

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – EAC/S15/2018

Exchanges and mobility in sport

This call for proposals serves to implement the Preparatory action "Exchanges and mobility in sport" in accordance with the Commission Decision C(2018)1602/1 of 21 March 2018 on the adoption of the 2018 annual work programme for the implementation of pilot projects and preparatory actions in the area of education, sport and culture.

Sport is a powerful tool for bringing people together, reaching them at international, national, regional and local levels, and developing people-to-people contacts. Cooperation, partnerships and exchanges at the grassroots level inside the EU as well as with non-EU countries can contribute to the development of new skills and positively influence societal changes. Moreover, sport organisations at all levels are by nature open to international cooperation.

Sport creates a stronger sense of belonging to society among its vulnerable members and encourages active citizenship. It can be used to help integrate the rising migrant population, to combat social exclusion, to increase solidarity between generations, and to contribute to gender equality within societies. In other words, sport plays an integral part in creating social cohesion and inclusive communities.

This preparatory action aims to contribute to the efforts of sport organisations by supporting the learning mobility of their staff. Exchanges of people, ideas and good practices can be beneficial for the individuals, for their organisations and for sport as a whole.

In this context, *learning mobility* should be understood as occurring when individuals move to a country other than their country of residence in order to undertake training or other learning modalities, including traineeships, non-formal learning, teaching, and participating in transnational professional development activities. The objective of such experiences is to allow individuals to acquire new skills that will strengthen their future employability as well as their personal development.

Sport staff members such as coaches, managers or instructors play a key role in sport: by leading and guiding participants, they have an impact on their knowledge, skills, health, well-being and values. They are in a unique position to advance social inclusion, protect integrity, infuse respect for common values, and promote physical activity in all social groups.

The legal basis of this call for proposals is: Preparatory Action within the meaning of Article 54(2) (b) of 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 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1)

1. Objectives– Theme(s) – Priorities – Outcomes

The general objective of this action is to give the opportunity to staff of sport organisations (athletes entourage) to improve their competences as well as qualifications and acquire new skills through learning mobility by spending a period of time in a foreign country (in and outside of the EU). Learning mobility should be seen as an investment in human capital and a contribution to the capacity building of various sport organisations.

Opportunities for learning mobility in this context should be addressed to:

- Coaches and other 'staff' of sport organisations (including volunteers) – linked to professional sport;
- Coaches and other 'staff' of sport organisations (including volunteers) – linked to grassroots sport.

The action seeks to have an impact in two major fields:

- Improving the knowledge and know-how of sport staff;
- Developing international cooperation in the field of learning mobility in sport.

The expected outcomes include:

- **Regular exchange scheme for sport staff;**
- **Establishment of European networks of coaches and sport staff.**

The specific objective of this action is to support learning mobility and exchanges while promoting the international dimension of sport. The latter aspect should be developed in the form of cooperation between at least 3 organisations established in 3 different EU Member States (the applicant organisation and 2 other organisations established in different EU Member States) and at least one organisation established in a non-EU country in one of the following regions: the Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Latin America and Asia.

The action will consequently be implemented through 4 different lots:

Lot 1: Cooperation with the Western Balkans

Lot 2: Cooperation with the Eastern Partnership

Lot 3: Cooperation with Latin America

Lot 4: Cooperation with Asia

2. Eligibility criteria

Only applications from legal entities established in EU Member States are eligible.

For British applicants: Please be aware that eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the grant. If the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU ensuring in particular that British applicants continue to be eligible, you will cease to receive EU funding (while continuing, where possible, to participate) or be required to leave the project on the basis of Article II.17.2 of the grant agreement.

In order to be eligible, projects must be presented by applicants meeting the following criteria:

- Be a public or private organisation with legal personality, active in the sport and physical activity field and organising sport and physical activities.
- Have their registered legal office in one of the 28 EU Member States.

Examples (non-exhaustive list):

- Non-profit organisation (private or public);
- Public authorities (national, regional, local);
- International organisations;
- Sport clubs;
- Universities;
- Educational institutions;
- Companies.

Natural persons are not eligible to apply for a grant under this call.

In order to assess the applicants' eligibility, the following supporting documents are requested:

- **Private entity:** extract from the official journal, copy of articles of association, extract of trade or association register, certificate of liability to VAT (if, as in certain countries, the trade register number and VAT number are identical, only one of these documents is required);
- **Public entity:** copy of the resolution or decision establishing the public company, or other official document establishing the public-law entity.

For all lots, applicant organisations need to prove established cooperation /contacts with entities established in at least 2 other EU Member States and in at least one country of the relevant region. The organisations in question should be specified in the application form.

3. Eligible activities

Only activities pursuing one or several objectives mentioned in section 1 are eligible.

Specifically, applicants are expected to propose actions that promote the mobility of coaches and other staff of sport organisations (including volunteers), including through the following activity examples (non-exhaustive list):

- Exchanges
- Placements
- Periods of trainings/study
- Job-shadowing.

Only activities involving participants from at least 3 organisations established in 3 different EU Member States (the applicant organisation and 2 other organisations established in different EU Member States) and at least one organisation established in a non-EU country in either the Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Latin America and Asia are eligible.

Potential applicants should note that the proposed exchanges and mobility activities should not involve athletes as participants¹.

4. Implementation period

- Activities may not start before 01 January 2019, or later than 31 March 2019;
- Activities are to be completed by 31 December 2020.

The minimum duration of projects is 6 months.

Applications for projects scheduled to run for a shorter or longer period than that specified in this call for proposals will not be accepted.

5. Award criteria

Eligible applications/projects will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- **Relevance of the project (criterion 1) (maximum 40 points): *A minimum threshold of 24 points out of 40 will be applied to criterion 1; applications falling below this threshold will be rejected.***

Under criterion 1, proposals will be assessed on the basis of the extent to which:

¹ The involvement of athletes is foreseen in the second phase of the project in a call for proposals that will be launched in 2019.

- They contribute to the general objective of the action described in section 1, in particular with regards to the learning mobility opportunities proposed, and are in line with EU policies in the field of sport;
- They contribute to the outcomes expected from the action defined in section 1 (i.e. regular exchange scheme for sport staff and establishment of European networks of coaches and sport staff);
- They contribute to the specific objective defined in section 1 (promotion of the international dimension of sport), in particular with regards to the establishment of strong links between EU and non-EU partners in areas related to mobility for learning purposes.

➤ **Quality (criterion 2) (maximum 40 points): *A minimum threshold of 24 points out of 40 will be applied to criterion 2; applications falling below this threshold will be rejected.***

Under criterion 2, proposals will be assessed according to the quality of the overall design of the activities proposed and to the methodology used to implement them. The following aspects will be taken into account:

- Number of participants involved in and benefiting from the project's activities;
- Cost efficiency (the extent to which the project is cost-effective and allocates appropriate resources to each activity);
- Sustainability of the proposed activities (the extent to which the activities will be carried out also after the end of the project);
- Consistency between project objectives, methodology, activities and budget proposed;
- Quality and feasibility of the methodology proposed.

➤ **Management of the project (criterion 3) (maximum 20 points): *A minimum threshold of 12 points out of 20 will be applied to criterion 3; applications falling below this threshold will be rejected.***

Under criterion 3, proposals will be assessed on the basis of the extent to which the applicants demonstrate their ability to organise, coordinate and implement the various aspects of the proposed activities. The following aspects will be taken into account:

- Overall quality of the project team;
- The risks envisaged and their mitigating actions;
- The appropriateness and quality of measures aimed at sharing the outcomes of the project towards external organisations and the general public.

Points will be allocated to eligible applications out of a total of 100 on the basis of the above-specified weighting. Applications falling below any of the thresholds per criterion mentioned above will be rejected.

Moreover, a minimum threshold of 70 points will be applied for the three award criteria combined. Applications falling below this threshold will also be rejected.

6. Budget available

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects is estimated at 1.200.000 EUR.

The EU grant is limited to a maximum co-financing rate of 80% of eligible costs. The appropriations for the subsequent years will be confirmed at a later stage.

It is envisaged that approximately 5 projects will be financed (at least one per lot).

The maximum amount per individual grant will be 240.000 EUR.

The Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

7. Deadline for submission of applications

Grant applications must be drawn up in one of the EU official languages, **using the electronic form available on the webpage of the call for proposals.**

The application form duly completed must be submitted before 26/07/2018 (12:00pm Brussels time).

Applications sent on paper, by fax, e-mail, on a USB key or in any other way will not be accepted.

8. Additional information

In case of questions, please contact: EAC-SPORT@EC.EUROPA.EU