

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

APEL - EAC/A03/2014

Erasmus+ Vocational Education and Training Mobility Charter 2015-2020

Part I

1. Introduction, Background and Objectives

This specific Call is based on Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC Text with EEA relevance.

One of the objectives of the Programme is to increase quality mobility within vocational education and training (VET) and support the internationalisation of VET organisations.

The Work Programme for Erasmus + for 2014 (C(2013)8193) as adopted by the Commission and the Programme Committee foresees a "VET Mobility Charter" for the accreditation of bodies with a strong record of successfully organising high-quality mobility for VET learners and staff.

The Erasmus + VET Mobility Charter is intended to encourage organisations that have track records of proven quality in organising VET mobility for learners and staff to further develop their international strategies by giving them the possibility to apply using a simplified application procedure. It thus aims to simplify the procedures through which sending organisations apply for funding, organise mobility for learners and staff and report on their activities, whilst at the same time rewarding, promoting and further developing quality in mobility.

Internationalisation is not just the furthering of learning abroad by embedding mobility activities into curricula, but also developing international approaches throughout the sending organisation, for example by networking with bodies in

other countries, promoting the learning of foreign languages and looking beyond national VET approaches.

Sending organisations and consortia of sending organisations that hold the Charter will be highlighted in communication on Erasmus+ VET mobility, in order to make more visible to companies in Europe sources of trainees coming from an organisational background of quality.

Please, for more details, refer to the Procedural Annex which is an integral part of this Call.

It should be noted that VET mobility in the Erasmus + Programme is also open to new bodies and smaller institutions and indeed other applicant bodies which may not wish to be accredited, but which nevertheless would like to participate in transnational VET mobility. These organisations should submit applications for mobility project funding in the usual way through the yearly Erasmus+ Call for proposals.

Quality standards (as in the European Quality Charter and the VET Quality Commitment) have to be maintained by organisations holding the VET Mobility Charter and they will be monitored by their Erasmus+ National Agency during the Programme. A failure to meet the selection criteria of the yearly Erasmus + Calls (e.g. the financial and operational capacity checks) will result in the National Agencies withdrawing the Charter. National Agencies also have the full right to withdraw the Charter in case of poor quality mobility, bad financial management, low mobility numbers, fraud or a declining focus in the internationalisation strategy.

The VET Mobility Charter is awarded for the full duration of the Erasmus + Programme and, as explained above, is subject to monitoring.

2. Eligible applicants and Eligibility criteria

Public or private organisations that are active in vocational education and training, including consortia, established in one of the following countries are eligible to apply for a VET Mobility Charter:

— the Member States of the European Union,

— the EFTA-EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

A consortium is defined as a group of at least 3 organisations active in VET, all established in the same country. The purpose of mobility consortia is to facilitate the organisation of mobility activities and to offer added value in terms of quality of activities compared to what each individual VET sending institution (eg VET school) would be able to deliver alone. The member organisations of a VET mobility consortium are expected to pool or share services related to the organisation of mobility and develop their internationalisation together through mutual cooperation and sharing of contacts. Joint activities typically include common strategic outlooks, joint administrative, contractual and financial management of mobility, joint selection and / or preparation and mentoring of participants, as well as, where relevant, a centralised point for finding enterprises and for matching enterprises and participants.

To be eligible, the applicant or consortium has to have successfully completed a certain number of Leonardo da Vinci mobility projects under the former Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013. Please consult the table of past-performance thresholds on pages 7 and 8 of this document to see what the minimum past performance criteria are for each country.

To be eligible, applicants must be organisations active in the field of vocational education and training such as upper secondary vocational schools/institutes/centres, post-secondary VET institutes, enterprises (small, medium, large public or private) that carry out on the job training, including apprenticeships, social partners like Chambers of Commerce, Professional Associations and Trade Unions, research institutes, foundations, non-profit organisations, NGOs, and bodies providing career guidance and counselling.

A consortium of VET organisations can also be awarded a VET Mobility Charter provided that each organisation has a proven track record of VET mobility under the Lifelong Learning Programme. Please consult the table of past-performance thresholds on pages 7 and 8 of this document to see what the minimum past performance criteria are for each country.

Eligibility Criteria

- The participating organisations are located in an Erasmus+ Programme Country;
- The participating organisations are active in the field of vocational education and training;
- The participating organisations have successfully carried out a certain number of Leonardo da Vinci (VET) mobility projects funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme. Please consult the table of past-performance thresholds on pages 7 and 8 of this document to see what the minimum past performance criteria are for each country;
- All members of any national consortium in the application form are from the same country as the main applicant
- If it is a consortium, the number of members of a national consortium is at least 3;
- The application is made using the official electronic application form;
- The application form is completed in full, including annexes where necessary;
- The application form is filled in one of the official EU languages, with the exception of applications submitted to National Agencies in the EFTA/EEA and candidate countries. These applications may be drafted in the national language of the applicant;
- The application is submitted to the National Agency of the country in which the applicant organisation is established;
- The application is submitted before the deadline.

3. Deadline for the submission of applications and indicative date of publishing selection results

The deadline for submitting applications for the VET Mobility Charter is 22 September 2014, 12hr00 midday CET.

The date of publishing selection results will be at the latest 1st December 2014.

4. Timetable

The deadline for submitting applications will be Monday 22nd September 2014, 12hr00 midday CET.

The evaluation of applications will be made by the end of November. Information to applicants as to whether they have been awarded the Charter will be given at the latest by 1st December 2014 in order for them to prepare their funding applications for VET mobility under the 2015 Erasmus + Call.

| Stages | Date and time or indicative period |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Publication of the call | May 2014 |
| Deadline for submitting applications | 22/09/2014 – 12hr midday CET |
| Evaluation period | 22/09/2014 – 28/11/2014 |
| Information to applicants and awarding of the VET Mobility Charter at the latest | 1 st December 2014 |

Note that the award of the Charter is not in itself an award of funding. Charter holders are reminded that in order to obtain funding, applications still need to be made under yearly Erasmus + General Calls. Charter holders will benefit from a simplified funding application and reporting process.

5. Exclusion Criteria

The purpose of exclusion criteria is to eliminate from participation and award those applicants which are in situations that may give rise to doubts about their future existence and actual ability to successfully and regularly implement the mobility activities for which the Erasmus + VET Mobility Charter will be awarded.

Applicants must therefore sign a declaration on their honour certifying that they are not in one of the situations referred to in articles 106(1) and 107 to

109 of the Financial Regulation¹, signing the relevant form that is part of the application form accompanying the Call for the Erasmus + VET Mobility Charter and available at http://ec.europa.eu/education/calls/apel-eac-s01-2014_en.htm

6. Selection Procedure, Award Criteria and Assessment

Selection Procedure:

Financial capacity and operational capacity checks will be carried out at a later stage when yearly applications are made for funding according to the rules in the Erasmus + Programme Guide established for that given year.

Award Criteria:

The VET Charter will be awarded based on the following award criteria and assessment rules. These are further detailed in the Procedural Annex which is an integral part of this Call.

1. Past performance (experience and achievements of transnational VET learner mobility – max 50/100 points
2. Internationalisation strategy: institutional strategy, developments and commitment to transnational VET mobility – max 20/100 points
3. Organisational issues and quality management - max 20/100 points
4. Future developments – max 10/100 points

The threshold for award of the VET Mobility Charter is: (a) scoring at least 50% for each of the four award criteria. Failure to reach this score in any category will result in the rejection of the application, and (b) scoring an overall mark of 70 / 100.

¹ REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002

7. PUBLICITY

The Commission and National Agencies will publish on their websites the following information about accredited holders of the VET Mobility Charter:

Name of the Charter holding organisation, including consortia members, and its (their) website(s) and the sectors involved in the organisation's(s') mobility where relevant.

8. Procedure for the Submission of Applications

Contact the National Agency in the country where you are established for more information and access to the application form:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/national_agencies_en.htm

9. Table of National Past Performance Thresholds

(Abbreviations: LLP = Lifelong Learning Programme; LDV= Leonardo da Vinci; KA1 = Erasmus + Key Action 1; VET = vocational education and training; IVT = initial vocational training; PLM = people on the labour market; VETPRO = VET professionals)

| Country | National Past Performance threshold |
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| Austria | Having completed at least 5 LDV mobility projects funded under LLP, having spent at least 95 % of the approved funding in every LLP - LDV mobility project carried out and having sent out more than 200 participants in own LDV projects under LLP. |
| Belgium (French language community) | Having scored at least 75 points out of 100 for the last grant application. Having completed successfully 2 LDV mobility projects assessed as “good” or “very good” under the LLP and spent at least 85 % of the approved funding. |
| Belgium (German language community) | Having completed successfully 2 LDV mobility projects funded by the LLP |
| Belgium (Dutch language community) | Having completed successfully 3 LDV mobility projects funded by the LLP |
| Bulgaria | Having completed successfully at least 4 LDV mobility projects (IVT, VETPRO) under the LLP; having sent |

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| | successfully at least 80 participants (excluding the accompanying persons) in the above-mentioned 4 projects. |
| Croatia | Having completed successfully at least 3 LDV mobility projects (excluding participation as sending partners in consortia) out of which at least one IVT mobility project and all of which involving cooperation with receiving partners that are either direct host companies where the training takes place or VET schools |
| Cyprus | Having completed successfully 3 LDV mobility projects funded by the LLP |
| Czech Republic | Having completed at least 5 LDV Mobility projects for IVT funded by the LLP or being awarded a LDV Quality Award in the framework of the LLP. |
| Denmark | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Previous experience with the LDV mobility projects in LLP. To qualify for a VET Mobility Charter the applicant organisation must have completed successfully at least 3 mobility projects. 2. In addition, the applicant organisation should have received one Erasmus+: VET (KA1) grant with a score of minimum 80 points out of 100. 3. Proven track record of budget absorption. The applicant organisation must have utilized a minimum of 90% of the total budgets in LDV mobility projects approved in 2010 and 2011. |
| Estonia | Having completed successfully 9 IVT and/or VETPRO LDV mobility projects funded by the LLP. |
| Finland | Having successfully completed three LDV mobility projects since the beginning of the LLP Programme, of which at least one has been finalised within the last two years. |
| France | <p>1/ Having successfully completed at least two mobility projects from the LDV Programme (2007-2013) and/or from the Erasmus + , Key Action 1, vocational education and training.</p> <p>2/ Having a budget absorption rate of 100% for the European funding of the last closed contract of LDV mobility or Erasmus + Key Action 1 vocational education and training mobility.</p> |
| Germany | Since selection round 2008 at least three finalized (by 01.07.2014) LDV mobility projects of “very good” or “good” |

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| | quality that have covered the target groups IVT or VETPRO, or one project financially supported in the framework of the LDV Mobility Certificate in 2013. |
| Greece | Having successfully completed 5 mobility projects funded by the LLP and having been given an average score of 80 or more out of 100 points in the evaluation of those projects. |
| Hungary | Having successfully completed 3 LDV (later on Erasmus+ VET) mobility projects, of which at least one has been finalized within the last 3 years (since 2011 project round). |
| Iceland | Having completed 3 IVT and/or VETPRO LDV projects funded by the LLP (in the period of 2007 - 2013) |
| Ireland | The threshold for applying for an Erasmus + VET Mobility Charter is a minimum of either One successfully completed two year project under either the LLP or Erasmus + Or Two successfully completed one year projects under either the LLP or Erasmus +. |
| Italy | Having completed successfully 4 LdV mobility projects (IVT/PLM/VETPRO) funded by the LLP. |
| Latvia | Having completed at least 3 LDV projects funded by the LLP and having sent out more than 50 participants in those projects in total. |
| Liechtenstein | Having completed successfully 3 LDV mobility projects funded by the LLP. |
| Lithuania | Having completed successfully 8 IVT and/or VETPRO LDV mobility projects funded by the LLP. |
| Luxembourg | Having successfully completed 4 LDV mobility projects funded by the LLP, the average budget consumption of the last 4 finalised LDV mobility projects has to be of at least 85%. |
| former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | <i>Having completed successfully 2 LDV mobility projects funded by the LLP.</i> |
| Malta | Having completed successfully 2 LDV mobility projects |

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| | funded by the LLP. |
| Netherlands | Having completed successfully 3 LDV mobility projects funded by the LLP. |
| Norway | County Councils can apply for Erasmus+ VET Mobility Charter. County Councils that successfully have organized a minimum of 3 VET Mobility projects funded by LLP/Erasmus+ are eligible to apply for Erasmus+ VET Mobility Charter. |
| Poland | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The beneficiary completed, according to the LLP rules, 3 LdV mobility projects, finalised in the period 2007-2013, regardless of their budgets and number of participants. or 2. The beneficiary completed, according to the LLP rules, 2 LdV mobility projects, finalised in the period 2007-2013. In such case, the total approved budget of the 2 reported projects must be equal or higher than 50 000 EUR. |
| Portugal | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having previous experience with LDV mobility projects in LLP; 2. Having at least three mobility projects funded under LLP with at least 10 mobilities each; 3. With classification of “very good quality” (170 points) each upon completion; 4. Out of which at least two projects in the last two call years (2012 and 2013). |
| Romania | <p>A. For a single applicant organisation (ie. where the candidate for the Charter is a single organisation):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - having successfully implemented at least 7 LDV IVT projects (*) (at least 50 mobilities in total) and for at least 5 of them the training agreements should have been written according to ECVET terms. |

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| | <p>B. For consortia applying for Charter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - having successfully implemented at least 10 LDV IVT and VETPRO projects (*) (cumulative for all partners in the consortium) and for at least 7 of them the training agreements should have been written according to ECVET terms; - at least two organizations within the consortium having successfully implemented (*) (each of them, as coordinator or partner) at least two transnational cooperation projects funded from the LLP, but from two different other programmes apart from Leonardo da Vinci (Comenius and Grundtvig) <p>(*) The formulation "having successfully implemented" refers to projects finalized before applying for the Charter (including the payment of the balance)</p> |
| Slovakia | Having completed successfully a minimum of 5 LDV mobility projects, out of which at least 4 IVT, funded by the LLP in last 5 years (2009 – 2013). |
| Slovenia | Having completed 3 IVT and/or VETPRO LDV mobility projects funded by the LLP, of which at least two have been marked as good practice. |
| Spain | Having successfully completed (with a positive final evaluation report), at least 4 IVT and/or VETPRO mobility projects funded by the LLP. |
| Sweden | Having successfully completed two LdV projects funded under the LLP (including Partnerships and Transfer of Innovation) |
| Turkey | Having successfully completed two LdV mobility projects funded by the LLP, of which at least one is an IVT project. |
| United Kingdom | Having completed successfully a minimum of 4 IVT and/or VETPRO LDV mobility projects funded by the LLP. |