

**RULES OF BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR ACCREDITED APPLICANTS
UNDER ERASMUS+ KEY ACTION 1**

National Agency	NL01, Netherlands, Nationaal Agentschap Erasmus+ Onderwijs & Training
Field	Adult Education
Call year	2021

This document defines detailed rules of budget allocation for accredited applicants, in line with the framework established in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide:

The quality of the applicant's Erasmus Plan has been assessed at the accreditation application stage and therefore no qualitative assessment will take place at budget allocation stage. Any eligible grant application will receive funding.

The awarded grant amount will depend on a number of elements:

- the total budget available for allocation to accredited applicants
- the requested activities
- the basic and maximum grant
- the following allocation criteria: financial performance, qualitative performance, policy priorities, and geographical balance (if applied by the National Agency)

Detailed rules on basic and maximum grant, scoring of the allocation criteria, weighting of each criterion, the allocation method, and the budget available for accredited projects will be published by the National Agency ahead of the call deadline.

1. AVAILABLE BUDGET

Total budget available for allocation to accredited applicants ¹ :	At least EUR 274.469
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The available budget will be apportioned between the applicable allocation criteria in the following way²:

Basic grants and financial performance	At least EUR 80.841
Qualitative performance and priority activities	At least EUR 188.628
Geographical balance	Not applicable

In addition, the following amount will be reserved for budget categories based on reimbursement of real costs:

Inclusion support for participants and exceptional costs	EUR 5.000
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In case of need, the National Agency may further increase the reserved amount. If part of the reserved funds is left unused, the National Agency may distribute them through a second allocation exercise.

2. ESTIMATING THE BUDGET REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUESTED ACTIVITIES

The National Agency will calculate the budget required to implement activities requested by each applicant. The estimation of the required budget will be done on the basis of unit costs defined in the Programme Guide and historical data on grants for similar activities.

A standardised estimation cannot be performed for costs that are highly dependent on each specific case, namely inclusion support for participants and exceptional costs. Requests for these types of costs will be assessed based on the description, justification and estimated amount provided by the applicant as part of the application. In addition, beneficiaries can make further requests for these types of costs during the first 12 months of project implementation by submitting a written request to the National Agency. A limit on the total amount of additional funds that can be requested may apply, as defined in the relevant grant agreement.

¹ The final allocated budget may be lower than the specified amount if all applicants have been awarded the maximum amount according to the rules set out in this document. If additional funding becomes available, the National Agency may increase the available budget.

² Exceptionally, the specified amounts may be lowered if the budget required for inclusion support and exceptional costs is higher than originally foreseen; if all applicants have already been allocated the maximum amounts according to the rules set out in this document; or if a minor correction is required due to rounding rules.

3. BUDGET ALLOCATION RULES

The budget allocation will take place in multiple phases. In each phase, the available budget will be divided between eligible applicants based on the described criteria³. All allocated amounts will be rounded to the nearest whole Euro.

3.1. Maximum grant

The Dutch NA has not set a maximum grant for applicants.

3.2. First phase: basic grants and financial performance

A basic grant will be provided to each applicant at the beginning of the allocation process⁴. The purpose of the basic grant is to allow all accredited organisations to implement a minimum number of mobility activities and progress towards the objectives of their Erasmus Plan.

Basic grant for newly accredited organisations	EUR 20.000
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If the budget available for allocation in this phase is not sufficient to perform the allocation in the above way, then the experienced applicants will receive an amount reduced at the same rate, and not less than the basic grant for a newly accredited applicant.

3.3. Second phase: qualitative performance and priority activities

The purpose of the qualitative performance criterion is to ensure that accredited applicants deliver good quality activities and gradually progress towards the objectives of their Erasmus Plan. In addition, applicants may score high if proposing to implement priority activities.

The budget assigned to this phase will be divided among the applicants in proportion to their score. The score of each applicant is calculated in two steps:

- a) **Qualitative performance [base score]:** The applicant's base score will be equal to the evaluation score of the applicant's accreditation application⁵.
- b) **Policy priorities [bonus]:** A bonus to the base score will be applied according to the following criteria*:
 - Involvement of participants with fewer opportunities: +1 point per 2 participants
 - Involvement of participants in blended mobility activities: +1 point per 2 participants
 - Involvement of participants using green travel options: +1 point per % of total mobilities
 - Involvement of adult learners in mobility activities: +1 point per participant

³ When calculating the applicants' performance, the National Agency may exclude from consideration past projects that have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic or other events outside of the beneficiary's control (*force majeure*).

⁴ In exceptional cases, if the basic grant is higher than the maximum grant, the maximum grant will take precedence.

⁵ In future calls, the evaluation results of reports on progress of the Erasmus Plan objectives and the respect of Erasmus quality standards will be taken into account (once they are available).

* a maximum of +20 points per criteria is applicable.

The overall score for each applicant will be calculated in the following way: the applicable bonus (b) will be added to the base score (a).

4. TOTAL AWARDED GRANT AND TARGETS FOR DELIVERY

For each applicant, the total awarded grant will be the sum of amounts they have received in each allocation phase. If any requests for inclusion support for participants and exceptional costs have been approved by the National Agency, these amounts will be added to the total awarded grant.

Before issuing a grant agreement, the National Agency will calculate appropriate targets for delivery. If the applicant has been awarded the full budget required to implement their requested activities, then the activities requested in the application will become the targets for delivery. If the awarded grant is lower than the full budget required to implement the requested activities, then the targets will also be lowered proportionally to ensure that the applicant is able to deliver them.

The National Agency can make limited modifications to the proportional adjustment in order to allow for a better fit between the awarded budget and target activities, to ensure coherence with the approved Erasmus Plan, to provide adequate support for priority activities, to maintain at least one participant in each activity type and category requested by the applicant, and to comply with any limitations defined in the Programme Guide.

Beneficiaries are able to implement the target activities with a wide flexibility, while remaining within the scope of their approved Erasmus Plan. Delivery of agreed activities and targets will be evaluated at the final report stage.