

ANNEX III – FINANCIAL AND CONTRACTUAL RULES

[This Annex refers to **Key Action 1 – Youth Participation Activities**]

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I. RULES APPLICABLE TO BUDGET CATEGORIES BASED ON UNIT CONTRIBUTIONS

I.1 Conditions for eligibility of unit contributions

Where the grant takes the form of a unit contribution, the number of units must comply with the following conditions:

- the units must be actually used or produced in the period set out in Article I.2.2 of the Special Conditions;
- the units must be necessary for implementing the Project or produced by it;
- the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation specified in this Annex.

I.2 Calculation and supporting documents for unit contributions

A. Travel

By default, the place of origin is understood as the place where the sending organisation is located and the place of the venue as the place where the receiving organisation is located. If a different place of origin or venue is reported, the beneficiary must provide the reason for this difference.

In case no travel took place or it was funded from other EU sources than the Erasmus+ Programme (e.g. a mobility participant is already at the place of the venue in relation to another activity than the one funded from the Agreement), the beneficiary must report that situation accordingly in the Erasmus+ reporting and management tool for each mobility concerned. In this case, no grant support for travel will be awarded.

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount for travel costs: the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the number of participants, accompanying persons, decision makers and facilitators per distance band, by the unit contribution applicable to the distance band concerned and type of travel (standard or green), as specified in Annex IV of the Agreement. The unit contribution per distance band represents the grant amount for a return travel between the place of departure and the place of arrival. In case of green travel modes (train, bus, shared car), the green travel unit contributions apply, otherwise the standard travel unit contributions apply.

In the case of itinerant activities, the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the number of participants per the distance band corresponding to the total of sum of the distances between individual venues.

For the establishment of the distance band applicable, the beneficiary must indicate the distance of a one-way travel using the on-line distance calculator available on the Commission's website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_en.htm.

The beneficiary will calculate in the Erasmus+ reporting and management tool the grant amounts for travel based on the applicable unit contribution rates.

- (b) Triggering event: the event that conditions the entitlement to the grant is that the participant has actually undertaken the activity.
- (c) Supporting documents

Proof of attendance of the activity in the form of a declaration signed by the participant, by the receiving organisation, and specifying the name of the participant, the purpose of the activity, as well as its starting and end date.

In addition, in case of use of sustainable means of transport (green travel): a declaration on honour signed by the person receiving the travel grant and the sending organisation will serve as supporting documentation. Participants should be informed of their duty to keep the proof of travel (transport tickets) and to provide it to the beneficiary, if requested.

B. Individual support

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the number of days per participant and accompanying person including decision makers, group leaders and facilitators by the unit contribution applicable per day for the receiving country concerned, as specified in Annex IV of the Agreement. Travel days may be added if relevant for a specific activity, and up to the limits specified in the Programme Guide.
 - In case of an interruption during the stay, the period of the interruption will not be counted when calculating the individual support grant. In case of interruption due to "force majeure", the participant must be allowed to continue the activities after the interruption (if possible within the conditions established in this Agreement).

- In case of termination by the participant of the agreement with the beneficiary due to "force majeure", the participant must be entitled to receive the amount of the grant corresponding at least to the actual duration of the mobility period. Any remaining funds must be refunded to the beneficiary, except if agreed differently by both parties.
- (b) Triggering event: the event that conditions the entitlement to the grant is that the participant has actually undertaken the activity for the specified period.
- (c) Supporting documents:

Proof of attendance of the activity in the form of a declaration signed by the participant and by the receiving organisation, specifying the name of the participant, the purpose of the activity, as well as its starting and end date.

- (d) Reporting:

Participants in mobility activities unless de-selected by the beneficiary due to the limited scope/length of their participation in mobility activities] must provide their feedback in terms of factual information and their appreciation of the activity period, its preparation and follow-up. The participants must use the standard on-line questionnaire provided by the European Commission (the participant report) when submitting their feedback. Members of the informal group implementing the project shall fill in an online questionnaire regardless of whether they participated in a mobility activity or not. Insofar as the members of the informal group participated in one or several mobility activities, the on-line questionnaire filled by each of them shall cover the entire project, i.e. they shall not fill in separate questionnaires for each mobility activity.

C1. Project management costs

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the number of months per project by the unit contribution applicable as specified in Annex IV of the Agreement.
- (b) Triggering event: the event that conditions the entitlement to the grant is that the beneficiary has actually implemented the project.
- (c) Supporting documents: proof of project implementation will be provided in the form of a description of the undertaken activities in the final report, including a timetable of each of the mobility activities and events implemented.

(d) Reporting:

- the beneficiary must report on the Youth Participation Activities project (for informal groups of young people: coordinator on behalf of the informal group of young people) and provide information on the implemented project activities in the final report;
- members of informal group(s) of young people implementing the project must report via an on-line questionnaire providing their feedback on their participation in the project.

C2. Coaching costs

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the working days of the coach by the unit contribution applicable for the country concerned as specified in Annex IV of the Agreement. A cap limiting the amount awarded for coaching costs will be set at maximum 12 days per project.
- (b) Triggering event: the event that conditions the entitlement to the grant is that the coordinator is an informal group of young people AND that the informal group(s) of young people have used a coach/several coaches for the purposes described in Annex II of the Agreement.
- (c) Supporting documents:
 - proof of involvement of the coach in the project will be provided in the form of a description of the undertaken activities in the final report.
 - proof of the time spent on the project by the coach will be provided in the form of a time sheet including the name of the coach, the dates and the total number of days of work of the coach for the project, duly signed by the coach.
- (d) Reporting: the coordinator must report on the Youth Participation Activities project on behalf of the informal group of young people and include information on the number of days of work and the role/involvement of the coach in the project in the final report.

C3. Additional funding for physical events in YPA projects (youth participation events support)

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the total number of physical participations in project events (i.e. regardless of whether

the same participant will have physically participated in one or more project events) by the unit contribution applicable as specified in Annex IV of the Agreement. The total number of participations considered for the calculation of Youth Participation events support includes the number of participants physically present during the events, with the exception of staff of the participating organisation(s)/ members of the informal group(s) of young people and facilitators (but including decision makers, if relevant).

- (b) Triggering event: the event that conditions the entitlement to the grant is that the participant has actually physically attended the activity at its venue.
- (c) Supporting documents: Proof of attendance of the activity in the form of a declaration signed by the participants and receiving organisation, specifying the name of the participant (and the name and address of the sending organisation of the participant, if relevant), the purpose of the activity, as well as its starting and end date. Detailed agenda of the event and any documents used or distributed during the event.
- (d) Reporting: On behalf of the Project as a whole, the coordinator must report on the description of the Youth Participation Event(s), the results, venue and numbers of local (and if relevant) international participants.

D. Inclusion support for organisations

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the total number of participants with fewer opportunities in mobility activities by the unit contribution applicable, as specified in Annex IV of the Agreement.
- (b) Triggering event: the event that conditions the entitlement to the grant is that the participant has actually undertaken the activity, the participating organisation has organised the mobility for the participant.
- (c) Supporting documents: proof of attendance of the activity in the form of a declaration signed by the receiving organisation specifying the name of the participant, the purpose of the activity, as well as its starting and end date.

In addition: documentation specified by the relevant National Agency as relevant proof that the participant belongs to one of the categories of fewer opportunities listed in the Programme Guide.

II. RULES APPLICABLE FOR THE BUDGET CATEGORIES BASED ON REIMBURSEMENT OF ACTUAL INCURRED COSTS

II.1. Conditions for the reimbursement of actual costs

Where the grant takes the form of a reimbursement of actual costs, the following conditions must apply:

- (a) they are incurred by the beneficiary;
- (b) they are incurred in the period set out in Article I.2.2.;
- (c) they are indicated in the estimated budget set out in Annex II or eligible following budget transfers in accordance with Article I.17;
- (d) they are incurred in connection with the Project as described in Annex II and are necessary for its implementation;
- (e) they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular are recorded in the beneficiary's accounting records and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the beneficiary is established and with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices;
- (f) they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;
- (g) they are reasonable, justified, and comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency;
- (h) they are not covered by a unit contribution as specified in Section I of this Annex.

II.2. Calculation of actual cost

A. Inclusion support for participants

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant is a reimbursement of 100% of the eligible costs actually incurred.

- (b) Eligible costs: costs directly related to participants with fewer opportunities and their accompanying persons that are additional to costs supported by a unit contribution as specified in Section I of this Annex. Costs related to travel and subsistence may be requested under this budget category if a grant for the same participants has not been requested through budget categories Travel and Individual support.
- (c) Supporting documents: proof of payment of the related costs on the basis of invoices specifying the name and address of the body issuing the invoice, the amount and currency, the date of the invoice, and if relevant a documentation signed by the receiving organisation specifying the confirmed start and end date of the stay of the accompanying person.
- (d) Reporting: for each cost item in this budget category, the beneficiary must report the type of costs and the real amount of costs incurred.

B. Exceptional costs

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant is a reimbursement of 80% of the following eligible costs actually incurred, with the exception of the cost related to visa, residence permits and vaccinations and medical certifications, which shall be reimbursed at 100%]
- (b) Eligible costs:
 - Costs relating to a pre-financing guarantee lodged by the beneficiary where such guarantee is required by the NA, as specified in Article I.4.2 of the Agreement.
 - Costs of travel in the most economical but also effective way for eligible participants for which the standard funding rule does not cover at least 70% of the eligible costs. The exceptional costs for expensive travel replaces the separate travel grant.
 - Costs related to visa, residence permits and vaccinations and medical certifications.
- (c) Supporting documents:

- Proof of the cost of the financial guarantee issued by the body providing the guarantee to the beneficiary, specifying the name and address of the body issuing the financial guarantee, the amount and currency of the cost of the guarantee, and providing the date and signature of the legal representative of the body issuing the guarantee.
- In the case of travel costs: proof of payment of the related costs on the basis of invoices specifying the name and address of the body issuing the invoice, the amount and currency, the date of the invoice and the travel route.
- In the case of travel costs related to visa, residence permits and vaccinations and medical certifications: proof of payment of the related costs on the basis of invoices specifying the name and address of the body issuing the invoice, the amount and currency, and the date of the invoice.]

III. CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- a) The beneficiary must ensure that the activities of the project for which grant support was awarded are eligible in accordance with the rules set out in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.
- b) Travel time will not be considered when determining compliance with minimum eligible duration of mobility activities specified in the Programme Guide.
- c) Activities that are not compliant with the rules set out in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide (as complemented by the rules set out in this Annex) must be declared ineligible by the NA and the grant amounts corresponding to those activities must be recovered in full. The recovery must cover all budget categories for which a grant was awarded in relation to the activity that is declared ineligible.

IV. FINAL REPORT

The final report will be assessed in conjunction with the participant reports, and other project documentation required by this grant agreement and the Erasmus quality standards. The result of the evaluation will be a score out of maximum 100 points. A common set of evaluation criteria will be used to measure the extent to which the project was implemented in line with the approved grant application and the Erasmus quality standards.

The beneficiary must submit the final report after the project end date or whenever the foreseen activities have been completed.

V. GRANT REDUCTION FOR POOR, PARTIAL OR LATE IMPLEMENTATION

Poor, partial or late implementation of the Project may be established by the NA on the basis of the final report submitted by the beneficiary (including reports from individual participants taking part in the mobility activities).

In addition, the NA may also consider information received from any other relevant source, proving that the Project is not implemented in accordance with the contractual provisions. Other sources of information may include monitoring visits, accreditation interim reports, desk checks or on-the-spot checks undertaken by the NA.

If the final report scores below 60 points in total, the NA may reduce the final grant amount for project management costs on the basis of poor, partial or late implementation of the action even if all activities reported were eligible and actually took place. In that case, a grant reduction may correspond to:

- 10% if the final report scores at least 50 points and below 60 points;
- 25% if the final report scores at least 40 points and below 50 points;
- 50% if the final report scores at least 25 points and below 40 points;
- 75% if the final report scores below 25 points.

VI. CHECKS OF GRANT BENEFICIARY AND PROVISION OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

In accordance with Article II.27 of the Annex I of the Agreement, the beneficiary may be subject to checks and audits in relation to the Agreement [Checks and audits aim at verifying whether the beneficiary managed the grant in respect of the rules set out in the Agreement, in order to establish the final grant amount to which the beneficiary is entitled.

A final report check must be performed for all projects. In addition, the project may be subject to further desk check or on-the-spot check if the project Agreement is included in the NA sample required by the European Commission or if the NA has selected it for a targeted check based on its risk assessment.

For final report check and desk check, the beneficiary must supply to the NA physical or electronic copies of supporting documents specified in the section I.2, unless the NA makes a request for originals to be delivered. The NA must return original supporting documents to the beneficiary upon its analysis thereof. If the beneficiary is legally not authorised to send original documents for final report or desk checks, a copy of the supporting documents may be sent instead.

For any type of check the beneficiary may be requested by the NA to provide additional supporting documents or evidence that are typically required for another type of check, as specified in Article II.27 of the General Conditions.

The different checks must include the following:

a) Final report check

The final report check is undertaken at final report stage at the NA premises in order to establish the final grant amount to which the beneficiary is entitled.

The beneficiary's final report to the National Agency must include the following information (if applicable within the action format and project concerned):

- Unit contributions consumed for budget categories:
 - Travel support
 - Individual support
 - Youth participation events support
 - Coaching costs
 - Inclusion support related to mobilities
 - Preparatory visits
- Actual costs incurred for budget categories:
 - Inclusion support
 - Exceptional costs

b) Desk check

Desk check is an in-depth check of supporting documents at the NA premises that may be conducted at or after the final report stage. Upon request, the beneficiary must submit to the National Agency the supporting documents for all budget categories.

c) On-the-spot checks

On-the-spot checks are performed by the NA at the premises of the beneficiary or at any other premises relevant for the execution of the Project. During on-the-spot checks, the beneficiary must make original supporting documentation for all budget categories

available for review by the National Agency, and must enable the National Agency access to the recording of project expenses in the beneficiary's accounts.

On-the-spot checks can take the following forms:

- **On-the-spot check during project implementation:** this check is undertaken during the implementation of the Project in order for the National Agency to directly verify the reality and eligibility of all project activities and participants
- **On-the-spot check after completion of the project:** this check is undertaken after the end of the Project and usually after the final report check.