European Commission

Erasmus Quality Standards

In the case of conflicting meanings between language versions, the English version prevails.

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Erasmus+

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Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
Directorate B — Erasmus+, Education and Skills
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The following quality standards apply to all Erasmus+ beneficiary organisations that implement mobility and volunteering activities. The standards define the level of quality that Erasmus+ participants should expect, and they ensure that all organisations receiving Erasmus+ funding contribute to the programme's objectives.

Beneficiary organisations always remain fully responsible for compliance with the quality standards, including when this requires actions by their partner organisations. Therefore, beneficiary organisations must choose their partners and establish working relations with them that make it possible to ensure that quality standards are respected in all activities. Similarly, in a mobility consortium, the coordinator must ensure that their consortium members comply with the Erasmus quality standards.

In the European Solidarity Corps, organisations holding Quality Labels for host and support roles are equally responsible for compliance with the quality standards (even when they are not named below), in accordance with the rules of the action in question and the division of tasks agreed with the beneficiary organisation.

The Erasmus+ national agencies will provide beneficiary organisations with support and clarifications to ensure consistent implementation of the Erasmus quality standards in their national context.

1. Programme priorities

- **Inclusion and diversity:** beneficiary organisations must ensure fair, equal and non-discriminatory conditions for all participants and potential participants. They must design their activities to be open and accessible, and they must work to involve people with fewer opportunities.

- **Environmental sustainability and responsibility:** beneficiary organisations must promote environmentally sustainable and responsible behaviour among their participants and apply it when designing their activities.

- **Digital transformation:** beneficiary organisations should use digital tools and learning methods where this can improve the quality of their activities, strengthen cooperation with partner organisations or foster the development of participants' digital skills and competences.

- **Participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement:** beneficiary organisations must respect EU values and promote civic engagement, participation in democratic life and knowledge of the European Union. All beneficiary organisations should include in their activities elements that support social and intercultural competences, critical thinking and other aspects of personal development that help participants to be active and constructive members of their communities.

The programme provides a wide range of specialised funding opportunities, digital tools and platforms, technical standards and qualitative guidelines to support the implementation of these four programme priorities. The beneficiary organisations must use these tools and opportunities appropriately and effectively.

2. Project management and organisational impact

2.1 Organisational commitments

- **Acknowledging European Union funding:** beneficiary organisations must inform all participants of the source of their grant. They must also make their participation in Erasmus+ publicly known.

- **Responsible and cost-effective use of funding:** beneficiary organisations must use Erasmus+ funding in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. When designing activities and selecting destinations, beneficiaries must ensure that the expected learning outcomes, organisational benefits and community impact justify the invested resources and costs.

- **Project management team:** to ensure consistent quality of implementation, beneficiary organisations must create a team of responsible persons with the necessary skills, time and resources. Organisation leadership must be involved in supervising and monitoring project implementation.

- **Developing capacity:** beneficiary organisations should use their participation in the programme to gradually increase their capacity for cross-border cooperation on a sustainable, long-term basis.

- **Organisational approach:** beneficiary organisations must ensure that everyone directly or indirectly involved in implementing mobility and volunteering activities knows and applies the Erasmus quality standards.

- **Integrating results:** beneficiary organisations must integrate the results of the implemented activities into their regular work, to benefit the whole organisation, its staff and learners.

- **Monitoring and improving quality:** beneficiary organisations must continuously improve the quality of their projects and activities by monitoring their implementation and using feedback from participants, partner organisations and the national agency.

- **Handling complaints:** beneficiary organisations must enable participants to submit complaints or to challenge decisions by the sending or receiving organisation that affect them directly. If a complaint concerns a specific organisation or individual, the participants must be able to make it confidentially. Beneficiary organisations must ensure that all participants and potential participants are aware of the possibility and procedures for making complaints.

- **Contribution to the Erasmus+ community:** beneficiary organisations should contribute to Erasmus+ by taking part in exchanges of good practices and other networking activities organised by the national agencies or other organisations, as well as by hosting participants from other countries. Experienced beneficiary organisations should provide advice, mentorship and practical support to organisations with less experience in the programme.

- **Sharing results:** beneficiary organisations must share the results of their activities within their organisations, with other organisations and with the wider public.

2.2 Collaboration between organisations

The following standards apply to mobility consortia in education and training and to all participating organisations in youth and volunteering.

- **Active involvement:** participating organisations must take part in decisions that affect their activities and their participants – particularly when defining the participants' learning outcomes, choosing partner organisations and monitoring participants.

- **Sharing tasks:** participating organisations must agree a transparent and fair distribution of tasks that enables each of them to work towards their objectives and develop their capacities.

- **Sharing funds:** funding must be divided between the participating organisations transparently and fairly, in proportion to their tasks and needs.

3. Implementing high-quality activities

While implementing mobility activities, beneficiary organisations must cooperate with their sending or receiving partner organisations to ensure that these quality standards are respected.

3.1 Before the activity

- **Promoting Erasmus+ opportunities:** beneficiary organisations must promote available Erasmus+ activities among potential participants. They must publicise and explain available funding and support, including specific inclusion mechanisms for participants with fewer opportunities.

- **Selection of participants:** beneficiary organisations must select their participants through a fair, non-discriminatory and documented selection procedure, using clear and transparent criteria. Beneficiary organisations must maximise the diversity and inclusiveness of their activities by proactively reaching out to potential participants with fewer opportunities and avoiding the repeated selection of the same persons.

- **Preparation of participants:** beneficiary organisations must ensure that their participants receive preparation on practical, linguistic and cultural aspects of their activity, taking into account the participants' specific needs.

- **Practical arrangements:** beneficiary organisations must support their participants in practical matters relating to accommodation, travel, insurance, social security, visa and other arrangements needed for their mobility activity.

- **Transparency of learning outcomes, tasks, rights and obligations:** beneficiary organisations must, together with their partners and participants, define the expected learning outcomes, tasks, rights and obligations transparently and in writing. They must make these clear to each participant.

- **Transparency and timeliness of support:** beneficiary organisations must inform their participants about the type and timing of financial and other support they will receive. When providing financial support, beneficiary organisations must make payments on time to avoid creating barriers to participation (particularly for participants with fewer opportunities).

- **Participant involvement:** whenever possible, beneficiary organisations must involve their participants in the design and preparation of project activities, so that preparation phase becomes part of the overall learning process. During the preparation, participants can carry out self-reflection exercises, present ideas, initiate improvements and help define their own learning outcomes to match their needs.

- **Risk assessment and preparation for exceptional circumstances:** beneficiary organisations must assess potential risks associated with their activities and define emergency protocols for exceptional circumstances. Emergency protocols should define responsible persons for coordination and other key tasks; a list of emergency contacts; crisis communication channels between all involved parties; conflict resolution mechanisms; and other relevant information linked to the identified risks. Beneficiary organisations must inform the participants about these protocols and how to report an emergency.

- **Safeguarding policy:** beneficiary organisations must put in place safeguarding measures and procedures to protect participants and all other persons that are involved in their projects – especially those with fewer opportunities or who are otherwise vulnerable – from harassment, neglect, violence, abuse and exploitation. The safeguarding policy should include preventative measures, codes of conduct for staff and other people interacting with participants, and clear procedures for responding to a safety concern or incident. The scope and detail of the safeguarding policy should be appropriate for the size of the organisation and the scope of its activities.

3.2 During the activity

- **Health, safety and compliance with applicable regulation:** beneficiary organisations must organise all activities with a high standard of safety and protection for their participants, in full compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements (e.g., minimum age of participants, parental consent, clearance requirements for participants working with vulnerable groups). Beneficiary organisations must ensure that participants are covered by appropriate insurance that is provided by the programme, by the beneficiary organisation, or by other means.

- **Mentoring, accompanied learning and support during the activity:** both sending and receiving organisations must identify responsible coordinators, mentors or similarly tasked persons who will monitor and support the participants' progress on the agreed tasks and learning outcomes, as well as their overall wellbeing. Participants must not depend on a single contact but must be able to request support from more than one person or service at any time.

- **Integration of participants during the activity:** beneficiary organisations must work with their partner organisations to ensure that participants are supported in their social integration during the activity, and that they are treated fairly and equally in terms of the activities and services offered by the receiving organisation.

3.3 After the activity

- **Evaluation:** beneficiary organisations or their partners must evaluate the participants' learning outcomes and other results of each activity. Beneficiary organisations must use the evaluation results to improve future activities.

- **Recognition:** beneficiary organisations must recognise and document the participants' formal, non-formal and informal learning outcomes and other results achieved during their activity. Relevant European and national recognition instruments should be used.

- **Reintegration and support after the activity:** beneficiary organisations must support the participants in their next steps after the activity. Depending on the activity and the participants' circumstances, this may involve reintegration into the participants' sending organisation or community, logistical and wellbeing support, or guidance on further education, training and employment opportunities.

- **Sharing participants' experiences:** beneficiary organisations should create opportunities for their participants to share their experiences and learning outcomes with peers and the wider community. They should encourage their participants to take part in alumni activities and networks.

4. Standard practices and procedures in higher education

The following quality standards are specific to the field of higher education. Beneficiary organisations should follow regularly updated implementation guidelines on applying these quality standards in practice.

- **Visibility of Erasmus+ participation:** accredited organisations must display their accreditation certificate as well as their Erasmus Plan prominently on their website.

- **European Student Card Initiative+ (ESCI+):** beneficiary organisations commit to implement the technical standards and timelines defined under the ESCI+.

- **Participation free of charge:** sending and receiving organisations may not charge fees to participating students for their mobility activities.

- **Course catalogue:** receiving organisations must provide participating students with a course catalogue and other relevant content descriptions. These documents must comply with the standards defined by the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The course catalogue must be published on the organisation's website and regularly updated. It must specify the language of instruction and method of assessment for each course.

- **Grade transparency:** beneficiary organisations must provide participating students with grade transparency information (including grade conversion) according to the ECTS standards.

- **Inter-institutional agreements:** the terms and conditions of long-term student mobility for studies must be set out in an inter-institutional framework agreement between the involved institutions. Other types of activities may also be included in the agreement.

- **Automatic recognition of student mobility credits:** sending organisations must ensure that all credits gained from learning outcomes achieved during the student mobility activity are fully and automatically recognised as defined in the learning agreement, that they are documented in the transcript of records or traineeship certificate issued by the receiving organisation, and that they are transferred to the sending organisations. Transfer and recognition of ECTS credits must comply with the ECTS standards. Sending organisations must transfer those credits into the students' records without delay; count them towards the credits required for the students' degrees without requiring any additional work or assessment; and include them in the students' transcripts of records and diploma supplements. Credits gained from short-term student mobility may be added to the students' degrees without replacing required credits. Sending organisations must inform participating students about the recognition procedure.