

## EEA/Norway Grants Cooperation Programme in Higher Education (*EE: EMP/Norra kõrghariduse koostööprogramm Eestis*)

### 2021 Call for proposals

- Activity 1 – cooperation projects in higher education**
- Activity 2 – learning mobility projects within higher education**

The Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia in cooperation with The Education and Youth Board publishes the call for proposals of the EEA/Norway Cooperation Programme in Higher Education to fund higher education cooperation projects, as well as learning mobilities.

#### About the call

This call is for the EEA/Norway Baltic Research Programme's part for the Cooperation Programme in Higher Education funded from the grants of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021. The aim of the programme is to promote higher education cooperation between Estonia and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (hereinafter: donor countries).

The total funding of the scholarships for the EEA/Norway Cooperation Programme in Higher Education is 1 183 074 EUR, out of which 400 500 euros will be granted within the 2021 call for proposals. In the 2021 call, 150 000 € have been reserved for mobility projects fulfilling the pre-set quality requirements and 20 000 € for preparatory visits. Reserve is used to finance cooperation projects in case no mobility projects or preparatory visits are funded.

#### Expected goals of the programme

- Cooperation projects strengthen the long-term cooperation between higher education institutions, promote the internationalization of higher education institutions, improve the quality of studies and enable students and teaching staff to supplement their professional knowledge and skills in an international environment.
- Learning mobility projects that give employees of higher education institutions and partner institutions an opportunity to acquire new knowledge and skills in an international team.

#### Supported activities

Activity 1 - Cooperation projects in higher education

Activity 2 - Learning Mobility Projects

## A. Activity 1 – Cooperation projects in higher education

The objective of the cooperation projects is to contribute to the development of curricula and teaching methods (intellectual output), also create possibilities for mobility windows or contribute to the integration of higher education and the world of work. Another objective is to exchange positive experiences with teaching methods and enable short-term study mobility for students. The projects must involve a minimum of two higher education institutions: one from Estonia and the other from a donor country.

### A.1. Eligible project promoters and partners

Cooperation projects can be submitted in all fields of higher education.

At least two higher education institution (regardless of the ownership) must participate in a cooperation project – one from Estonia and the other from a donor country. In case three or more countries wish to participate in the project, the main partner in each country must always be a higher education institution. Higher education institution of each donor country may include other partners in the project, for instance, enterprises or other institutions or organizations interested in the topic. Partner institutions can only be included from countries in which the primary partner is a higher education institution.

Only Estonian higher education institutions may submit applications as coordinators.

### A.2. Eligible activities

The activities within the cooperation projects must be clearly directed towards the topics in accordance with the goals of the overall programme. If necessary to achieve the goals of the cooperation project, international learning mobility is also supported. Mobilities can be funded if they are connected to any of the following types of activities: short-term mobility of students, intensive courses, and joint courses for staff.

It is mandatory to carry out at least one joint activity (intensive course, seminar, workshop, study course etc.) within every cooperation project. All activities need to take place in the countries of the partner institutions.

### A.3. Financing regulations

The financing of cooperation projects is based on unit costs. Projects duration can be between 12-24 months in length and receive financing between the sums of 10 000 and 150 000 EUR. The maximum grant rate is 100% of the eligible costs.

The coordinating institution of the project (who has signed the project contract) is responsible for how the financing will be used. The Estonian higher education institution will distribute the money among the partner organizations in Norway, Iceland or Lichtenstein.

### A.4. Evaluation process

Applications that have passed the assessment of the eligibility and administrative criteria and are declared compliant, shall be evaluated by two independent and impartial experts. The selection panel receives a ranking of projects and, after review, decides which projects to support under the programme. The process ensures that all applications are evaluated according to the same criteria. In the case of two applications having the same evaluation score, preference will be shown to newcomer institutions previously not funded through the current programme.

### A.5. The Submission

Applications shall be submitted electronically and these need to include the letters of intent from every single partner organization proving their participation in the project.

The application form can be found at the programme website: <http://haridus.archimedes.ee/en/cooperation-projects>. The application must be signed by a duly authorised representative.

The application must be submitted to the Education and Youth Board via email at the address [eeagrants@harno.ee](mailto:eeagrants@harno.ee). Once the application is submitted, you will receive an email from the Education and Youth Board notifying you that your application has been submitted. If you do not receive a confirmation letter before the deadline, contact the Education and Youth Board's senior officers. **The applicant must make sure that the application has reached the board within the deadline.**

Only applications that fulfil all requirements mentioned in the application form will be accepted.

The deadline for submitting cooperation project applications is **10 May 2021 at 16.00** (local Estonian time). Applications received after this time will automatically be excluded from the evaluation process.

#### *A.6. Further information and contact details*

The detailed conditions of this call for proposals, including priorities, can be found in the at the following internet address: <http://haridus.archimedes.ee/en/eeanorway-cooperation-programme-higher-education>

The Guidebook 2021 is an integral part of this call for proposals and the conditions for participation and funding expressed therein apply in full to this call.

Should you have any questions, feel free to send an email to [eeagrants@harno.ee](mailto:eeagrants@harno.ee). The written request will a receive reply within 3 workdays. Phone inquiries are answered by the Education and Youth Board's senior officers on workdays (+372 730 0121 and +372 730 0809).

### **Activity 2 – Learning Mobility Projects**

This activity supports the professional development of employees at partner higher education institutions in line with the strategic goals of internationalization of higher education institutions, the increase of professional and teaching competence of employees, their innovation and ability to improve the quality of teaching and promote cooperation between Estonian and donor country higher education institutions. Learning mobility projects also increase participants' awareness of other cultures and support the emergence of international networks.

#### *B.1. Eligible project promoters and partners*

Only Estonian higher education institutions (regardless of the ownership) may submit applications as coordinators. Institutions (higher education institutions or enterprises) from donor countries can participate as partners.

#### *B.2. Eligible activities*

- Mobility of academics (in both directions) and staff of other partner institutions (incoming to Estonia) to **teach in higher education institutions**,
- Mobility of higher education institutions' staff to **training taking place in a donor country** (outgoing from Estonia).

More information about eligible activities, programme priorities and selection criteria are available in Guidelines 2021.

#### *B.3. Financial regulations*

The support for one mobility project is from 500 euros up to 150,000 euros. The maximum grant rate is 100% of the eligible costs.

The financing of cooperation projects is based on unit costs. The eligible costs are:

- travel costs of the individual participant (including travel insurance)
- living costs of the individual participant (meant to use to cover living costs but also for costs to participate in a training/ conference)
- institutional costs to organize the learning mobility programme

The coordinating institution of the project (who has signed the project contract) is responsible on using the funds of the learning mobility programme.

#### *B.4. Evaluation process*

Applications that have been passed the assessment of the eligibility and administrative criteria and is declared compliant, shall be evaluated by two independent and impartial experts. The selection committee receives a ranking of projects and, after review, decides which projects to support under the programme. The process ensures that all applications are evaluated according to the same criteria. In the case of two applications having the same evaluation score, preference will be shown to newcomer institutions previously not funded through the current programme.

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