies cannot apply or participate in this Action.

This Call is open to two categories of bodies:

### **Category 1: European Non-Governmental Organisations (ENGO) in education and training**

For the purpose of this programme, these are NGOs that operate through a formally recognised structure composed of a European body/secretariat legally established for at least two years (before the submission deadline) in an EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme and of national organisations/branches, in at least nine EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme. The European body/secretariat of the European NGO applies on behalf of the European NGO.

These national organisations/branches must:

- have a proven statutory link<sup>17</sup> with the European body/secretariat;
- be active in the field of education and training.

Therefore, a European NGO must be composed of at least nine entities (the European body/secretariat and at least eight national organisations/branches) established in nine different EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme.

## **Category 2: EU-wide networks in education and training**

An EU-wide network is an umbrella organisation of European Non-Governmental Organisations (ENGOS as defined in category 1). The specificity of such an EU-wide network is that its members are themselves NGOs at European level. Thus, a European umbrella organisation represents a very large number of European stakeholders and covers a wide range of policy domains.

An EU-wide network must:

- Be formally established, i.e. have legal personality and have been legally registered for at least two years in an eligible country on the date of submission of the application;
- Be composed of legally autonomous ENGOS as defined in category 1 and be active in the implementation of the Strategic Framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030);

An EU-wide network must fulfil the three following requirements cumulatively:

- a) represent more than one major stakeholder group – such as: learners (at all levels of education and training), the teaching profession (including teachers, trainers and school leaders), parents, etc;

and

- b) be active in all the following sectors:
- early childhood education and care
  - school education
  - higher education
  - vocational education and training
  - adult learning

and

- c) be active in more than one major cross-sector area (such as citizenship education, ICT and digital education, language learning, entrepreneurship education, etc.) involving one or more representative stakeholder groups as described above;

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<sup>17</sup> This notion implies that the cooperation between the organisations concerned is based on a formalised/documentated relation, which is neither limited to the project they apply for, nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation. This link can cover many forms, from a very integrated one (e.g. one "mother organisation" with its national branches/affiliated entities with or without proper legal entity) to a looser one (e.g. a network functioning through a clearly defined membership modality requiring for instance: the payment of a fee, the signature of a membership contract/agreement, the definition of rights and obligations from the two parties, etc.)

- Have a minimum of 20 member organisations (NGOs as defined in category 1) ;
- Be independent of public authorities, of political parties and commercial organisations;
- Have at least 7 staff members (understood as full-time equivalent<sup>18</sup>).

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc (*see section 13*).

#### *Specific cases*

Natural persons — Natural persons are NOT eligible.

International organisations — International organisations are not eligible.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons<sup>19</sup>.

EU bodies — EU bodies can NOT be part of the consortium.

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations for participation in the programme (*see list of participating countries above*) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature and if the association covers the call (i.e. is retroactive and covers both the part of the programme and the year when the call was launched).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)<sup>20</sup>. Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

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<sup>18</sup> Staff employed according to the Full-Time-Equivalent (FTE) principle. Please follow the guidance of the AGA ([aga\\_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)) as regards FTE and the definition of "staff members", i.e. categories of persons that may work for the beneficiaries on the basis of an employment contract, equivalent appointing act or direct contract, etc. No decimals in the resulting calculation are considered.

<sup>19</sup> See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

<sup>20</sup> Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

### Consortium composition

Only applications by single applicants are allowed (single beneficiaries.).

### Eligible activities

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

Projects should take into account the results of projects supported by other EU funding programmes. The complementarities must be described in the project proposals (Part B of the Application Form).

Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities (*such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc*). Projects must also respect EU values and European Commission policy regarding reputational matters (*e.g. activities involving capacity building, policy support, awareness raising, communication, dissemination, etc*).

Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

### Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries (*see above*).

### Duration

Activities should normally last 24 months.

Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment.

### Ethics

Projects must comply with:

- highest ethical standards and
- applicable EU, international and national law.

## **7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion**

### Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (*e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc*). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for coordinators, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- public legal entities, and institutions and organisations in the fields of education and training, youth and sport that have received over 50% of their annual revenue from public sources over the last two years
- if the project requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
  - an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
  - prefinancing paid in instalments
  - (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)
- or
- propose no prefinancing
  - request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

For framework partnerships, the financial capacity check will be done only once at FPA-level, for all applicants (since no budget threshold because no budget).

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

### Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to show their operational capacity via the following information:

- profiles (qualifications and experience) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- description of the consortium participants
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (*template available in Part B*).

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

For framework partnerships, the operational capacity check will be done generally at FPA-level and then again for each grant application in the grants calls).

### Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate<sup>21</sup>:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct<sup>22</sup> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership)
- intentionally and without proper justification resisted<sup>23</sup> an investigation, check or audit carried out by an EU authorising officer (or their representative or auditor), OLAF, the EPPO, or the European Court of Auditors.

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<sup>21</sup> See Articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

<sup>22</sup> 'Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

<sup>23</sup> 'Resisting an investigation, check or audit' means carrying out actions with the goal or effect of preventing, hindering or delaying the conduct of any of the activities needed to perform the investigation, check or audit, such as refusing to grant the necessary access to its premises or any



Applicants will also be rejected if it turns out that<sup>24</sup>:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

For framework partnerships, exclusion will be checked before FPA signature and then again before signature of each specific grant.

## 8. Evaluation and award procedure


Proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An **evaluation committee** (assisted by independent outside experts) will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria (*see sections 7 and 9*) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

- 1) Successively for every group of *ex-aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order: The *ex aequo* proposals within the same topic will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Quality'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Impact'.
- 2) If this does not allow to determine the priority, a further prioritisation can be done by considering the overall project portfolio and the creation of positive synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call. These factors will be documented in the panel report.
- 3) After that, the remainder of the available call budget will be used to fund projects across the different topics in order to ensure a balanced spread of the geographical and thematic coverage and while respecting to the maximum possible extent the order of merit based on the evaluation of the award criteria.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.*

**Grant preparation** will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also

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other areas used for business purposes, concealing or refusing to disclose information or providing false information.

<sup>24</sup> See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Full compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the framework partnership.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending will be considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

## 9. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

**1. Relevance:** The scope of the 2-year work programme and activities will be assessed in terms of their relevance to the **aims, objectives and priorities of the Call** and in particular;

- the extent to which the applicant runs activities that support the implementation of EU policies in the sector of education and training;
- the extent to which the activities are in line with the main Erasmus+ Programme priorities: Inclusion and diversity, Digital transformation, Environment and fight against climate change and Participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement;
- their relevance to the aims and objectives of the Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030), of the Union of Skills and the Digital Education Action Plan;
- their relevance for the activities to be carried out in regard to increasing stakeholder commitment and cooperation with public authorities for the implementation of policies in the field of education and training;
- EU Values: the proposal is relevant for the respect and promotion of shared EU values, such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, as well as fighting any sort of discrimination.
- their relevance to education and training areas as early childhood education and care, school education, higher education, vocational education and training, adult learning including dealing with at least one major cross-sector priority areas: inclusive education and education for social inclusion, digital education, education for a green and ecological transition;
- the overall relevance of the activities and deliverables to the aims and objectives of the Applicant.

**2. Quality - Project design and implementation:** The following aspects will be assessed:

- the quality of the 2-year work programme and its planned activities and deliverables in terms of content, approach and methodology in relation to the aims;
- how the tasks are distributed among the network / organisations / branches / members with regard to relevance, balance and an efficient achievement of the aims;

- if the proposal follows on from previous activities, the added value of the current proposal in relation to these activities and to the objectives of the Call;
- the transnational and multilingual character of activities and products developed;
- the quality of the management arrangements, including the financial management;
- the profile, number and diversity of background of the members of the network and the participants / stakeholders involved in the activities.

**3. Impact:** The scope of the work programme, its multiplier effect, the sustainable impact and long-term viability of the activities and deliverables will be assessed against this criterion, in particular :

- the expected results, outcomes, and deliverables such as policy contributions, position papers and events; awareness-raising and training programmes, events and materials; information and guidance materials and events, etc.;
- how the work programme will facilitate exchanges and debates between actors from different sectors and levels and different countries;
- the expected short- and long-term quantitative and qualitative impact of the activities and deliverables on the target groups, and, beyond these groups, policies, strategies or systems at European, national, regional or local level;
- the measures planned to ensure the visibility of the activities / deliverables / results;
- how the dissemination and exploitation plans will ensure optimal use of the results among and beyond organisations/branches/members, during the period covered by the framework partnership agreement.

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	20	40
Quality – Project design and implementation	15	30
Impact	15	30
<b>Overall (pass) scores</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

Maximum points: 100 points.

Individual thresholds per criterion: 20/40, 15/30 and 15/30 points.

Overall threshold: 70 points.

Proposals that pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding – within the limits of the available budget (i.e. up to the budget ceiling). Other proposals will be rejected.

## **10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (n/a for FPA)**

## 11. How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

### a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once you have an EU Login account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

### b) submit the proposal

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Calls for proposals](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 4 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online.
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file. Section 4. MULTI-ANNUAL ACTION PLAN – Table **'Multi-annual budget estimate': considering the type of funding scheme of this action, we recommend to fill in only the columns 'Total global yearly budget (costs)' and 'Total estimated income'**, without splitting costs and income by cost categories.
- Annexes (see section 5). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** (see section 5); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System, otherwise the proposal may be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (see section 4). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

### **Guidance on the use of generative AI tools for the preparation of the proposal**

When considering the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the preparation of the proposal, it is imperative to exercise caution and careful consideration. The AI-generated content should be thoroughly reviewed and validated by the applicants to ensure its appropriateness and accuracy, as well as its compliance with intellectual property regulations. Applicants are fully responsible for the content of the proposal (even those parts produced by the AI tool) and must be transparent in disclosing which AI tools were used and how they were utilised.

Specifically, applicants are required to:

- Verify the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness of the content and any citations generated by the AI tool and correct any errors or inconsistencies. Provide a list of sources used to generate content and citations, including those generated by the AI tool.
  - Double-check citations to ensure they are accurate and properly referenced.
  - Be conscious of the potential for plagiarism where the AI tool may have reproduced substantial text from other sources. Check the original sources to be sure you are not plagiarizing someone else's work.
  - Acknowledge the limitations of the AI tool in the proposal preparation, including the potential for bias, errors, and gaps in knowledge.

## **12. Help**

As far as possible, ***please try to find the answers you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)
- Topic Q&A on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

### *Contact*

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: [FACEA-CIVIL-EDU@ec.europa.eu](mailto:FACEA-CIVIL-EDU@ec.europa.eu)

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

### 13. Important



#### IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc.*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.**Coordinator** — In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any). If affiliated entities participate in your project, please do not forget to provide documents demonstrating their affiliation link to your organisation as part of your application.
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded funding for them).  
Organisations may participate in several proposals.  
BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw the others (or they will be rejected).
- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this Call document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be rejected. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with Regulation [2018/1725](#). It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).