

Erasmus+ AEF-Europe - Belgian National Agency for French-speaking community (BE01)

KA171 – International outgoing and incoming mobility supported by external policy funds
Inclusion and diversity
Call 2023

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INTRODUCTION

The Erasmus+ Programme aims at promoting equity and inclusion by facilitating access to participants With Fewer Opportunities compared to their peers. To meet this objective in international credit mobility, it is essential that Partners take inclusion and diversity into account from the conception of the project itself.

The <u>Programme Guide Erasmus+ 2023</u> sets a list of examples of what can be considered as a barrier preventing the participation to an Erasmus+ project in its section on "Inclusion and Diversity":

- Disabilities
- Health problems
- Barriers linked to education and training systems
- Cultural differences
- Social barriers
- Economic barriers
- Barriers linked to discrimination
- Geographical barriers.

The criteria to be used for the selection of participants With Fewer Opportunities are defined at the national level by the National Agencies in agreement with their National Authorities.

This document should be shared between participating organisations in Erasmus+ KA171 projects 2023 involving HEI from Wallonia-Brussels Federation and third countries not associated to the Programme.

From a quality assurance perspective, it is recommended to specify the modalities of collaboration in terms of inclusion in the inter-institutional agreement.

I. Financial support

Only HEI in Programme countries are eligible to apply for Erasmus+ KA171 funds.

A. Additional support for students With Fewer Opportunities

An additional grant ("Inclusion top-up") can be awarded to students considered as "with fewer opportunities" according to the national criteria set by each National Agency¹.

If participants fall into this category, the beneficiary may award these top-ups using the funds available in the grant agreement for cooperation with the specific region.

At the application stage, the beneficiary should already have applied for an indicative number of participants With Fewer Opportunities. Based on the number of funded individuals, a separate budget item (called "Top-up for participants With Fewer Opportunities") is created within the project for each region. The beneficiary should first use this budget item and if not sufficient, may proceed with transfers from other budget items.

Any transfers will need to respect the general limitations applying to transfers between incoming and outgoing mobility. If there were no sufficient funds for cooperation with that country, or within the region this country belongs to, to allocate the top-up, the beneficiary may transfer OS funds.

¹ The KA171 grant rates 2023 are published on the NA website.

1. Outgoing mobilities (from Wallonia-Brussels Federation to third countries not associated to the Programme)

Are eligible for a top-up grant:

	
A. Students receiving a scholarship from the Wallonia-Brussels Federation	
B. Students of modest means	
C. Other socio-economic criteria:	 students receiving social integration income students with caregiver status students with an employment contract (outside school holidays) and therefore suffering a loss of income during their mobility "lone-parent family:" students who bring up a child alone when this child is not enrolled yet in compulsory education recent graduates who have benefited from the status of recipient of a study grant or student of modest conditions during the year preceding the mobility.
D. Doctoral students undertaking study/internship mobility	 self-funded doctoral students whose mobility entails a loss of income "single parent" doctoral students who bring up a child alone when this child is not enrolled yet in in compulsory education caregiver
E. Participants with special needs:	Participants (student, recent graduate, doctoral student, staff member)with physical, mental and health related conditions
F to I. Specificities for social advancement higher education	Please consult the <i>Note Inclusion Enseignement Supérieur AC131/AC171 et Fonds nationaux 2023</i> for more details

2. Incoming mobilities (from third countries not associated to the Programme to Wallonia-Brussels Federation)

Optional criteria

The criteria for AC171 incoming mobility listed below are given for information only and are therefore non-binding. They are to be considered as guidelines in order to initiate, with your partner, a reflection around inclusion and diversity.

Examples of criteria:

- students with caregiver ² status	Socio-economic criteria	 student/parent receiving at most the average minimum income of the country student whose parents are unemployed students with caregiver ²status
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 $^{^2}$ A caregiver is a family member or someone who is considered to be like family providing care or support to the person who is critically ill or injured or needing end-of-life care.

Doctoral students undertaking study/internship mobility	 students with an employment contract (outside school holidays) and therefore suffering from a loss of income during their mobility "lone-parent family:" students who bring up a child alone when this child is not enrolled yet in compulsory education self-funded doctoral students whose mobility entails a loss of income "single parent" doctoral students who bring up a child alone when this child is not enrolled yet in compulsory education caregiver
Participants with special needs	Participants (student, recent graduate, doctoral student, staff member) with physical, mental and health related conditions

The HEI from Wallonia-Brussels Federation and their partners are also invited to reflect on their inclusion strategy the consideration of other relevant obstacles within the framework of their collaboration, such as gender, minorities, religions, ethnic groups...

From a quality assurance perspective, it is requested to specify the modalities of collaboration in terms of inclusion in the interinstitutional agreement.

The rules of implementation are specified below:

- 1. The HEIs agree on the eligible AMO profiles within the framework of their cooperation and indicate the criteria in the interinstitutional agreement (or by amendment to the IIA)
- 2. The sending HEI from third countries not associated to the Program selects the AMO participants, in accordance with the provisions of the IIA, and communicates, by email, a declaration on honour (DOH) signed by the HEI from third countries not associated to the Program attesting that the selected participant meets the AMO criteria set out in the IIA
- 3. After checking the completeness of the elements of the file (DOH), the receiving HEI from Wallonia-Brussels Federation gives its final decision and recognizes the "WFO" status

The beneficiary is invited to communicate the procedure in force (available in French and English) to the partner institution.

The Agency provides the DOH template to be used, in French and in English.

B. Inclusion Support for participants and organisations

For some participants with fewer opportunities, the top-up for fewer opportunities may not be sufficient to enable them to take part in the mobility, or to finance as preparatory visits and accompanying persons. As this would prevent them from participating in a mobility activity unless extra financial support was made available, the beneficiary HEI may request inclusion support for participants from their NA based on real costs incurred. These requests will be assessed by the National Agencies and according to its established procedures accepted provided funds are available.

Moreover, for every participant with fewer opportunities receiving inclusion support (based on real costs), the organisation will receive a unit cost of 100 EUR as inclusion support for organisations.

a. Support for the participant

Eligible cost	This support covers additional costs directly related to participants with fewer opportunities whose costs cannot be fully covered by the inclusion top-up. These costs are intended to cover the additional financial assistance required to enable - participants (student, recent graduate, doctoral student, staff member) suffering from a physical, mental or health-related problem - "single parent" students and doctoral students - students and doctoral students who are caregivers - students and doctoral students with an employment contract (outside school holidays) and therefore suffering from a loss of income during the mobility, to participate in the mobility activity as well as in the preparatory visits and for accompanying persons (including costs related to travel and subsistence, if justified and as long as it is not covered through budget categories "travel support" and "individual support" for these participants).
Financing mechanism	Real Cost
Rule of allocation	Part to be completed once the Grant agreement 2023 template and its contractual annexes are made available by the EC to the Agency
Terms of availability in the event of budget transfer (without amendment)	Part to be completed once the Grant agreement 2023 template and its contractual annexes are made available by the EC to the Agency
Terms of availability in the event of a funding request from the Agency (with amendment)	Part to be completed once the Grant agreement 2023 template and its contractual annexes are made available by the EC to the Agency
Check	Part to be completed once the grant agreement 2023 template and its contractual annexes are made available by the EC to the Agency

b. Support for the organisation

Eligible costs	This support covers costs related to the organisation of mobility activities for participants with fewer opportunities who need additional support based on actual costs.
Funding mechanism	Contribution to unit costs: €100 per participant obtaining additional support for inclusion based on actual costs.
Allocation rule:	Based on the number of participants with fewer opportunities receiving additional support based on actual costs.

II. Mobility Format

The student or recent graduates with fewer opportunities may combine a shorter physical mobility with a virtual component (blended short-term mobility). In these cases, physical mobility must last between 5 days and 30 days and be combined with a compulsory virtual component facilitating collaborative online learning exchange and teamwork.