

# Successfully Applying for Erasmus+ VET Accreditation



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# The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology



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- MCAST is the major Vocational Education and Training Institution in Malta;
- Public Institution - Set up in 2001;
- About 11,000 students attend MCAST;
- 6,700 full time students and 4,000 part time students;
- About 2,000 graduates at EQF Levels 5 & 6
- The College runs over 190 full-time courses;
- There are over 300 part-time courses.



# The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology

- Possesses the Erasmus+ HE Charter & VET Charter;
- Has over 160 MOUs/Inter-Institutional Agreements with European Colleges and Universities;
- Collaborates with various other Colleges, Universities at EQF Levels 4, 5, 6 and 7;
- Active in Applied Research;
- Over 700 foreign students from 70+ countries;
- Multicultural environment.



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# Erasmus Accreditation

- *A tool for education and training organisations in adult education, vocational education and training (VET), and school education that want to open up to cross-border exchange and cooperation.*
- *Award of the Erasmus accreditation confirms that the applicant has set up a plan (**Erasmus Plan**) to implement high quality mobility activities as part of a wider effort to develop their organisation.*



# Benefits of *Erasmus+* Accreditation

Accredited Erasmus organisations will:

- **gain simplified access** to Key Action 1 funding opportunities under the future Programme (2021-2027)
- **Secure a number of mobilities** due to yearly grants for accredited applicants;
- **Long term plan** – up to 7 years
- **Longer Project duration** – up to 24 months (when compared to short-term projects)
- **Less limitations** to the number of project applications that can be submitted (as opposed to short term projects)
- **Flexibility:** Mobilities and Erasmus Plan can be adjusted and updated gradually if need be.



# *What to determine before applying for an Erasmus+ Accreditation?*

- *Organisation's main aims*
- *Internationalisation Strategy*
- *Erasmus Plan*
- *Objectives your organisation wants to achieve by implementing Erasmus activities*

# *Internationalisation strategy*

- *Also referred to as: organisational development strategy.*
- *The most relevant type of document that you can include.*
- *Can be written specifically for your Erasmus accreditation application or can have a more general approach.*
- *Strategic documents are not an obligatory in your application but can give useful context to explain your objectives*
- *Important when applying for large budget / number of participants. (justification)*

# Internationalization – Definition - 1

- The term 'internationalisation', as applied to educational institutions, used to mean just **'having lots of international students'**.
- The classic definition of higher education internationalisation is “the process of integrating an international / intercultural dimension into the teaching, research and service functions of the institution”



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Erasmus+



# Internationalization – Definition - 2

- When asked how they would characterise an “internationalised” university, all included reference to: a diverse and inclusive culture; awareness of different cultural needs on the part of staff and students; support for these needs; an internationalised curriculum, and broad perspectives.
- One interviewee described the role of universities as “to help people move out of parochialism”. Another pointed out that, an “internationalised” university “would respect the international dimension in incoming and domestic students equally... The institution would get domestic students to value the input of incoming students and would encourage them to seek a comparable experience”.
- *From ‘The meaning of internationalisation for a modern vocational institution: a study of Bournemouth University’, UK Vicky Lewis and Paul Luker Bournemouth University*



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# Internationalization strategy - 1

- At MCAST: European Internationalisation Strategy more focused on our Erasmus+ work.
- MCAST - Globalisation Strategy 2021-2024.
- For a small organization you could have one Internationalization strategy that incorporates elements related to Erasmus+.
- In your strategy you need a realistic number of strong actions that are ambitious but doable.



# Internationalisation strategy - 2

- Internationalization is not only about sending staff and students abroad for training and work experience.
- It is important to include networking with foreign partners.
- The concept of ‘Internationalisation at home’ is extremely important.
- It is about your work and studies being internationally relevant.



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# Internationalisation strategy - 3

- It is about how internationally 'aware' your organization is.
- It is about how multi cultural and open/trained to/for other cultures your organization is.
- It is also about foreign partner representatives visiting your organization.



# Needs and Challenges

- It is crucial before planning activities to have clear needs and challenges.
- Ideally these should have already been targeted in your internationalization strategy.
- Before planning activities you need to have a clear understanding of what you need, what is your challenge to achieve that need?



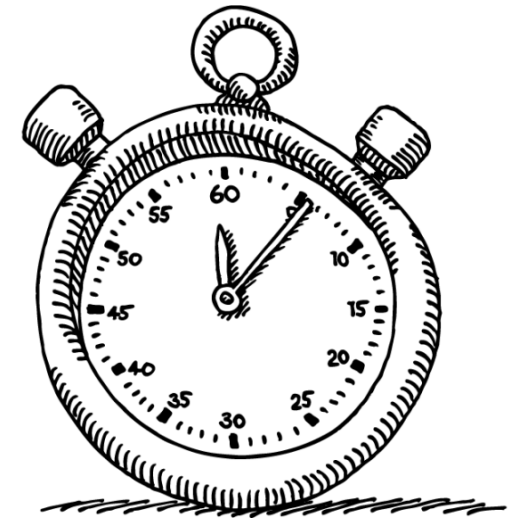
# A good Erasmus+ plan - 1

- Should be coherent and appropriate for your organisation, its experience and its ambition.
- For example do not plan to increase mobilities in the coming years beyond your institution's capacity.
- If you don't have enough uptake of opportunities focus on promotion.
- Your Erasmus+ plan should be an integral part of your internationalization strategy.



# A good Erasmus+ plan - 1

- It is important to plan ahead for years to come since the accreditation is valid for years in the future.
- Proper timing is crucial. It is best to have objectives spread over different time periods.
- The Erasmus accreditation will stay valid for the duration of the future Programme (2021-2027)
- Having clear and consistent ways to track and evaluate your progress is crucial in your Erasmus+ plan. These can include reviews, weekly or monthly reports.



# A good Erasmus+ plan - 3

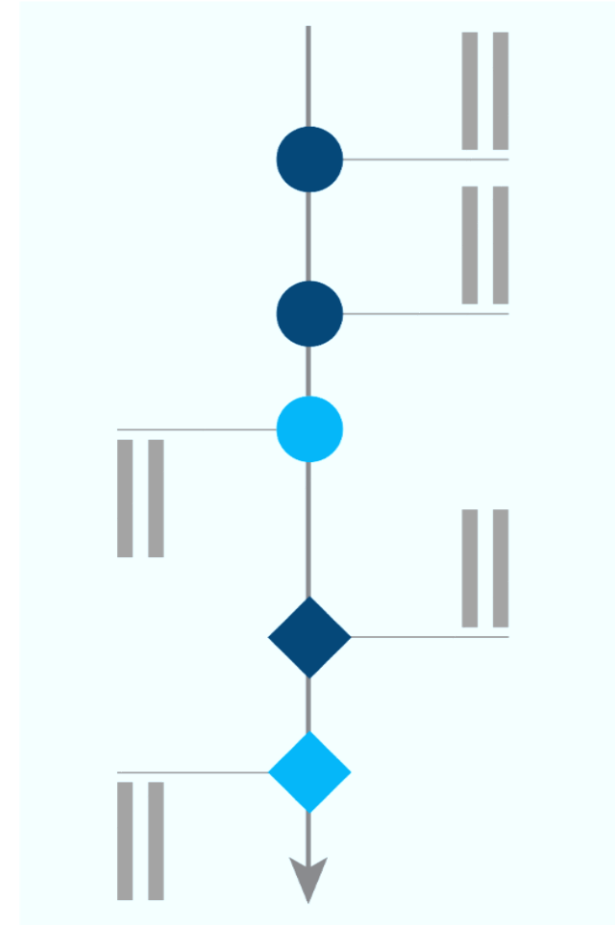
- Its helpful to have an estimate of mobility numbers for the coming years.
- An objective in the Erasmus+ should have more then one target.
- For example: An objective to increase European partners can have a general target for the number of partner increase and a smaller target for partner increase in a specific area in Europe.
- Do not have objectives solely focused on mobility numbers in your Erasmus+ plan, focus also on promotion, partnerships, changing your organization, basic Erasmus+ principles etc.





# Timeline

- If the organization those not have an internationalization plan, ideally prepare for the Internationalization strategy three or four months before the application for the accreditation so that it can be a document/plan that reflects the whole organization.
- In the case of a school/college the strategy should reflect the teachers, students, administrative staff and management.
- Therefore the organization has to carry out a consultation session or questionnaire to get feedback and to understand what your staff/students want.
- If you already have a wider internationalization strategy you could create a strategy in synergy more focused on Erasmus+.

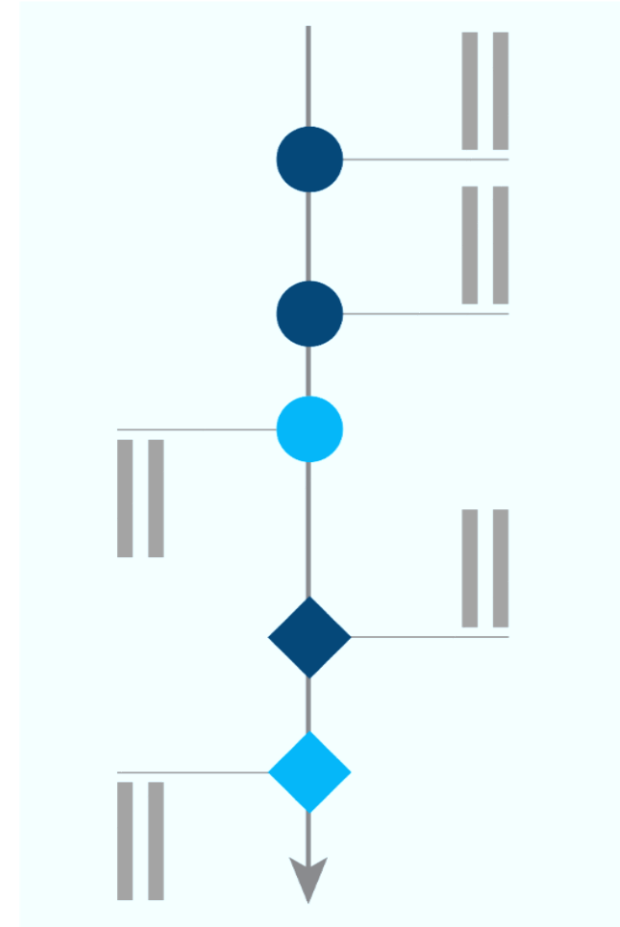


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# Timeline

- The strategy and plans need to reflect and involve the organization members not just the international office representatives or Erasmus+ responsible.
- Start preparing the objectives for your Erasmus+ plan at least 1 or 2 months before. If the application is available you can start filling it in or prepare in a word document basic ideas you want to tackle.

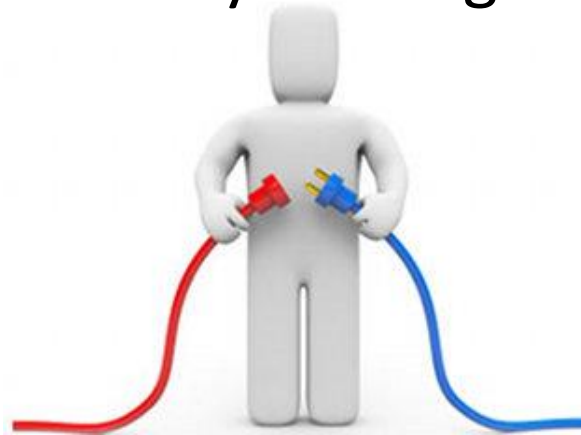


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# How are the plans taking place?

- It is important that you explain how you are going to achieve the objectives/targets.



- Identify the key players.

- In the Management part of the application it is important to link with your internationalization strategy, show that your Erasmus+ plan is part of your internationalization work.

# Basic principles of the Erasmus accreditation described in the Erasmus quality standards

- It is very important that your Erasmus plan activities reflect and tackle:
  - Inclusion and diversity
  - Environmental sustainability and responsibility
  - Digital education
  - Active participation in the network of Erasmus organisations
- **Make these part of your objectives!**



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# Questions?



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