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**Programming of the  
European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020**

**Strategic Priorities 2014-2020 and Multi-annual Indicative  
Programme 2014-2017**

**European Neighbourhood-wide measures**

# **Strategic Priorities 2014-2020 and Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2014-2017**

## **European Neighbourhood-wide measures**

### **1. AIM**

The aim of this paper is to present the priorities that will be implemented neighbourhood-wide under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) over the period 2014-2020 and identify a 2014-2017 Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) as a successor to the Inter-Regional Programme of the 2007-2013 programming period. The paper defines the priorities for EU support towards the region that are best addressed with Neighbourhood-wide initiatives and provides an indicative level of funding broken down by priority.

### **2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

The political objectives of EU cooperation in the European Neighbourhood are set out in the ENI Regulation, Article 2: 'Union support shall focus on promoting enhanced political cooperation, deep and sustainable democracy, progressive economic integration and a strengthened partnership with societies between the Union and the partner countries and, in particular, the implementation of partnership and cooperation agreements, association agreements or other existing and future agreements, and jointly agreed action plans or equivalent documents.'

These objectives provide a framework for all multi-country programmes including the Neighbourhood-wide measures. Within the multi-country strategies, the Neighbourhood-wide programme will serve as a framework for those instruments which are deemed to be most effectively implemented across all countries of the Neighbourhood, in application of the subsidiarity principle. It will support initiatives which by their nature or size would be less effectively implemented through bilateral or regional programmes. On the basis of priorities identified in this document, the Neighbourhood-wide MIP presents the EU response in terms of technical co-operation and financial support.

### **3. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF MULTI-COUNTRY COOPERATION**

Neighbourhood-wide measures will be implemented across all countries of the Neighbourhood, and aim to support partner countries' reform efforts, as well as respond to these countries' needs on the basis of their level of development.

The measures should comply with the following four prerequisites: added value, comparative advantage of EU intervention, economies of scale and subsidiarity<sup>1</sup>.

The specific added value of the Neighbourhood-wide measures is that they should allow the EU to:

- deploy the same instrument in all partner countries, while maintaining the possibility to adapt the individual interventions to the particular needs they aim to address;
- achieve economies of scale and ensure the most efficient delivery.

In addition to the ENI programmes, ENP Partner Countries and the Russian Federation are also eligible to benefit from other EU instruments that are global in their nature and not specifically tied to the geographical region of the European Neighbourhood.<sup>2</sup>

#### **4. EVALUATION OF PAST AND ONGOING CO-OPERATION, INCLUDING LESSONS LEARNT**

Based on the experience from the Inter-Regional Programme 2007-2013, activities that were assessed as not offering added value by being implemented across the whole Neighbourhood, will no longer be included in this programme.

Support to Tempus IV and student/academic mobility under Erasmus Mundus Action 2 yielded significant benefits in terms of higher education reforms and in promoting mutual understanding, dissemination of experience and people-to-people contacts.

The Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) has demonstrated its ability to leverage funds from European Financial Institutions and a potential to contribute to the objectives of the European Neighbourhood Policy. The mid-term evaluation and its recommendations were assessed and will be reflected in the strategic guidance to the facility in the future.

The TAIEX tool and SIGMA initiative have been instrumental in complementing support for partner countries in regulatory approximation with the EU, which is a key element for greater integration with the EU and for strengthening public governance systems. The high and growing demand for these services is expected to continue, in particular in the context of the

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<sup>1</sup> Subsidiarity in this context means that priorities will not be addressed European Neighbourhood-wide if they are best addressed at regional level (East and South) and will not be addressed at regional level if they are best addressed at country level.

<sup>2</sup> These include notably: the Instrument Contributing to Peace and Stability, Humanitarian Aid, the Partnership Instrument, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Co-operation, Macro-Financial Assistance, Development Co-operation Instrument thematic programmes, as well as external actions under EU internal programmes for e.g. research and innovation, energy, transport and education (in particular Erasmus Plus, drawn from EU-internal funds).

new EU agreements with partner countries that will involve a greater element of regulatory convergence. The partner countries have started to participate in the work of EU's sectoral agencies including with the support of the previous Inter-Regional Programme 2007-2013.

## **5. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE EU RESPONSE IN 2014-2020**

### **5.1. Policy framework**

The specific policy framework for the European Neighbourhood-wide measures is the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), including notably the EU agreements with partner countries and the ENP Association Agendas / Action Plans. The full EU policy framework that will guide the implementation of the European Neighbourhood-wide measures is set out in Art. 3 of the ENI Regulation. The Neighbourhood is frequently discussed in Foreign Affairs Council meetings, including informal ones.

### **5.2. Strategic Priorities**

The European Neighbourhood-wide measures will pursue the following strategic priorities that are identified as strategic objectives notably in the ENP Action Plans / Association Agendas and in the ENI regional and bilateral strategies. Cross-cutting issues like gender equality and the environment need to be addressed and mainstreamed in these activities, wherever relevant.

#### **Priority 1: Building a partnership for inclusive economic development and integration (55%)**

This priority includes support to physical infrastructure and investment related technical assistance, and private sector development.

#### **Priority 2: Building a partnership between people (40%)**

This priority includes the modernisation and opening up of higher education through mobility, academic cooperation and capacity building actions.

#### **Priority 3: Targeted capacity building (5%)**

This priority includes supporting the approximation of the regulatory framework to EU norms and standards and enhancing public governance systems.

These three main priorities have been chosen for implementation through the Neighbourhood-wide programme taking into account ENI Country and Regional Strategies and on-going and planned support from the EU and its Member States.

#### **Priority 4: Incentive-based approach<sup>3</sup>**

The ENI Regulation provides for the use of a multi-country 'umbrella programme' to supplement the financial allocations of selected partner countries on the basis of their progress towards deep and sustainable democracy and the implementation of agreed reform objectives.

### **6. EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD-WIDE MULTIANNUAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME (MIP) 2014-2017**

The indicative allocation for 2014-2020 is EUR 3,084,000,000 to EUR 3,455,000,000 of which EUR 1,407,000,000 for umbrella support. The indicative allocation for the programming period 2014-2017 is EUR 1,675,000,000 to EUR 1,876,000,000 of which EUR 770,000,000 for umbrella support. Indicative priorities for support are as follows.

#### **6.1 Building a partnership for sustainable and inclusive economic development and integration**

The European Neighbourhood-wide programme will continue to fund the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF), a 'blending' instrument used to leverage loans from European Financial Institutions and risk capital from the private sector by means of giving EU subsidies (grants) to large investment projects. NIF will support projects prepared by the eligible European Financial Institutions in the Neighbourhood provided these are in line with at least one of three strategic objectives:

- 1) establishing better and more sustainable energy and transport interconnections (between the EU and neighbouring countries and between the neighbouring countries themselves), improving energy efficiency and demand management, promoting the use of renewable energy sources, strengthening energy security through diversification of energy supplies and energy market integration, and supporting investments related to the implementation of EU agreements, including DCFTAs<sup>4</sup>, as set out notably in the ENP Association Agendas / Action Plans the follow-up to Task Force meetings.
- 2) addressing climate change, as well as threats to the environment more broadly
- 3) promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through support to small and medium sized enterprises, to the social sector, including human capital development, and to municipal infrastructure development

Priority will be given to projects that contribute to achieving EU policy objectives in the region, as described *inter alia* in EU Council Conclusions, EU Agreements (notably Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs), ENP Association Agendas / Action Plans , EU policy frameworks as regards investments and inter-connectivity in the Neighbourhood. The

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<sup>3</sup> Separate additional allocation for selected partner countries

<sup>4</sup> Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas

priorities set out in the relevant programming documents, including the ENI regional and bilateral strategy papers for the Neighbourhood, will be taken into account in this context. In the Southern sub-region, commitments under the Union for the Mediterranean, including Ministerial Declarations, will be taken into account. In the Eastern sub-region, priorities will also take into account policy objectives set by Eastern Partnership platforms and panels, the Eastern Partnership transport networks and the Energy Community. The NIF should be seen as a modality for enhancing policy dialogue and implementing assistance to partner countries.

**Expected results:** higher level of investments in public infrastructure and productive sectors, job creation and private sector development, in line with the Neighbourhood Investment Facility's Strategic Orientations. This will contribute to achieving EU political objectives under ENP (e. g. integration into the EU's internal market), as well as poverty reduction and sustainable economic, social and environmental development.

During the period 2008-2013, NIF provided EUR 753 million in grants and thereby leveraged an estimated EUR 8.1 billion of loans from the European Financing Institutions. For 2014-2017, the EU has indicatively earmarked EUR 595 million for NIF, which may be complemented by funds from ENP regional and/or bilateral programmes, and by direct contributions from Member States to the NIF trust fund, which is managed by the European Investment Bank.

## **6.2 Building a partnership between people**

The Neighbourhood-wide programme will promote modernisation and opening up of higher education in the Neighbourhood region and in the Russian Federation through the Erasmus+<sup>5</sup> Programme.

The ENI contribution to Erasmus + for 2014-2017 is indicatively set at EUR 400 million, of which indicatively EUR 60 million will be allocated to activities with the Russian Federation (for a detailed description of the Erasmus+ programme in the Neighbourhood and the Russian Federation, please refer to the annex).

## **6.3 Targeted capacity building**

Regulatory approximation is a core component of EU political and economic integration with Neighbourhood countries, as set out in agreements, such as the recent Association Agreements, including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs).

In order to achieve approximation, partner countries need to continuously follow the development and implementation of EU norms and standards. Promotion of good governance is a specific objective of Union support that can be promoted through building capacity in

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<sup>5</sup> To be read out as 'Erasmus Plus' - 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

partner country public administrations. The dialogue on mobility (including, where applicable, the prospect of visa liberalisation) may also require a similar approximation effort

The EU has several tools that can provide targeted capacity building in support of regulatory approximation (including standardisation) needed for implementing Association Agreements with the EU, including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas, and for improving public governance systems more broadly. While most of this assistance is deployed and financed under the ENI bilateral and regional programmes, multi-country programmes such as the TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) tool, and the SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management) initiative, or any other similar future multi-country support to public governance, will continue to operate on the basis of pooled resources at Neighbourhood-wide level, made available upon demand.

TAIEX will continue to provide support, as in the past, including by conducting verification missions to check the proper implementation of the approximated legislation. Regulatory convergence and proper implementation are conditions for granting market access in line with the DCFTAs.

To make the best use of tools assisting in improving public governance systems, it is necessary to create synergies with regional activities such as the Eastern Partnership Panel on Public Administration Reform in the East sub-region, and any other relevant platforms or initiatives in the South and covered in ENI bilateral programmes, with a view to achieving results in relevant sectors across the entire Neighbourhood region. Synergies with regional initiatives involving countries beyond the neighbourhood will also need to be sought, where relevant.

The combined funding for TAIEX and enhancing public governance systems in 2014-2017 is indicatively EUR 37 million.

**Expected results:** faster approximation of the regulatory framework to EU norms and standards and improved public administration capacity will contribute to public governance development and progressive integration into the EU internal market

#### **6.4: Incentive-based approach**

The financial allocations of selected partner countries will be topped up, notably on the basis of these countries' progress towards deep and sustainable democracy and the implementation of agreed reform objectives, as set out in Art. 4 of the ENI regulation. An indicative budget of EUR 770 million is earmarked for the multi-country "umbrella programme" over the period 2014-2017. Additional allocations granted through this mechanism will be used in line with the co-operation priorities of each beneficiary country.

**Expected results:** contributing to promote progress and reforms in the areas of deep and sustainable democracy and respect for human rights.

## **7. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

The successful implementation of these measures will require a high level of commitment to co-operation by partner countries, continuous support by EU institutions, EU Member States, European Financial Institutions, academic institutions both in the EU and in partner countries, and by other relevant stakeholders.

Such commitments have been clearly shown during the implementation of the previous Inter-Regional Strategy which supported the areas of this programme as well as other programmes that are now funded elsewhere. It is assumed that commitment will continue, and therefore the risk associated with this is assessed as low.

Finally, risks linked to the implementation of these measures will be mitigated by carrying out a mid-term review in 2017, to be preceded by a similar evaluation of the first MIP in 2016. These reviews will provide the opportunity to adjust the EU response in the light of changing circumstances.

## Annex

### **Strategic Priorities 2014-2020 and Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2014-2017 for Objective 2 of European Neighbourhood-wide measures under ENI *Building a partnership between people* ENI Funds Allocated to the Erasmus+ Programme**

#### **0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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Higher education participation and enrolment has expanded considerably particularly since the late 1970's. The number of students enrolled in higher education by 2030 is forecast to rise from about 100 million in 2000 to 400 million in 2030, with a high degree of demographic pressure in the Southern Neighbourhood. With internal high disparities within countries and regions, inclusive education has been an elusive target. The response needs to focus on strengthening the higher education systems, including developing teaching, research and management capacity, harmonisation of educational structures, quality assurance, recognition of qualifications and research capacity and the links to the labour market.

Human resource development, people-to-people contacts, mobility and a **strengthened engagement in the area of education** have become important elements in the EU's external relations and assistance. In order to achieve the aims of the **European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)** - to establish an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness, founded on the EU's values as enshrined in Article 8 of the Treaty on European Union - a strong and educated human capital is a crucial factor.

The external dimension of Erasmus+ aims to support partner countries to address the challenges facing their higher education institutions and systems, including those of quality, relevance, equal access, planning, delivery, management, governance and internationalisation by offering a balanced mix of actions addressing individuals, institutions and higher education systems. Objectives and principles underlying development cooperation such as national ownership, social cohesion, equity and proper geographical balance and diversity have to be ensured.

Through its two types of mobility actions ("credit" and "degree" mobility), **Erasmus+** contributes to the personal development and employability of students but also has a structured and sustainable impact on universities.

"Credit mobility" prompts universities to develop better services to send and receive foreign students, compare and upgrade curricula, improve teaching and strengthen their institutional leadership and management to gain international visibility. This type of mobility is a vector of internationalisation and is therefore good for the quality of higher education and represents an important catalyst in the reform of higher education systems. Universities participating in

Erasmus+ will have an opportunity to open up to new influences and new ways of thinking and functioning.

Doing a full degree in Europe contributes to enhance students' capacities and employability.

The capacity building action supports joint projects based on multilateral partnerships between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to fund curriculum development and modernisation, such as new joint/double degrees, or diploma, modern teaching and learning practices, upgrading of facilities and equipment, improving university governance and creating better links between higher education and the world of work. This action also finances structural projects targeting national systems, through the involvement of national authorities, alongside universities. Both joint and structural projects aim to enhance sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth in Partner Countries.

The budget for Erasmus+ under the ENI instrument is **indicatively** set at **EUR 400 million** for the period 2014-2017, out of which indicatively **EUR 60 million** are earmarked for the Russian Federation.

## **1. THE OVERALL LINES OF THE EU SUPPORT TO ERASMUS+ UNDER ENI INSTRUMENT**

The European Union and its partners have long recognised the importance of higher education for economic and social development. The Bologna Process and the EU Agenda for the modernisation of higher education have provided a shared framework for national reforms. This has been supplemented at international level by new policy dialogues (exchanges of best practice in higher education policies), at regional level and with strategic partner countries under international higher education programmes (Erasmus Mundus and Tempus).

The external dimension of Erasmus+ will build on the achievements of these previous higher education programmes and support partner countries in meeting the challenges in their higher education systems via a mobility component (Key Action 1) and through the funding of capacity building aimed at modernizing higher education institutions and systems in the partner countries (Key Action 2).

Recent political developments in the EU's neighbourhood such as the Arab Spring and the recent political events in Ukraine have highlighted the need to **expand support to young people**, notably through increased funding in the field of **higher education**. Increased **mobility** forms one of the main elements of the EU's strengthened offer to partner countries under the revised ENP.

Globalisation and the move towards knowledge-based economies have become major drivers in an increasing **internationalisation of the academic world**, with contacts and exchanges between universities in the EU, the ENP region and Russia intensifying in the course of the last years. In 2012, almost 35,000 nationals from ENP partner countries, including Russia,

came to the EU to study (almost 24,000 from ENP East, including Russia, and more than 11,000 from ENP South). EU universities have shown a high interest in enrolling students from non-EU countries. Engaging in international academic initiatives is seen as a way to address the challenges of an increasingly interdependent world, including as a means to better link education research and innovation and to improve the quality and relevance of the education offer.

ENP countries and Russia benefitted from a budget of around EUR 670 million during the 2007-13 programming period for the Erasmus Mundus and Tempus programmes. As part of the EU's strengthened ENP and mobility policy, the financial allocation for the period 2011-2013 was almost doubled compared to preceding years, through a sizeable top-up that came following the review in 2011 of the European Neighbourhood Policy. Furthermore, additional funding for countries in transition or in conflict such as Tunisia and Syria enabled increased mobility from those countries.

In total, 5187 students (at undergraduate, master, doctorate and post-doctorate level) and staff members from ENPI East countries and 6221 from ENPI South countries were able to benefit from scholarships in the framework of Erasmus Mundus Partnerships between 2007 and 2013. Within Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes, 695 Eastern Partnership country nationals and 760 Southern Mediterranean nationals benefited from mobility to follow a joint Erasmus Mundus Master or doctorate. Russia is among the top countries in terms of participation in Erasmus Mundus. From 2007 to 2013, more than 2900 Russian nationals were able to come to the EU for study or research in the framework of university partnerships and around 550 Russian nationals were awarded scholarships for Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes.

From 2008 to 2013, 366 **Tempus** projects were selected for the ENP region and Russia, promoting institutional cooperation with a view to reform and modernise higher education systems in the ENP partner countries.

EU academic cooperation programmes are complementary to national schemes and recent initiatives in the EU's neighbourhood, such as academic activities carried out by Germany under the so-called "transformation partnerships" with selected Arab countries, or the Eastern Partnership Doctoral Studies Scholarship Programme launched by Poland in October 2012.

ENP partner countries have actively engaged in higher education cooperation with the EU, in an attempt to build a common educational space. Increased mobility is being sought as part of a wider political agenda, as a way to reinforce comparability and quality. Cooperation on higher education has been considered as an important tool to reform institutions and education systems (as also set out in the ENP Action Plans), and to address challenges faced by labour markets and demographic developments. EU higher education funds have been easily absorbed by ENP countries, both under Erasmus Mundus and Tempus, with a high interest shown by partners, resulting in low funding rates compared to the numbers of project applications received.

While ENP East countries (with the exception of Belarus) and Russia are part of the **European Higher Education Area** and participants in the **Bologna Process**, countries in the

South are not part of the Bologna process, although Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia have embedded the principles of the Bologna Process in their education systems. The Process is also implemented on a voluntary basis in Belarus, Egypt, Israel and Palestine and many of its distinctive features like the need to reinforce quality assurance mechanisms, are part of all education reform agendas.

**Policy dialogue on higher education** is regularly taking place between the EU and ENP partner countries in relevant subcommittees organised under the existing bilateral agreements, as well as under the Eastern Partnership Platform 4 – People to people contacts, which includes a Panel on Research and Innovation. A policy dialogue on higher education with ENP Southern countries was launched in July 2012. A Mobility Working Group was set up in 2011 under the umbrella of the EU-Russia Science and Technology Agreement, with the aim of creating favourable conditions for researcher, student and academic mobility, in line with the overall objective of "reinforcing cooperation with a view to creating an EU-Russia Common Space of Research and Education".

**Evaluations** of the Erasmus Mundus and Tempus programmes indicated that both programmes have generally produced very satisfactory results, having a significant impact on the higher education systems of partner countries and on fostering co-operation both at regional level and within individual partner countries. The Erasmus+ programme will capitalise on the good practices of Tempus and Erasmus Mundus, such as encouraging a bottom-up approach, establishing national priorities, ensuring transparency, allowing institutions from partner countries to act as grant holders, encouraging the creation of joint degrees, and contributing to the mutual recognition of credits and qualifications.

However, sustainability was identified as one of the more vulnerable aspects of the past programmes. At regional - and to a lesser extent at national level – the establishment of active institutional partnerships beyond the actual programme activities will require further support in order to achieve sustainable results. The involvement of non-academic institutions (public and private), such as enterprises or NGOs, was shown to be crucial for ensuring that projects have a long-term impact. The evaluation of the Erasmus Mundus programme also showed that the successful implementation of the action was hindered, to some extent, by administrative barriers (including certain difficulties for students to obtain visas to enter the EU). Non-degree mobility was sometimes considered to be too short to be fully rewarding. The needs of persons in vulnerable situations should be given more attention in the future, in order to make sure that the Erasmus+ programme be truly inclusive in its nature.

## **1.1 SUSTAINABILITY OF POLICIES AND MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK**

Effective higher education systems are among the basic prerequisites for social and economic development. They are a powerful lever for achieving internationally agreed development goals and act as catalysts in the construction of sustainable systems of knowledge and innovation in the partner countries. Universities also educate the leaders of tomorrow. Through teaching, research and mentoring, they make crucial contributions towards strengthening all levels of the educational system.

The Erasmus+ programme builds on a demand-driven bottom up approach encouraging ownership by partner country institutions. In order to participate in the programme, institutions must comply with a number of quality requirements embedded in the Erasmus Higher Education Charter and participate in calls for proposals. Erasmus+ is based on cooperation between academic peers. As demonstrated through previous programmes, this type of cooperation between peers often leads to long lasting academic exchanges, staff and student mobility and the development of joint degrees and joint research projects, even after the end of EU funding.

Capacity building projects are expected to have a substantial impact on the participating higher education institutions, on the development and modernisation of higher education, to assist them in opening up to society at large, to the labour market and the wider world and to support their capacity for international cooperation. Projects are expected to produce multiplier effects outside the participating organisations at local/regional/national or international level.

Under Erasmus+, mobility takes place in the framework of institutional agreements, which ensure a high level of quality both in terms of preparation, mentoring and recognition of the outcomes for the individuals by the institutions involved. Credit and degree mobility builds up the organisations' capacity to manage international cooperation. The simple process of sending partner country students to the EU within an inter-institutional cooperation agreement helps to further the reflection on the recognition of credits initially between universities and ultimately with the world of work. Mobility promotes the design of internationalisation strategies and has a positive impact on systems (notably through the widespread use of transparency and recognition tools). It can be an important catalyst in the reform of higher education systems.

It is expected that graduates having upgraded their skills through Erasmus+ will contribute to change processes in their countries, applying their new competencies in their professions and provide the foundation for a lasting effect.

All projects proposals financed by Erasmus+ are expected to offer a convincing mid/long-term development/sustainability strategy with realistic projections for the future (including ways to mobilise other funding sources for scholarships).

## **1.2 ERASMUS+: OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED RESULTS, INDICATORS AND ACTIVITIES**

**The overall objective of the programme's external dimension** is to promote people to people contacts, intercultural awareness and understanding, develop capacity and contribute to modernising higher education in partner countries.

The Erasmus+ programme aims to attain the following strategic objectives in the ENP region and Russia:

- Improve the skills and competences of students and staff, and the employability of graduates

- Support the modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of higher education in the partner countries

**Specific objective 1: Improve the skills and competences of students and staff, and the employability of graduates through mobility**

The main expected results to be achieved are:

1. Improved and diversified degrees that incorporate studies abroad
2. Enhanced skills and improved learning performance for students
3. Improved competences of staff in their field of expertise and understanding of education policies, practices and systems
4. Improved level of competences and skills of Master graduates
5. Increased employability and career prospects for students
6. Reinforced institutional capacities of higher education institutions
7. Significant participation of students and staff from the least developed regions of partner countries

**Indicators:**

- 1.1. Number of higher education institutions from partner countries involved and/or associated in Joint Master Degrees
- 1.2. Number of higher education institutions from partner countries involved in credit and degree mobility
- 1.3. Number of students with credits (mobility) recognized as part of their home degrees
- 1.4. The average duration of mobility actions (disaggregated by sending and receiving country, study field, action, gender, and students with special needs and students coming from disadvantaged socio-economic background)
  - 2.1. Number of students with credits (mobility) recognised as part of their home degrees
  - 2.2. The number of graduates who have received a joint Master degree with Erasmus+ support
  - 2.3. Number of higher education institutions from partner countries involved in credit and degree mobility
- 3.1. Number of partner country staff trained through the mobility actions

3.2. Evidence of Career advancement for staff participating in Erasmus+ (e.g. number of promotions), monitored in the framework of the mid-term evaluation

4.1. The number of graduates who have received a joint Master degree with Erasmus support+

4.2. The number of drop outs as a share of the total number of students having received a scholarship for joint Master degrees (disaggregated by sending and receiving country, sector, action, gender, students with special needs and students coming from disadvantaged socio-economic background)

5.1. Returnee rate of mobile students back to sending country (as reported on a sample basis through a graduate impact survey)

5.2. Employability rate of Erasmus+ students (as reported on a sample basis through a graduate impact survey)

6.1. Number of higher education institutions from partner countries involved in credit and degree mobility

6.2. Number of inter-institutional agreements signed by partner country institutions and participating in Erasmus+

7.1. The number of students and number of staff participating in the Erasmus programme (disaggregated by sending and receiving country, study field, action, gender, students with special needs and students coming from disadvantaged socio-economic background)

This objective is implemented by supporting credit mobility and degree mobility/joint degrees.

### **Key Action 1 under Erasmus+ programme - Credit mobility: short-term credit mobility of students and staff between Erasmus+ Programme and Partner countries**

The external dimension of Erasmus+ funds **credit mobility** i.e. student mobility –from Bachelor to doctoral level- between 3 and 12 months to obtain credits in a host institution, which are then recognised by the partner country home institution. Traineeships will be introduced as of the third year of operation of the programme. The external dimension of Erasmus+ will also fund staff mobility in both directions which is essential as university staff are expected to be agents of change in their home institutions.

The credit mobility action will be managed by the network of National Agencies located in Erasmus+ ‘Programme countries’.

### **Degree mobility**

Erasmus+ includes an excellence action that will fund **joint Master degrees** offered by consortia of universities from Programme and possibly Partner countries. They provide high-level scholarships to excellent students and staff worldwide. This action is funded from

Heading 1 (supplemented by ENI funds) and allows students outside 'Programme countries' to receive a joint Master of the highest level and study in at least two different European 'Programme' countries.

Additional ENI funding aims at increasing the success rate of highly qualified candidates from Partner countries to attend joint Masters. Separate windows will be created for the ENI countries.

**Specific objective 2: Support the modernisation, internationalisation, accessibility and of higher education in the Partner countries**

The main expected results to be achieved are:

1. Improved quality and access to higher education and enhanced relevance of higher education programmes for the labour market and society
2. Improved level of competences and skills in HEIs through the development of new and innovative education programmes
3. Enhanced management, governance and innovation capacities, as well as the internationalisation of HEIs
4. Increased capacities of national authorities to modernise their higher education systems, by supporting the definition, implementation and monitoring of reform policies
5. Regional integration and cooperation across different countries through joint initiatives, sharing of good practices and cooperation

**Indicators:**

1.1 The number of higher education institutions (universities) from partner countries involved in capacity building projects (disaggregated by country, focus area of project, subject area for curriculum development, type of disadvantage (e.g. institutions located in less developed regions or post-conflict countries))

1.2 Number of new or updated curricula developed and running in partner countries universities, supported by Erasmus+

1.3. Number of programmes in the partner countries which have introduced new teaching learning and assessment methods and related materials supported by Erasmus+

1.4 The number of joint projects involving public and private enterprises, professional associations, civil society organizations and governmental entities

- 2.1 Number of staff retrained in the framework of Erasmus+ capacity building projects
- 2.2 Number of programmes in the partner countries which have introduced new teaching learning and assessment methods and related materials supported by Erasmus+
- 2.3 Number of degree programmes which have introduced practical placements in enterprises as an integral part of the programme
- 3.1 Number of university services/units established as a result of Erasmus+
- 3.2 Number of inter-institutional agreements signed by partner country institutions
- 3.3. Number of new bilateral agreements for cooperation in the field of education and/or research established as a result of cooperation in Erasmus+ monitored on a sample basis in the framework of the mid-term evaluation
- 3.4 Number of structural projects which have introduced new management/organizational processes, practices, procedures and guidelines in partner country universities
- 4.1 Number of structural projects which have introduced /reformed policies at national level for their higher education systems
- 5.1 Number of projects involving partner country institutions from several countries within a region
- 5.2 Number of projects involving partner country institutions from different regions

A monitoring mechanism will be put in place in order to keep track of these indicators

Two categories of capacity building projects are supported:

**Joint Projects** produce outcomes that benefit directly the organisations from Partner Countries involved in the project. These projects focus on 3 different categories of activities:

- curriculum development
- modernisation of governance, management and functioning of HEIs
- strengthening of relations between HEIs and the wider economic and social environment

**Structural Projects** produce an impact on higher education systems and promote reforms at national and/or regional level in the Partner Countries. These projects focus on 2 categories of activities:

- modernisation of policies, governance and management of higher education systems

- strengthening of relations between higher education systems and the wider societal and economic environment

### 1.3 GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE AND PRIORITIES

Special attention will have to be paid to internal geographical balance in the distribution of funds among partner countries inside the two sub-regions of the ENP East and ENP South, so that there is an equitable use of funds across partner countries. The repartition will also follow political priorities formulated under the ENP globally, as well as specific external action priorities for individual ENP partner countries.

A **regular monitoring and adjustment mechanism** will ensure twice-yearly reports and evaluation of the fulfilment of the indicators listed under Heading 1.2, and that geographical balance under all key actions is upheld. Particular attention should be paid to geographical balance under Action 1 (mobility), which is implemented by National Agencies in European Programme countries. Monitoring should be done regularly, and at least once a year, and, if required, adjustments made before the beginning of the following academic year.

In order to achieve equity, in a first instance it should be established that **academic performance is the primary and essential criterion for selection of the Erasmus+ students**. In line with the foreign policy priorities of the EU, some positive discrimination, within clearly set and communicated limits towards the EU and towards potential candidates, could be allowed:

- on the basis of specific EU foreign policy priorities
- in favour of economically and socially disadvantaged individuals in partner countries, with a view to promoting inclusive development. Based on evaluation, these groups are still vastly under-represented in partner countries among selected students under the previous action 2 of Erasmus Mundus, when taking into account the primary selection criterion of academic excellence
- to foster gender balance, while taking into account the overall number of active university students of each gender in the partner country
- in favour of the disabled
- in favour of individuals belonging to vulnerable groups in conflict regions/countries, such internally displaced persons and refugees

## **2. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2014-2017 (financial allocation per region and distribution of funding between actions)**

ENI funds will be used in line with the overall priorities of the **EU's external action**, notably **priorities under the European Neighbourhood Policy** and bilateral relations with partner countries, and the particular focus on reform and mobility in higher education.

Over the period 2014-2017 **an indicative amount of EUR 400 million** (out of which indicatively **EUR 60 million** for Russia) **of ENI funds will be allocated to the Erasmus+ programme** in order to finance higher education exchanges and projects with ENP countries and Russia.

The level of funding for Russia reflects the political importance the EU is giving to academic co-operation with its strategic partner. Russia has also been developing its own programme for exchanges and academic cooperation with its own funding- the Global education programme-, which will allow for further and mutually beneficial cooperation with the EU.

The geographical distribution of ENI funds for 2014-2017 is as follows:

- ENP South: indicatively **EUR 209 million**
- ENP East: indicatively **EUR 131 million**
- Russia: indicatively **EUR 60 million**

The actual figures will be set out in the Erasmus+ Work Programme, which is the basis for the financial decision.

### **2.1 LEARNING MOBILITY (Key Action 1 of the Erasmus+ programme)**

Specific Objective 1 is implemented through Key Action 1 - Learning Mobility, which comprises two types of mobility for students as well as staff mobility.

- Credit mobility
- Degree mobility / Joint degrees

For ENP countries, approximately 50% of available funds will be allocated to Key Action 1. A maximum of 10% out of the funds for Action 1 can be used for the creation of ENI windows for scholarships for Erasmus+ joint Master degrees.

For Russia, approximately 60% of available funding will be allocated to Key Action 1.

#### **2.1.1 CREDIT MOBILITY (Key Action 1 of the Erasmus+ programme)**

An indicative amount of **EUR 201 million** shall be reserved for this specific objective. It will be split between the following sub-regions:

- ENP South: indicatively **EUR 94 million**
- ENP East: indicatively **EUR 71 million**
- Russia: **EUR 36 million**

The credit mobility action will be managed by National Agencies in the Erasmus+ Programme countries.

### **Other criteria**

Under Key Action 1, **mobility of students from Erasmus+ programme countries and staff towards ENP partner countries** will be possible using up to a maximum amount of **10%** of the allocation to Key Action 1 (mobility). For Russia, outward mobility of students and staff from Erasmus+ Programme countries to Russia will be determined by demand.

#### **2.1.2 DEGREE MOBILITY/ JOINT DEGREES (Key Action 1 of the Erasmus+ programme)**

It is open to students and universities from all over the world, based on criteria of excellence. It is a highly successful programme comprising for the time being some 137 Master courses which are much in demand. The success rate for applicants is about 3% and there is a large reserve list of highly qualified candidates from Partner countries who cannot be funded.

The ENI funding windows aim at increasing the success rate of highly qualified candidates from partner countries to attend Erasmus+ joint Master degrees. There will be a clear added value in terms of capacity building, and improvement of quality and attractiveness for non EU universities participating in joint Masters degrees.

For indicative purposes, **approximately EUR 18 million** shall be reserved for this specific objective. It will be split between the following sub-regions:

- ENP South: indicatively **EUR 10 million**
- ENP East: indicatively **EUR 8 million**

The “degree mobility/joint Master degrees” action will be implemented by the EU Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency.

#### **2.2. CAPACITY BUILDING (Key Action 2 of the Erasmus+ programme)**

Specific Objective 2 is implemented by means of supporting Key Action 2 ‘Capacity building’.

**For ENP countries**, approximately **50% of available funds** will be allocated to Key Action 2, and for **Russia**, approximately **40% of the available funds** .

For indicative purposes, **approximately EUR 181 million** shall be reserved for this specific objective. It will be split between the following sub-regions:

- ENP South: indicatively **EUR 105 million**
- ENP East: indicatively **EUR 52 million**
- Russia: **EUR 24 million**

The capacity building action will include the possibility of carrying out mobility activities related to specific project aims. It will be managed by the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency.

### **Other criteria**

**Credit mobility under Key Action 2 (capacity building)** will follow the same rules as the credit mobility implemented by the National Agencies, to ensure coherence of approaches across the programme. The additional credit mobility component is open to ENP countries, but not to Russia.

Special attention will have to be paid to staff mobility.

Within Key Action 2, **partnership requirements** should be based on the following principles:

- The overall number of institutions involved in the partnerships should be kept at a manageable level, taking into account the need to ensure sufficient impact of the specific project in the partner country/countries
- Institutions from partner countries will be allowed to act as lead applicants, so as to increase the programme's impact on the institutional development of higher education institutions from Partner countries