

Erasmus+ - *What are the main challenges in implementing Erasmus+ projects (Strategic partnerships, knowledge alliance, capacity building)? How might their implementation be fostered in the Erasmus+ Programme?*



Brief background:

1. Not all UN representatives have been involved with planning and implementing Erasmus+ projects in their universities.
2. In the UN universities, the projects in question have been initiated and written by both academics and administrative personnel.
3. The universities aiming for better success in project funding have put special efforts in project writing and specific grant centres have been established to facilitate project writing across the options of the Erasmus+ Programme.
4. Some projects, such as knowledge alliance, capacity building, may sometimes be seen as not too ambitious to be pursued by universities' top-management, thus the institutions may not put much efforts on these projects.



Overall suggestions for better implementation:

1. Financial resources are available for carrying out the various activities. Add funding for project compiling, writing and pre-funding networking between partners.
2. Projects' objectives are commonly appreciated. Provide better designed and less heavy guidelines and instructions for project writing and implementation.
3. Application calls are announced on time. Make application process less technical and detailed to avoid losing people's interest due to time-consuming application process. Make the rules and regulations on budget planning and re-allocation between activities better understandable.
4. The projects funded serve well towards experience sharing. Provide a well-functioning IT platform that supports projects' sustainability – the one that helps with dissemination and searching/filtering by a project topic, coordinator(s), partner(s) etc.
5. Project rules tend to conflict with internal rules and regulations of participating universities. Have the financial guidelines and instructions setting limits, restrictions to the universities' rights to charge overhead or any other costs from project funding.



Project specific suggestions for better implementation:

1. In case of Capacity Building, extend a project-running cycle to allow the projects full carry out their goals and potential.
2. In case of Strategic Partnership, review whether current application process to National Agencies supports the ultimate goals of this funding scheme – strategic partnerships. Due to very high competition in some countries, project teams tend to focus more on countries with a higher likelihood getting funded, rather than on partnerships based on present or future strategic cooperation.



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