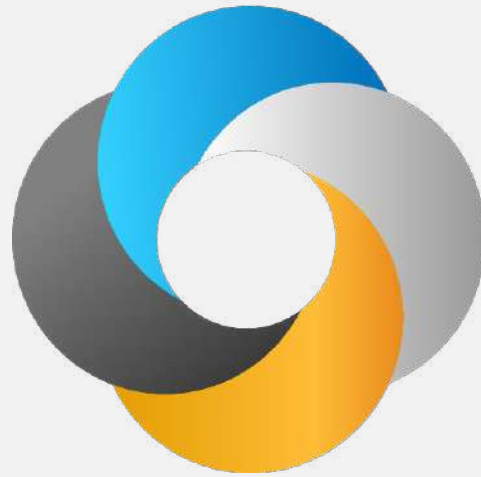




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COOPERA
DUAL HIGHER EDUCATION IN MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE



COOPERA

INTEGRATING DUAL HIGHER EDUCATION
IN MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE

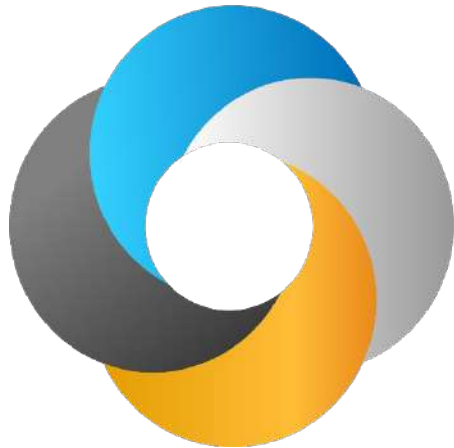
PROJECT HANDBOOK



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COOPERA
DUAL HIGHER EDUCATION IN MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE



COOPERA
DUAL HIGHER EDUCATION IN MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE

HANDBOOK

Project Acronym:	COOPERA
Project full title:	INTEGRATING DUAL HIGHER EDUCATION IN MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE
Project No:	617490-EPP-1-2020-1-MD-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP
Funding Scheme:	ERASMUS+
Coordinator:	ASEM-Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
Project start date:	January 15, 2021
Project duration:	36 months

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DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Title of Document:	HANDBOOK
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VERSIONING AND CONTRIBUTION HISTORY

Version	Date	Revision Description	Responsible Partner
v.01	15/05/2021	Created draft version of the document	P1-ASEM/MD
v.02	15/07/2021	Correction of draft version of the document	P1-ASEM/MD




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1. CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

Lead Partner

	Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (ASEM) (www.ase.md)
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EU partners

	Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (DHBW) (http://www.dhbw.de)
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	University of Lleida (UdL) (http://www.udl.cat/ca/)
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	Varna University of Management (VUM) (https://vum.bg/)
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Akademia WSB

	Akademia WSB (AWSB) (https://wsb.edu.pl/)
	European Policy Development and Research Institute (EPDRI) (www.epdri.com/)


Moldovan partners


	Technical University of Moldova (UTM) (https://utm.md/)
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	Free International University of Moldova (ULIM) (https://ulim.md/)
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	The Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova (MECRRM) (www.gov.edu.md)
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Ukrainian partners

	Uzhhorod National University (UzhNU) (https://www.uzhnu.edu.ua/)
---	--

	KROK University (KROK) (https://www.krok.edu.ua/ua/)
---	--

	V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (KKNU) (https://www.univer.kharkov.ua/en)
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	Odessa National University of Economics (ONEU) (http://oneu.edu.ua/)
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2. INTRODUCTION

The COOPERA project's Handbook has been produced to facilitate the navigation through the events conducted during the project and to offer a guide on what documents are to be submitted, how to be completed, the deadlines and in general to offer assistance with the management of the project.

The handbook must be read in conjunction with the official approved documents that have been made available to all partners:

EACEA – COOPERA project Grant Agreement

COOPERA project's Partnership Agreements

EACEA - Guidelines for the Use of Grants

EACEA - Frequently Asked Questions

We strongly encourage all partners to read carefully all of the above documents and to familiarise themselves with the aims, objectives and activities of the project.



3. PROJECT DETAILS

3.1 Strategic objective

COOPERA is following the overarching aim to integrate DHE in the Partner countries in general, and to improve individual employability and development, increase suitability and continuity between the demands of the professional world and the initial training of university students, and achieve of greater economic efficiency and social integration, in particular.

3.2 Specific objectives

OB1: To identify needs and specific requirements of companies in different industrial sectors and businesses for DHE and to find companies willing to participate in pilot implementations of DHE during the project;

OB2: To develop a flexible and generic DHEM to support different needs and interests of employers, HEIs and students in different industrial and business sectors and to provide recommendations to HEIs for implementation of DHE;

OB3: To test the specific DHE models generated from the developed generic DHEM, by realizing their pilot implementations during the project and to analyse achieved results;

OB4: To propose changes to legislation/regulations to adapt DHE in the Partner countries.

3.3 Total cost of the project

EC Grant: 967.200,00 EUR

3.4 Outputs

1. Report on companies needs for DHE;
2. Flexible and generic Dual Higher Education Models for Moldova and Ukraine developed;
3. White Paper on DHE elaborated;
4. Recommendations for amendments to the Law on Higher Education secured;
5. Guidelines on DHE implementation elaborated;
6. Dual Study Programs identified;
7. Training materials for specific Dual Study Programs developed;
8. Analysis of the results of pilot testing of each of specific DHEM realised, report published;



3.5 Coordinator contact details

Any important project related communication to the project coordinator should be done in writing and addressed to the appointed persons of the coordinator in the table below:

	Name	Position in the institution	E-mail address	Phone number
Legal representative	Geigore BELOSTECINIC	Rector	anticamera@ase.md	+373 22 402 709
Project Grant coordinator	Olesea SIRBU	Vice-rector	oleseasarbu@gmail.com	+ 373 60 608804



4. PROJECT'S MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The management structure of the COOPERA project is based on vast managerial experience of all partners gained through the implementation of various projects funded by the EU and adjusted to fit the needs and recommendations of the Erasmus+ programme. The role of all management bodies is to provide efficient and successful realization of planned activities.

The project management structure is established to ensure effectiveness, decisiveness, flexibility and quality of work. It involves the Contractor, the Coordinator, Co-coordinator, Steering Committee, a Project Coordination Board and Quality Assurance, as shown in point 5, below.

The Contractor – The contractor (Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova in this case) is legally and financially responsible for administering the project grant, drawing the attention of all partners to contractual rules and to releasing money only for the purposes allowed by contract.

Grant Coordinator - As the coordinator also represents the contractor, his/her responsibility is to manage, coordinate and monitor the project activities and with regard to timetable, assess achievement of the planned endpoints and coordinate appropriate records of activities.

Academic Coordinator – the grant coordinator will be supported by the Academic Coordinator (AC), in order to secure the high quality of the specific thematic issues of the project.

Project Consortium Board – the Committee contains the Executive Board which including all leaders of the work packages (6 members) and Consortium Board which is formally appointed at the kick-off meeting (along with persons replacing them in case of their absence) and usually they are contact persons from each partner institution. The Project Consortium Board will meet four times and jointly review and decide on any necessary contingency measures in reorganization tasks and resources.

Project Coordination Team – Project Coordination Board consists of the members of the Contractor and it provides financial and technical assistance for day-to-day management to the Project Coordinator.

Quality Assurance Team – The team acts as a support to the project coordinator in the process of overall internal monitoring. In order to contribute to the efficient project management, the team will develop the Quality control and monitoring strategy.

Site Managers – Site Managers (contact persons) are in charge of local project management supported with their local teams, in consultation with the Coordinator.

WP leaders – WP leaders have the responsibility for coordination of individual WP (with the help of task leaders) and monitoring deliverables and planned milestones related to their WP.



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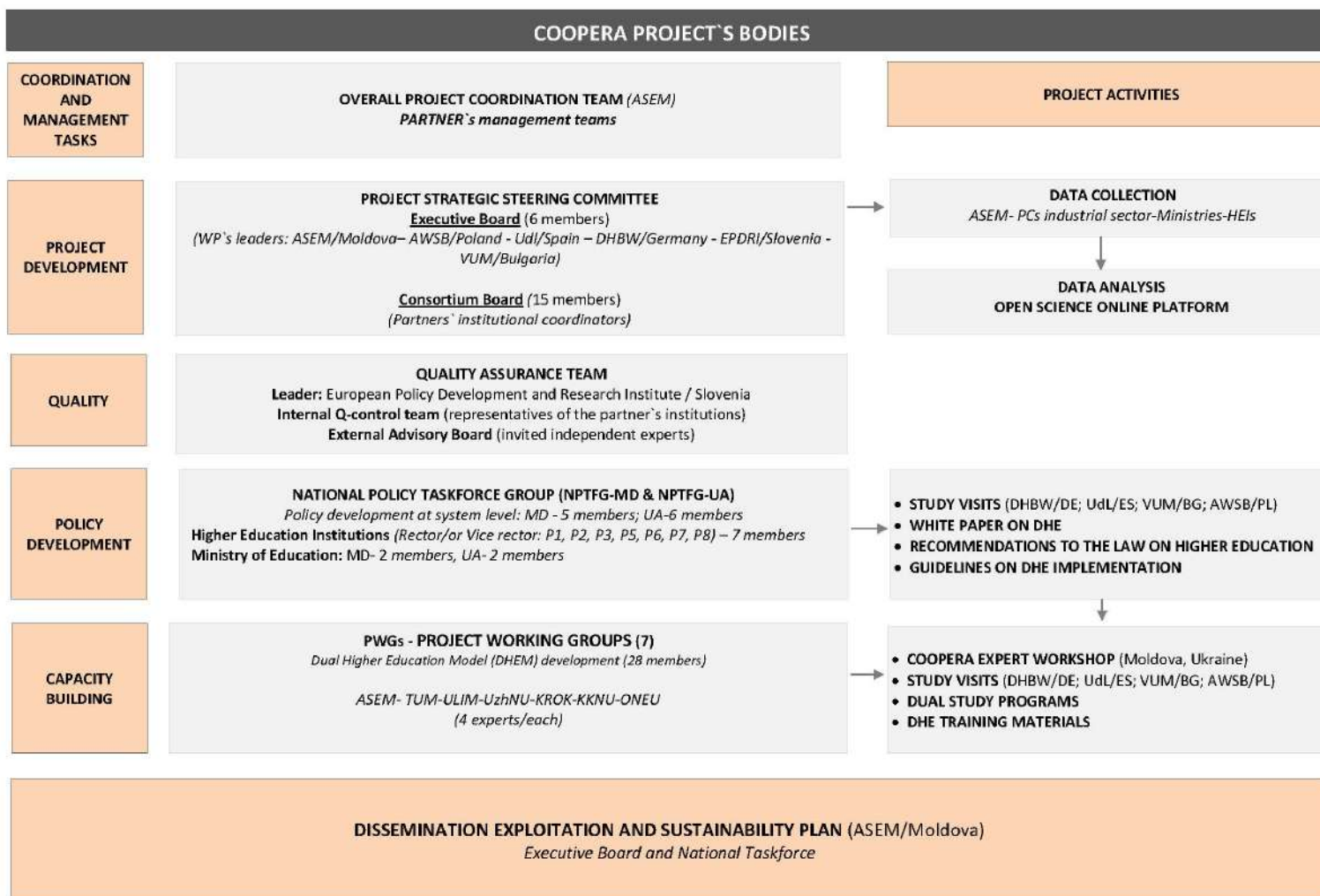


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Task leaders – Task leader are responsible for the management and coordination at the level of Activities.

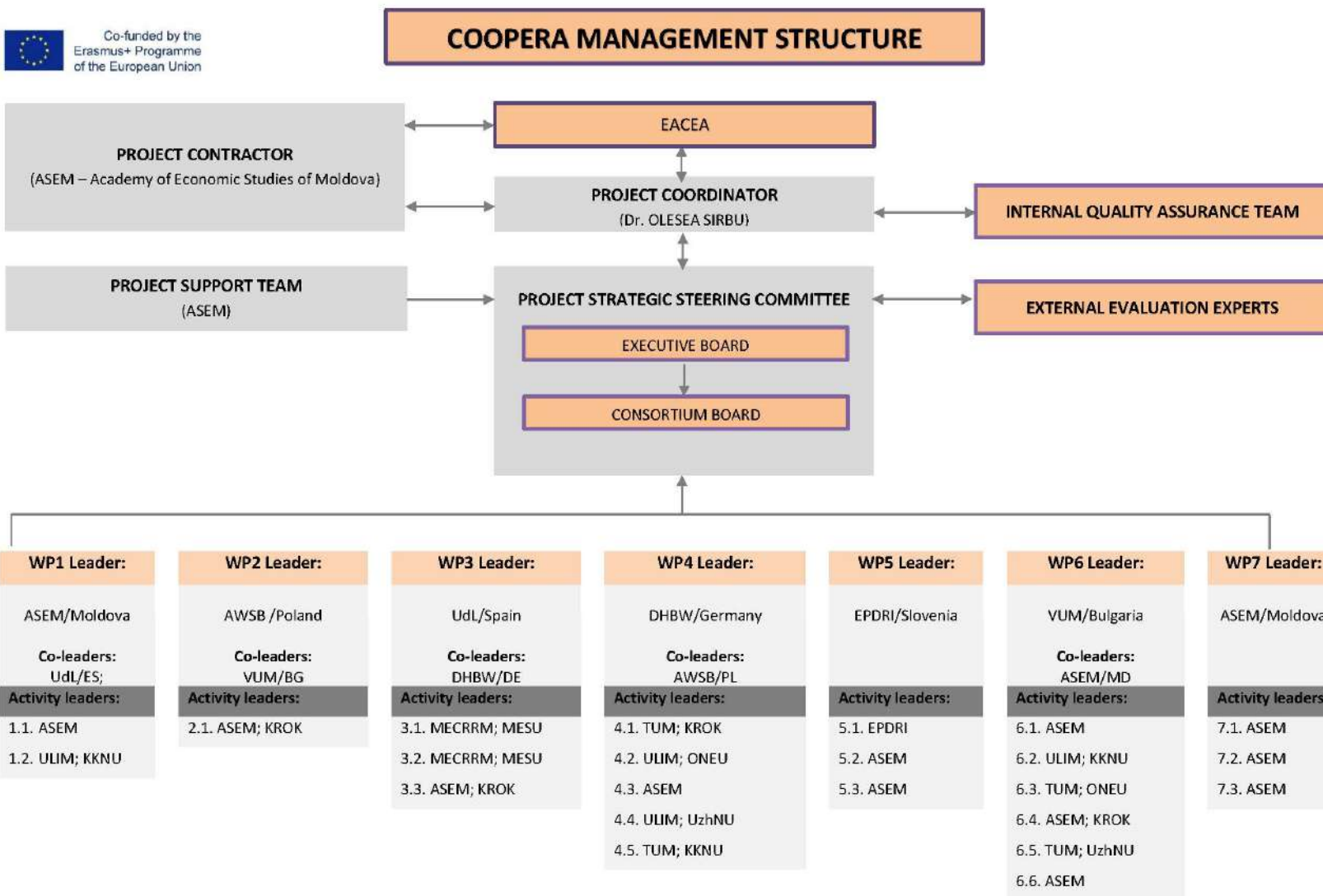


5. PROJECT'S BODIES





6. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



7. PROJECT'S WORK PACKAGES' STRUCTURE

WPs Nr.	TITLE	DELIVERABLES	ACTIVITIES	Activity Leader
WP1 (PREP)	Preparation <u>Leader: ASEM/Moldova</u> <u>Co-leader: UdL/Spain</u>	1.1. Preparation of overall project's implementation secured 1.2. Companies needs for DHE identified	1.1.1. Participation at the Grand Holder coordinators meeting 1.1.2. Elaboration of the Project's Handbook 1.1.3. Elaboration and signature of Partnership Agreements 1.2. Completion of surveys of companies needs for DHE	1.1. ASEM 1.2. CEENQA
WP2 (DEV1)	Flexible and generic dual higher education model (DHEM) <u>Leader: AWSB/Poland</u> <u>Co-leader: VUM/Bulgaria</u>	2.1. Flexible and generic Dual Higher Education Model (DHEM) developed	2.1.1. Formation of Project Working Groups 2.1.2. Conducting study visits to EU partners 2.1.3. Organisation of COOPERA Expert Workshop	2.1. ASEM; KROK'
WP3 (DEV2)	Creation of legal and other conditions for implementation of DHE <u>Leader: UdL/Spain,</u> <u>Co-leader: DHBW/Germany</u>	3.1. White Paper on DHE elaborated 3.2. Recommendations for amendments to the Law on Higher Education secured 3.3. Guidelines on DHE implementation elaborated	3.1.1. Formation of the National Policy Task Force Group (NPTFG) 3.1.2. Elaboration of White Paper on DHE 3.2. Creating amendments to the Law on Dual Education and Law on Higher Education 3.3. Elaboration of guidelines on DHE implementation	3.1. MECRRM; MESU 3.2. MECRRM; MESU 3.3. ASEM; KROK
WP4 (DEV3)	Pilot testing of the flexible and generic DHEM <u>Leader: DHBW/Germany</u>	4.1. Dual Study Programs elaborated 4.2. Materials for specific DHEMs elaborated 4.3. Equipment procured 4.4. Piloting of Dual Study Programs realised 4.5. Stakeholders feedback secured	4.1.1. Identification and conceptual definition of Dual Study Programs 4.1.2. Elaboration and signature of agreements 4.2. Development of training materials 4.3. Purchase of equipment	4.1. UTM; KROK 4.2. ULIM; ONEU 4.3. ASEM 4.4. ULIM; UzhNU 4.5. UTM; KKNU



	<u>Co-leader: AWSB/Poland</u>		4.4. Piloting of Dual Study Programs 4.5. Securing stakeholders feedback on Dual Study Programs	
WP5 (QPN)	Quality assurance and monitoring <u>Leader: EPDRI/Slovenia</u>	5.1. Internal evaluation reports prepared 5.2. External evaluation reports prepared 5.3. Fine-tuning of procedures and regulations realised 5.4. Audit report	5.1.1 Elaboration of monitoring & evaluation manual 5.1.2 Conduction of monitoring visits 5.1.3 Elaboration of Internal evaluation reports 5.2.1. Elaboration of external reports 5.2.2. Audit report 5.3. Organisation, realisation fine-tuning of regulation and procedures	5.1. EPDRI 5.2. ASEM 5.3. ASEM
WP6 (DISS)	Dissemination, exploitation & sustainability <u>Leader: VUM/Bulgaria,</u> <u>Co-leader: ASEM/ Moldova</u>	6.1. International campaign released 6.2. National campaign realised 6.3. University campaign realised 6.4. Dissemination and Sustainability reports secured 6.5. Exploitation reports secured 6.6. Final Conference organized	6.1.1 Defining dissemination, exploitation and sustainability plan 6.1.2 Design of project`s identity materials and web page 6.2. National mass-media dissemination 6.3.1 University`s level dissemination events 6.3.2 Institutional mass-media dissemination 6.4 Preparation of dissemination and sustainability reports 6.5 Preparation of exploitation reports 6.6 Organisation of Final Conference	6.1. ASEM 6.2. ULIM; KKNU 6.3. UTM; ONEU 6.4. ASEM; KROK 6.5. UTM; UzhNU 6.6. ASEM
WP7 (MNGT)	Project Management <u>Leader: ASEM/Moldova</u>	7.1. Efficient overall management secured 7.2. Steering Committee meetings organised 7.3. Interim and Final report submitted	7.1. Conducting day-by-day project management 7.2. Consortium meetings 7.3.1. Elaboration of trimestral reports (R1-R6) 7.3.2. Elaboration of Interim report 7.3.3. Elaboration of Final report	7.1. ASEM 7.2. ASEM 7.3. ASEM



1. Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova/MOLDOVA - ASEM
2. Technical University of Moldova / MOLDOVA - UTM
3. Free International University of Moldova / MOLDOVA - ULIM
4. Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova/ MOLDOVA - MECRRM
5. Uzhhorod National University/UKRAINE - UzhNU
6. KROK University/UKRAINE - KROK
7. V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University/UKRAINE - KKNU
8. Odessa National University of Economics/UKRAINE - ONEU
9. Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine/UKRAINE - MESU
10. Duale Hochschule Baden-Wurttemberg/GERMANY - DHBW
11. University of Lleida/ SPAIN - UdL
12. Varna University of Management /BULGARIA - VUM
13. Akademia WSB/POLAND - AWSB
14. European Policy Development and Research Institute/ SLOVENIA - EPDRI



8. CONTRACTUAL AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

8.1. Payment arrangements

Beneficiaries are obliged to use the Erasmus+ grant contribution exclusively for the purposes defined by the project, and in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Grant and Partner Agreement and its annexes.

The Erasmus+ grant amounts received in advance and not used by the beneficiaries must be reimbursed to the coordinator at the latest 30 days after the end of the project's contractual period.

If there is a difference between the amount of the Erasmus+ grant contribution actually used by the partnership and the amount of expenditure declared eligible by the Executive Agency at the end of the project, the following procedure will apply:

- **The beneficiary responsible for the expenditure declared ineligible will reimburse the corresponding amount to the coordinator.**

The costs of financial transfers shall be borne as following:

- **The costs of dispatch charged by the bank of the coordinator and costs of repeated transfers caused by one of the parties will be charged to the beneficiary.**

The coordinator will transfer the part of the Erasmus+ grant contribution corresponding to each individual beneficiary in the Partner Countries (Moldova and Ukraine) using the new account for the project in EUR. The transfer of money will be executed in EUR.

The coordinator will transfer the part of the Erasmus+ grant contribution corresponding to each individual beneficiary in the Programme Country (Germany, Spain, Bulgaria, Poland, Slovenia) using new account for the project in EUR.

The transfer of the Erasmus+ grant contribution to individual beneficiaries will be implemented in accordance with the following timetable and procedure:



Report No.	Eligible cost by	Report due date	Payment of EACEA to coordinator (as a percentage of “Total EU Budget per Party” indicated in Anex III)	Payment to beneficiaries No.	Payment due date	Payment amount (as a percentage of “Total EU Budget per Party” indicated in Anex III)
			50% Janury 2021	1st payment	July 2021 (after signature of PA)	25%
1 st intermediate report	14.07. 2021	31. 07. 2021				
2 nd intermediate report	14.01. 2022	31. 01. 2022				
3 rd intermediate report	14.07. 2022	31. 07. 2022				
EACEA progress report		15.09. 2022				
4 th intermediate report	14.01. 2023	31.01. 2023	40% OCT/NOV 2022	2nd payment	February 2023 (After intermediate report)	24.19 %
5 th intermediate report	14.07. 2023	31. 07. 2023				
Final report	14.01. 2024	31.01. 2024				
EACEA final report		15.01. 2024				
			APR 2024 payment of the balance (max. 10%)	Final payment: balance		Payment of the balance (max. 10%)

8.2. Remuneration modalities for staff cost

The COOPERA project remuneration of staff involved in the project is based on the rules set out by the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission in the Grant Agreement and accompanying Guidelines for the Use of the Grant of the Erasmus+ CBHE call 2019 (art.3.3.1.1., pag.29).

The amount of staff costs that can be reimbursed to a partner institution for staff involved in the project is limited to the maximum indicated in the budget per partner (Annex I of the Partnership Agreement) and the ceilings per staff category set out in the Guidelines for the Use of the Grant.

The staff category to be applied depends on the type of work performed in the project and not on the status or the title of the individual. The grant for staff cost is calculated by multiplying the unit cost by the total number of days spent on the implementation of the project. One working day is defined according to the applicable national legislation. Normally 7.5 Hours in the EU. Declared working days per individual will not exceed 20 days per month or 240 days per year.



The coordinator will reimburse to the beneficiary's account the costs actually incurred in accordance with the estimated budget breakdown identified under Annex I of the Partner Agreement for staff costs. The exception is the last reporting period when the reimbursement will be made after the final 10% balance transfer of funding from the EACEA.

Payment for work conducted for the implementation of the project will be paid in arrears after the submission of the evidence to support the request for payment within 15 days after the end of the Period for which the report is being sent (see Chapter "Technical and Financial reporting"). The beneficiary will provide the receipt for the amount requested.

For the calculation of the amount to be reimbursed the following must be produced:

- 1) Scanned copy of the Contract of Employment covering the period in which claim is being made. The contract of employment should be sent for the First Period only if it is a permanent contract. This could be either an existing contract or a document signed by the Legal Representative stating that the person is employed in the organization from the date to – permanent -. If it is a temporary contract, then the period of employment must be clearly stated (From-date to date). Originals must be kept in the partner organisation for 5 years.
- 2) Scanned copy of the Time-Sheet where the activities conducted are described. (The template is available on the EACEA webpage). Originals must be kept in the partner organisation for 5 years.
- 3) Scanned copy of the Joint Declaration form dully completed. (The template is available on the EACEA webpage). Originals must be kept in the partner organisation for 5 years.

8.3. Reimbursement modalities for travel and costs of stay

This budget heading contributes to the costs of travel and stay for staff* and students participating in activities directly related to the achievement of the project. These costs are covered on the basis of unit costs (see section 3.3 of the Guidelines for the Use of the Grant).

** The existence of a formal employment relationship between the employee and the beneficiary institutions is required in order to participate to any travel.*

The unit costs to be applied are those defined in Annex I of the Partnership Agreement. Prior written authorisation from the Agency is required for activities and their corresponding travel costs and costs of stay which are not taking place in or between countries represented in the partnership.

Any category of staff (e.g. managers, RTT, technical and administrative staff) under official contract with the beneficiary institutions and involved in the project may benefit from financial support for travel and subsistence provided it is directly necessary to the achievement of the objectives of the project.



Except in the case of existence of a national law which states the contrary, beneficiary institutions should not suspend payment of normal salaries to their staff during time spent travelling within the framework of the project.

Each Partner university will cover the travel cost and cost of stay in the limits indicated in the Partner Agreements.

The following supporting documents must be retained with the project accounts:

- A duly filled-in Individual Travel Report. Originals or scanned copies of the Individual travelling reports completed using the template available on the webpage of the project. Originals must be kept in the partner organisation for 5 years.
- Supporting documentation will have to be attached to each Individual Travel report:
 - Scanned copies of the boarding passes for flights or train tickets glued on a A4 white paper. This could be scanned and sent by email as digital copies. Originals must be kept in the partner organisation for 5 years.
 - If dates of travelling are not shown on the travelling documents then scanned copies of invoices must be sent to the coordinator. Originals must be kept in the partner organisation for 5 years. EACEA is not interested in the cost but in the dates of the travelling to show that the participant has actually travelled during the period claimed.
 - Scanned copies of invoices for accommodation. Originals must be kept in the partner organisation for 5 years.

It is a responsibility of the beneficiary to keep the supporting documents or submit the mobility reports and the supporting documents to the coordinator upon the requirement, otherwise the amount spent will be regarded as co-financing.

8.4. Project documents

In order to save time and labour and to facilitate the transmission of documents, partners must produce scanned copies of the documents to be submitted to the coordinator. Scanned copies, of good quality, are acceptable as official documents.

However, partners are responsible for keeping the originals and are obliged to send them by post to the coordinator or EACEA if requested.

9. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

9.1. Basic principles of reporting

There are two main purposes of the reporting. The formal reporting, by ASEM, provides the necessary information to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) to



assure them that our project is being implemented according to the Grant Agreement and that payments should therefore be released. The annual reports provide information to the PCT (Project Coordination Team) to allow them to support project partners with implementation.

Reporting also helps us to view our progress objectively.

The annual (technical and financial) reports are linked to transfer of grant to partners from ASEM. The Final Report though must be approved by EACEA before the final payment to the coordinator is released. No report is required to secure the advance payment.

The reports should accurately reflect Project Partner (PP) progress during the reporting period, highlighting any key issues and providing justification for any deviations from the Description of the project as set out in Annex I of Grant Agreement.

It is significantly faster to prepare the technical reports if information is added to them at the time when the activity takes place. This can always be amended later but it makes sure that the recommendations for corrective action and for improving the programme are not lost. Equally, the Work plan should be updated whenever necessary changes are identified and submitted along with the annual report if there are any changes. All changes must be justified in writing.

9.2. Standards of all reports

All reports should be typed and should be in English. Copy of each report and supporting documents should be provided to the PCT, as well as an electronic version. The report forms will be sent to each partner.

9.3. Reporting schedule

Project partners are required to produce technical and financial reports:

Report no.	Eligible costs by	Report due date
1 st intermediate report	14 July 2021	31 July 2021
2 nd intermediate report	14 January 2022	31 January 2022
3 rd intermediate report	14 July 2022	31 July 2022
4 th intermediate report	14 January 2023	31 January 2023
5 th intermediate report	14 July 2023	31 July 2023
Final report	14 January 2024	31 January 2024

Reports (two in total) prepared by the Coordinator to be delivered to EACEA:

- EACEA Progress Report – 15.09.2022
- EACEA Final report – 15.01.2024



The partner has to respect the reporting deadlines (also stated in the Partnership Agreement), and submit their Report with supporting documents on validation of expenditure to the project coordinator in due time as requested, in 10 (ten) working days. If those are not submitted to the coordinator within the set deadline, they will not be included in the progress report of the project that coordinator is responsible to deliver to the Executive Agency.

9.4. Partner reports

The partners' reports are linked to a payment. Information contained in the reports will be reviewed as part of the monitoring process. It is not intended that these reports will provide all the details of what is happening on the project. The reports focus on activities and results. If further details are required for clarification, then PP will be contacted separately.

The Coordinator can only submit Intermediate and Final reports, as well as financial statements to the EACEA based on inputs from project partners. Therefore, in order to provide adequate information on the progress of the project, each Project partner has to submit the partner report to the Coordinator consisting of:

- **Technical report**, describing the activities carried out and their results during the reporting period, and
- **Financial report**, presenting the costs incurred during the reporting period.

The intermediate reports of the partners will be reviewed by PCT team and approved by the Coordinator, taking into consideration following assessment criteria:

- Conformity of the expenditures with the budget of the project;
- Eligibility of the expenditures;
- Correct use of the procurement procedures, whenever required;
- Correctness and completeness of all supporting documents;
- Correctness of the calculations and applied exchange rates;
- That any changes which occurred between budget categories are eligible and justified;
- All copies of the annual reports must be signed in original by the appointed contact person of partner institution;
- Expenditures must be in conformity, including full eligibility, with the allocated Budget in the Partnership Agreement.

In case that information in Annual Report are not complete or justified, the PCT team will help and make recommendations on how this situation can be rectified prior to the final approval of the Annual report by the Coordinator. The Report approved in this way is the basis for the transfer of next instalment to the partner institution.



9.4.1. *Technical report*

The Technical reports should provide the clear picture on the progress of project activities, time and quality of deliverables and results, to what extent the progress indicators are achieved, as well as introduction of changes into the Work plan (if any). For this purpose, the Technical report is structured as follows:

- Statistics and indicators
- Table of achieved/planned results,
- Statement of costs incurred.

Apart from the statistical and financial information related to the reporting period, the major part of the Technical report is consisted of the Table of achieved/planned results (one table per work package), with following describing elements:

1. Activities carried out and indicators of achievement,
2. Planned activities and indicators for progress,
3. Any proposed changes (people involved, budget, remaining activities...).

EACEA has provided a template for the technical reporting:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/beneficiaries-space/capacity-building-in-field-higher-education-2020_en

9.4.2. *Financial report*

When preparing the Financial report, the project partners are strongly advised to use the Excel file provided by the EACEA Final Financial Statement, which can be found here:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/beneficiaries-space/capacity-building-in-field-higher-education-2020_en

9.4.3. *Exchange Rate*

The Partner financial reports should be drawn up in Euro. In case that Project Partner is from State which has not adopted the Euro as their currency, the Project Partner shall convert into Euro the amounts of expenditure presented in the cash-flow tables that correspond to the invoices in national currency. Those amounts have to be included in all other tables of the Financial report.

Any conversion into euro of actual costs incurred in other currencies shall be made by the partners at the monthly accounting rate established by the Commission and published on the webpage https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/how-eu-funding-works/information-contractors-and-beneficiaries/exchange-rate-infoeuro_en.



9.5. Request for payment

The Coordinator has provided all partners with the appropriate form for issuing the transfer of funds to the partner institution – Request for Payment (the template is sent to all project’s partners). Along with the Request for Payment, the partner has to submit the report whose approval will be the basis for issuing the next instalment. Deadlines for submitting the Partner Reports are given in section 9.3 of this Manual.