

Recommendations Following the LTA Accreditation Project

(2021-2024)

for European Commission Desk Officers

Based on a detailed analysis of the activities, outcomes, and needs of the Long Term Activity (LTA) NA partnership on accreditation, the following recommendations aim to enhance support for NA transnational partnership (LTA) cooperation and the three main target groups of Accreditation:

- Newcomers to Accreditation
- Accreditation Experts and
- Accredited Project Organisers

Recommendations for LTA Partnership Cooperation and Coordination

- **Interactive Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish more interactive feedback processes for reports and recommendations submitted by partnerships to ensure contributions are acknowledged and integrated into broader programme strategies.
- **Flexible TCA Budgets:** Allow more flexibility in using the TCA budget, possibly adopting a lump-sum approach similar to KA2 projects, to help NAs manage their resources more effectively and meet specific needs.
- **Align TCA with Erasmus+ Systems:** Improve alignment between TCA mechanisms and Erasmus+ systems to reduce administrative burdens and enhance the feasibility and impact of TCAs. This could involve integrating TCA participant data into existing dashboards.
- **Evaluate TCA/LTA Viability:** Assess the current format of the TCA and LTA mechanisms, which rely on legacy programme structures like real-cost reimbursements and individual mobility management, creating challenges in scaling under the current Erasmus+ programme. A more detailed exploration of LTAs' role and purpose is necessary to ensure they deliver value for money and meet expectations.

Recommendations for Future Support for Newcomers

- **Streamline Application Process:** Continue refining the application forms, rules, and regulations to make the accreditation process more accessible, based on feedback from NAs.
- **Advance Publishing of Forms:** Publish application forms and related documents well in advance, in multiple languages, to accommodate participants, especially when introducing new programme components.
- **Enhance User-Friendliness:** Improve the clarity and accessibility of application and monitoring tools, ensuring they are user-friendly and efficient. Revise Erasmus+ application forms and guidelines to streamline documentation requirements and reduce administrative complexities.
- **Harmonise Forms and Grids:** Align the application form and evaluation grid to ensure clarity and consistency in the process.
- **Expand Knowledge Sharing:** Increase programme-wide knowledge-sharing mechanisms, including strategies for effective project management, alignment of

international mobility with institutional goals, and implementation of the four programme priorities and particularly inclusive mobilities. Leverage existing resources like the European Innovative Teaching Award or create similar awards.

- **Provide Practical Examples:** Official guidelines should include practical examples and case studies to help applicants understand successful approaches and programme priorities, improving submission quality.

Recommendations for Future Support for Accreditation Experts

- **Standardise Evaluation Criteria:** Clarify and standardise the guidelines for the 'Relevance' criteria to ensure consistent understanding and application across all assessments, reducing discrepancies.
- **Synchronise Application Forms and Evaluation Grids:** Ensure that application forms and evaluation grids are aligned and published well in advance in national languages, making the assessment process smoother.
- **Improve Digital Tools:** Enhance the user-friendliness of digital platforms for application and monitoring, streamlining the assessment process for experts.
- **Open Channels for Updates:** Maintain regular communication for updates and clarifications on Erasmus+ guidelines and assessment criteria, allowing continuous dialogue with NA leaders and Accreditation officers. Integrate AI tools into the process to enhance efficiency.
- **Promote Peer Exchanges:** Continue supporting peer exchanges, NA dialogue, and training initiatives to develop more effective evaluation strategies and foster a deeper understanding of Erasmus+ quality standards.
- **Balance Reporting Approaches:** Continue the open dialogue on balancing between light-touch and detailed reporting that allows NAs to ensure quality while efficiently managing mobility and budgets.

Recommendations for Future Support for Accredited Project Organisers

- **Advance Publishing of Forms:** Publish application forms and related documents in advance and in multiple languages to ensure participants can clearly and efficiently navigate the application process.
- **Streamline Documentation Requirements:** Revise Erasmus+ forms and guidelines to simplify documentation, reducing administrative burdens and making the process more user-friendly.
- **Improve Monitoring Tools:** Ensure monitoring tools are clear and efficient, with changes introduced ahead of new programme components to aid smooth implementation.
- **Expand Practice Sharing:** Broaden practice-sharing mechanisms, focusing on effective project management, aligning mobility with institutional progress, and the four programme priorities particularly inclusive mobilities. This can include capturing data from existing initiatives like the European Innovative Teaching Award or creation of a parallel award.

- **Simplify Digital Platforms:** Address usability issues with the School Education Gateway and eTwinning portal, ensuring they remain reliable spaces for discussions and peer exchange among accredited organisers.
- **Promote Best Practices:** Use case studies and practical examples in official guidelines to help project organisers understand and implement successful project strategies.
- **Enhance Online Communities:** Improve the School Education Gateway and eTwinning portals to better facilitate project management discussions, peer exchanges, and the sharing of challenges and solutions among accredited organisers.

These recommendations are designed to streamline processes, enhance accessibility, and improve the overall quality and impact of Erasmus+ accreditation projects for the three primary target groups.