

Annual work programme for grants in 2010/Cooperation with industrialised countries and other high-income countries and territories

The Annual action programme for cooperation with industrialised and other high income countries and territories was adopted by the Commission on 28 April 2010.

The Industrialised Countries Instrument (ICI) promotes cooperation with 17 industrialised and other high-income countries and territories in North America, the Asia-Pacific region and the Gulf region. Based on Article 212 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union,¹ the ICI contributes to fostering the EU's relations with countries and territories which often share similar values, are important political and trading partners, and play an active role in multilateral fora and in global governance.

The actions provided for under the aegis of the ICI support strategic objectives of the EU's external action in relation to industrialised countries, namely: intensifying political cooperation, advancing the EU's economic interests, and enhancing global networking and awareness of the EU.

The work programme for grants covers initiatives in the following areas:

- (1) Public diplomacy and policy research. The key objectives are to enhance the profile of the EU, to promote a better understanding of EU's actions and positions, and to exert a positive influence on how the EU is perceived in partner countries. Accordingly, support is provided to EU Centres, public policy think tanks and research institutes; and targeted events are organised in partner countries. In 2010, the focus will be on the launch of the programme “Getting to know Europe” in the US, and on the stimulation of networking between the EU and the Republic of Korea in the area of policy research. The mandate of the EU Centre in Singapore will also be extended by one year.
- (2) Economic partnership and business cooperation. The upcoming initiatives will contribute to the strategic objective of strengthening the presence of European companies in third country markets. Most cooperation activities in this area are implemented under public procurement contracts. In 2010 however, one initiative has been put in reserve for implementation under a grant contract: the establishment of an Enterprise Europe Network Correspondence Centre in Australia.
- (3) People-to-people links. The main goals are to enhance mutual understanding between cultures, and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge. The ICI will strengthen cooperation in the field of education through bilateral projects and policy dialogue activities with a number of industrialised countries, and through the establishment of regional Erasmus Mundus partnerships in North America and Asia. In 2010, the ICI will also stimulate civil society dialogue between the EU and partner countries, with a special focus on the Gulf region.

¹ From 1 December 2009, Article 212 replaces Article 181A of the Treaty.

(4) Small scale cooperation events

The legal basis for all actions referred to in this annual action programme is the ICI (Council Regulation (EC) No 1934/2006 of 21 December 2006 establishing a financing instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high-income countries and territories).

1) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

1. OBJECTIVES

The aims of public diplomacy activities are:

- To promote, in the partner countries, a better understanding of EU institutions, policies, positions on global challenges, and economic, social and political integration processes, as well as the corresponding implications for EU external relations;
- To help raise awareness and understanding of EU affairs in the partner countries, to encourage reflection and discussion on the EU's relations with these countries and key areas of current common interest in support of EU international policy objectives;
- To exert a positive influence on the way individuals and public and private organisations in the partner countries perceive the EU, and to encourage their greater involvement with the EU in support of EU international policy objectives.

The strategy for public diplomacy will rely on fostering debate around EU policies and relations between the EU and the partner countries, and on organising the various outreach activities.

2. PRIORITIES FOR 2010

2.1. Developing public diplomacy and outreach activities in the US

A new version of the programme “Getting to Know Europe” will be launched in the United States in 2010. The aim of the programme, which follows up on a similar programme rolled out in 2008, is to promote - throughout the United States – a greater knowledge of the EU, its growing international role and its relationship with the United States. Applicants wishing to take part in the programme are expected propose a package of events, which bring together a range of local and regional groups.

In 2008, selected projects included activities focusing on EU and EU-US themes directed at high-school students, teachers and district superintendents (effectively, the CEOs of regional school districts) as well as local and state government officials, public health executives, and the business community. For example, these projects encouraged discussions amongst state officials and business leaders on economic engagement with the EU, and led to the organisation of conference panels featuring EU ambassadors and top US foreign policy decision makers in discussions with regional audiences. Through these activities which target multiple constituencies, this programme has a real local impact.

In 2010, activities should be aimed at helping local and regional communities to learn about the EU, what it does, and how the EU and the US can interact to their mutual benefit, as well as taking the lead on various matters of global concern, and learning about the impacts of political, economic, social and cultural ties between those communities and the EU. The budget earmarked for the programme “Getting to know Europe” is EUR 1 000 000.

2.2. Promoting public diplomacy activities in Korea

Think tank and policy research networking

This initiative is based on the conclusion of a new framework agreement between the EU and South Korea which - together with a new free trade agreement - will form the basis for a Strategic Partnership. In 2010, the focus will be on encouraging reflection and discussion on this new strategic EU-Korea relationship in the context of these new agreements, as well as the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. As Korea is increasing its involvement in the key global issues that affect EU interests, and with an increasing number of common values and goals being identified, there is scope to increase the research into this relationship and about how it could be developed

In 2010, grant support will be provided for establishing partnerships between research institutes and think tanks in Korea and the EU to look at the functional areas of cooperation that are outlined in the EU-Korea Framework Agreement (which include information society, science and technology, development policy, transport, maritime affairs, consumer policy, health, employment and social affairs) as well as other areas where there are common goals, for example in the area of financial regulation, which was discussed at the G20.

The aim of the partnerships would be to organise a sustainable process of exchanges between research institutes (possibly including university departments and specialist civil society groups). The partnerships would be expected to generate joint recommendations on enhancing EU-Korea cooperation in particular fields. The partnerships would seek to maximise interaction between Europeans and Koreans in areas where this is not the case at present. Conferences and expert workshops could be held to initiate and subsequently present research, while the emphasis would be on initiating a sustainable process of interaction, for example via exchanges of information between conferences through dedicated websites, video-conferencing and exchanges of papers, or a sustained research project on a topic in one of the sectors defined.

The main result expected from these activities is the creation of channels of interaction between European and Korean research institutes that can produce practical recommendations on how to develop the EU-Korea strategic relationship. The proposed budget for this initiative is EUR 280 000

2.3. Extending the EU Centre in Singapore

The EU Centre in Singapore was formally established on 16 April 2008 as a partnership between the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). Its grant agreement was financed out of the 2007 budget and will end in 2010.

The aim of the Centre is to promote a better understanding of EU institutions and policies, and the EU's positions on regional and global issues in general and a greater appreciation of the its role in Southeast Asia and Singapore in particular. The Centre promotes knowledge and visibility of the EU through various outreach activities, education, research and publications.

The Centre has raised the visibility of the EU and organised, inter alia, eight public talks and lectures, seven seminars, two workshops and three high-level conferences and symposia during its first year of operation. Excellent publications were produced on the subject of the

euro, as well as contributions to the EC Delegation's publications in the ASEM framework. The Centre's web-site and its electronic newsletter are also very well developed. Furthermore, the Centre facilitated the creation of two new EU study modules at NUS and NTU. During the Centre's second year of operation, in addition to the impressive outreach and teaching activities that are ongoing, greater focus will be placed on research.

With regard to the initial grant funding available, the open call for proposals which was launched in October 2007 stipulated that the EU Centre will receive funding in the form of a grant towards approved project costs for activities taking place during a 36-month period following the signature of the Grant Agreement. For the establishment and the running of the EU Centre in Singapore during that three-year period, the European Commission is allocating an initial amount of up to EUR 750 000, which is regarded as the minimum contribution for fulfilling the objectives of this call for proposals. Subject to a satisfactory performance review and the availability of funding, the grant may be increased by up to EUR 420 000 and its duration extended. Hence, the maximum amount of the grant from the European Commission would be EUR 1 200 000. The proposed extension is therefore in line with these stipulations and, given the Centre's excellent performance, is fully justified.

3. GRANT PROGRAMME

The grant programme will cover public diplomacy activities with the US, the Republic of Korea and Singapore.

Subject/Programme component	Indicative amount (EUR)	Maximum rate of co-financing	Procedure	Estimated timetable for launch of procedure
Getting to know Europe	1 000 000	50-75%	Call for Proposals	2nd quarter 2010
Public diplomacy in Korea	280 000	75%	Call for proposals	4th quarter 2010
EU Centre in Singapore	420 000	75%	Extension of grant agreement	3rd quarter of 2010

The essential selection and award criteria for each main initiative are set out below.

Public diplomacy activities in the US and in Korea:

The grants will provide support for two years of activity.

Essential selection criteria

The essential selection criteria will be:

- proven previous experience in organising events of this kind;

- in-depth knowledge of public policy issues relevant to the substance of the proposal and, where appropriate, of EU policies and of the relationship between the EU and the partner country;
- educational and professional qualifications of the person(s) undertaking the project;
- financial and economic capacity enabling the applicant to perform the tasks involved in this project,
- evidence of co-financing capacity, with own resources and third-party resources.

Essential award criteria

- Quality of the activity proposed.
- Cost-effectiveness in implementing the activity proposed and capacity to mobilise resources to supplement the Commission's grant.
- Expected impact of the proposed event(s) in promoting greater knowledge and understanding of the European Union and/or of relations between the EU and the partner countries and – where appropriate – in terms of formulating recommendations for taking forward the relationship between the EU and the partner countries.

Extension of the EU Centre in Singapore

The grant agreement provides for the possibility of extending the EU Centre in Singapore. Such extension will be based on the submission of a work programme for a further year of operations and does not require a new call for proposals.

2) ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AND BUSINESS COOPERATION

1. OBJECTIVES

The activities in the areas of economic partnership and business cooperation should strengthen the presence of European companies on markets which, for structural reasons, are difficult to penetrate. In 2010, the business cooperation activities should focus on Japan and Korea, in support of wider initiatives, such as the conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement with the Republic of Korea, and the dialogue with Japan on regulatory reform. These activities will be implemented under public procurements contracts. This activity is on the reserve list for 2010. The only activity that could be implemented under a grant agreement is the establishment of an Enterprise Europe Network Correspondence Centre in Australia.

2. RESERVE LIST IN 2010

Enterprise Europe Network Correspondence Centre in Australia

Trade and investment links could be enhanced through practical information services focusing on business opportunities between the EU and Australia. An Enterprise Europe Network Correspondence Centre (EENCC) could provide support to small and medium-sized companies wishing to undertake bilateral trade.

The establishment of an EENCC would be consistent with EU policy on competitiveness and innovation. The range of services to be provided to EU and Australian companies would have to be determined, drawing from Article 21 and Annex III of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme 2007-2013 (Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006). Here should also be synergies with the services provided by Member States.

This project could also receive co-financing from the Australian government. A budget of EUR 600 000 is being held in reserve to cover the possible EU contribution during four years of operations.

The opportunity to establish an EENCC in Australia will be examined during the year in the light of the general EU policy to develop the Enterprise Europe Network in third countries and of the readiness of the Australian government to contribute to the cost of the Network.

3. GRANT PROGRAMME

No allocation of grants is envisaged under the main programme in 2010. As regards the reserve list, a budget of EUR 600 000 is earmarked for the establishment of an Enterprise Europe Network in Australia.

The grant agreement would provide support for four years of activity.

Subject/programme component	Indicative amount (€)	Maximum rate of co-financing	Procedure	Estimated timetable for launching the procedure
<i>In reserve: EEN in Australia</i>	<i>600 000</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>Call for proposals</i>	<i>4th quarter of 2010</i>

The essential selection criteria relate to the financial and economic capacity of the bidder. The essential award criteria are relevance, quality, impact, visibility and budget and cost-effectiveness.

3) PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE LINKS (EDUCATION COOPERATION AND DIALOGUES)

1. OBJECTIVES

The general objectives of people-to-people links are to enhance mutual understanding between the peoples of the EU and the partner countries, including a broader knowledge of their languages, cultures and institutions. Furthermore, cooperation in the field of education should be mutually beneficial for the quality of education and training in the European Union and in the partner countries.

Specific objectives for cooperation in the field of education

- To support cooperation between higher education and training institutions with a view to promoting joint study programmes and mobility;
- To foster the mobility of students and doctoral candidates between the European Union and the partner countries by promoting transparency, mutual recognition of qualifications and periods of study, research and training and, where appropriate, portability of credits;
- To support the mobility of professionals (academic and administrative staff) with a view to improving mutual understanding of, and expertise in, issues that are relevant to relations between the European Union and the partner countries;
- To exchange best practices and to review policy developments and challenges in the field of education, and to promote the building and sharing of knowledge on horizontal issues of common interest for the European Union and the partner countries;
- For bilateral education cooperation activities: to promote bilateral cooperation, i.e. measures decided jointly with partner countries, in relation to which each party provides comparable levels of funding, such as joint consortia projects and policy-dialogue activities;
- For multilateral education cooperation activities: to develop a distinctive value for the promotion of region-to-region cooperation.

Specific objectives for dialogues

- To promote the exchange of information and the dissemination of expertise between political, economic and social partners, as well as other civil society and non-state actors,
- To test new ideas with different actors and provide feedback to the Commission.

The development of civil society dialogues will promote a better understanding of the EU's position on global challenges and of its economic, social and political integration processes among relevant parties (opinion formers, decision and policy makers, business circles and professional associations, trade unions, consumer associations, environmental groups, political parties, the media, academia and other multipliers).

2. PRIORITIES FOR 2010

2.2. Promoting bilateral cooperation with Australia, New Zealand, Korea and Japan

Bilateral cooperation with Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Korea in the field of education pursues the objective of promoting mutual understanding between the people of the European Union and the partner countries, and of enhancing the quality of European education and training by stimulating balanced partnerships between higher education and training institutions in Europe and in the partner countries. The content of this action builds upon the experience of long-standing bilateral cooperation with the US and Canada. It is designed, funded and managed jointly with the authorities of the partner countries. This makes it possible to establish genuine cooperation with partner countries who provide comparable levels of funding which benefits our relations with those countries.

As regards cooperation financed under the ICI, 11 bilateral projects were selected in 2008 for a total amount of EUR 3.6 million: 5 with Australia, 3 with South Korea, 2 with Japan and 1 with New Zealand. In 2009, another 9 bilateral projects have been selected (4 with Australia, 3 with the Republic of Korea, 2 with Japan) for a total budget of EUR 2.98 million.

In 2010, the Commission will launch a new call for proposals with a view to selecting 6 to 8 projects for a budget of EUR 2.45 million. The cooperation project should involve a minimum of three higher education institutions and/or training institutions from at least three different EU Member States and two higher education and/or training institutions in the partner country. For projects with the aim of awarding joint or double degrees, the minimum number of EU institutions is two from at least two different EU Member States.

These projects should preferably reflect the key themes of the bilateral relationships with each partner country.

The activities should focus on structured exchanges of students, and on the development of joint or shared curricula (combining existing modules, developing innovative curricula, applying new teaching methods, etc.), joint study programmes (including the possibility of awarding joint or double degrees), and structured exchanges of students, faculty members, trainers and administrators. The partnerships should provide a framework for the outgoing mobility of students, trainees and scholars. In principle, each institution in the consortium is expected to send out an equal number of students. The partnership activities may also include teaching assignments at a partner institution, teacher exchanges, development and dissemination of new methodologies in higher education and vocational education and training (including the use of information and communication technologies, e-learning and open and distance learning), etc.

2.2. Erasmus Mundus partnerships with industrialised and other high-income countries and territories

The new Erasmus Mundus programme was adopted on 16 December 2008.² It includes three actions:

² Decision 1298/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an action programme for the enhancement of quality in higher education and the promotion of intercultural

- Action 1: Erasmus Mundus Joint Programme (masters and doctoral programmes) of outstanding academic quality, including a scholarship scheme;
- Action 2: Erasmus Mundus partnerships between European and third-country higher education institutions as a basis for structured cooperation, exchange and mobility at all levels of higher education, including a scholarship scheme;
- Action 3: Promotion of European higher education through measures enhancing the attractiveness of Europe as an educational destination and a centre of excellence at world level.

Actions 1 and 3 are financed by a specific budget line for education. Action 2 is financed by the various external action instruments, including the Industrialised Countries Instrument. An overall indicative budget of EUR 20 million has been earmarked for the development of partnerships with industrialised countries and other high income countries and territories for the period 2009-2013.

The main objectives of the “Erasmus Mundus partnerships” with industrialised countries are: enhancing the quality of European higher education and promoting understanding between peoples. These partnerships must involve a minimum of five higher education institutions from three different European countries. Their aim is to foster the exchange of students at different levels of higher education, and of academics and faculty staff for mobility periods of variable length. Mobility is intended to ensure that European nationals spend time in third countries and that third-country nationals spend time in European countries. The partnerships must have built-in mechanisms for the recognition of periods of study and research undertaken in partner institutions. They should lead to further partnership activities, such as double degrees, joint curriculum development, and transfer of best practices.

The content of these Erasmus Mundus partnerships has to be defined with regard to the characteristics of the advanced academic systems in industrialised countries and high-income countries/territories, which often are at the forefront of investment in higher education and research.

The limited budget available for partnerships with industrialised countries means that the focus has to be on well-defined priorities and high-quality projects. The existence of bilateral projects with the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Korea and Japan also calls for a complementary approach in developing regional projects with North America, the Pacific and East Asia.

Therefore, Erasmus Mundus partnerships focus on cooperation on a regional basis (i.e. cooperation between EU countries and at least two partner countries in a given geographical area). These partnerships are intended to foster mobility in the following categories: Master's students, doctoral and post-doctoral candidates, higher education academic and administrative staff (hereinafter faculty members). In the six countries where there are existing bilateral projects open to Master's students (USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the Republic of Korea), the partnerships should focus on doctoral and post-doctoral candidates and on faculty members.

understanding through cooperation with third countries (published on 19 December 2008 in the OJ L 340/83).

These projects should be in line with the growing role of the European Union in the economic and political spheres and should reflect the key themes of the EU's relationship with its industrialised partners.

To this end, it is proposed to encourage projects in the fields of economics and business administration, law and political science, science and technology, as well as in the cross-cutting area of regional integration.

In December 2009, a call for proposals was launched with five regional lots covering industrialised countries and other high-income countries/territories. It covered the following geographical areas: North America, Pacific, East Asia, South Asia and the Gulf region. A budget of €7.5 million has been committed for this call.

In 2010, there are plans to launch two regional lots for a total amount of EUR 3.2 million: one lot of EUR 1 million covering North America, and one lot of EUR 2.2 million covering the following countries/territories in the Asia/Pacific region: Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Brunei, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, Australia, New Zealand.

In addition, it is proposed to put a call for proposals for the Gulf Region in reserve for an amount of EUR 1 million. The decision on whether to launch this call for proposals will depend on the outcome of the priority action to develop a civil society dialogue with the Gulf countries (see section 2.3. below).

The allocation of funding is summarized below:

Lots	Partner Countries	Priority activities supported	Budget
1	North America (USA, Canada)	Exchange of doctoral and post-doctoral candidates, and of faculty members	1 M€
2	South Asia, East Asia and Pacific Sub-group 1: Brunei, Macau, Hong Kong, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Sub-group 2: Republic of Korea, Japan Sub-group 3: Australia, New Zealand	Exchange of master's students, doctoral and post-doctoral candidates, and faculty members	2,2 M€
3 (in reserve)	Gulf Countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates)	Exchange of master's students, doctoral and post-doctoral candidates and faculty members	1 M€

The main activities will be as follows :

- Funding of multilateral projects on a regional basis. Partnerships comprising a minimum of five higher education institutions from at least three EU countries, plus a minimum of three higher education institutions from at least two countries/territories in each region. The call for proposals will define the geographical scope of each lot, as well as the minimum and maximum number of partners for each region and each sub-region in the case of Lot 2. These elements will be defined in the light of the potential for regional cooperation in higher education, with a view to generating a sufficient number of quality applications.
- Funding of mobility grants for students/doctoral/post-doctoral candidates and faculty members. The calls for proposals will define the eligibility rules. In general, the projects should strike a balance between the outward mobility of European participants and the inward mobility of students/doctoral candidates/faculty members from the partner countries. The rules for inward and outward mobility will be defined in each regional lot.
- Projects contracted via grant agreements covering a project duration of several years (including an inception phase, project implementation and a closure period).
- Arrangements should be made for recognizing the period of study/research abroad.
- All educational areas can be covered, but proposals in the following fields will be encouraged in particular: economics and business administration, law and political science, science and technology, regional integration.

To lend impetus to these new Erasmus Mundus partnerships, and to inform potential partner universities about cooperation opportunities with European universities, information events could be organised in the partner countries. The Delegations of the European Union in the partner countries will contribute to the dissemination of information and to the promotion of the new Erasmus Mundus programme.

2.3. Reinforcing civil society dialogues on key issues of common interest

The Annual Action Programme for 2010 will continue to provide financial support for dialogues with, and between, stakeholders in areas of strategic importance for cooperation with the partner country concerned, such as: business; consumers; education; culture, development, environment; energy and transport; employment, social policy and equal opportunities; the media, including the audiovisual sector... etc. Actions that promote training, exchange of information and sharing of best practice in the area of regulatory cooperation (such as an exchange programme for regulators) will also be eligible. Part of these activities is implemented in the form of public procurement contracts. The civil society dialogues that are foreseen to be implemented under grant agreement are described below.

Civil society dialogue with Korea on sustainable development

The issue of sustainable development is of special relevance to the civil societies in both Korea and the EU. It is suggested that this new initiative will focus on support for civil society dialogue between the EU and Korea on sustainable development, and more particularly on two topics: development policy and environmental policy. Grant support will be provided for actions organised by relevant non-governmental organisations and interest groups in the EU and South Korea. Activities should take the form of an action to be launched in the EU and/or in South Korea, which may include a conference, seminar or workshop, and also the creation of networking links to exchange ideas and views on a more permanent basis.

The action may also include exchange visits, study visits, joint field trips and position papers to share experiences and enhance public awareness of development and environment issues.

The expected result is to have an emerging civil society dialogue on sustainable development, offering analyses and recommendations to EU and Korean governments.

Civil society dialogue with the Gulf countries

The Annual Action Programme for 2010 includes the launching of a series of civil society dialogues between the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The aim of this initiative is to foster mutual understanding between both regions, to enhance exchanges of information and knowledge, to reinforce links between actors, to promote joint endeavour on common challenges and to provide recommendations where relevant.

Taking the particularities of the Gulf Region into account, civil society should be understood in its broader sense. Grant support will be provided to entities or groupings that would propose activities involving actors in both the EU and the GCC, and which will lead to the strengthening of links and networks. Activities could include seminars, workshops and conferences; studies, translations, publications and information dissemination; visits or study tours; and the creation of networks. Areas of common interest could include, amongst others, environment, consumers' rights, businesswomen, volunteering and youth.

This initiative will be the first of its kind. There are plans to hold a preliminary conference/workshop to identify potential applicants and partnerships. This preparatory process will be instrumental in fine-tuning the different aspects of the call for proposals, which is expected to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2010.

It is acknowledged that the scarcity of existing contacts between the civil societies of both regions might present a challenge to this call, possibly leading to an insufficient number of eligible / relevant proposals, or none at all, for the civil society dialogues under this first initiative. In that case, only part of the budget earmarked for the dialogue would be used, thus leaving room for other activities. In this perspective, an amount of EUR 1 million has been placed in reserve for Erasmus Mundus partnerships with the Gulf region.

3. GRANT PROGRAMME

The grant programme will support the establishment of both regional Erasmus Mundus partnerships with industrialised countries and bilateral education cooperation projects with Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Subject/Programme component	Indicative amount (€)	Maximum rate of co-financing	Procedure	Estimated timetable for launch of procedure
Bilateral partnerships with Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea	2 450 000	Flat-rate financing and lump sums	Calls for proposals	2nd quarter 2010
Erasmus Mundus partnerships with ICI countries	3 200 000	Flat-rate financing and lump sums	Call for proposals	4th quarter 2010

<i>In reserve: Erasmus Mundus Action 2 – Gulf Lot</i>	<i>1 000 000</i>	<i>Flat-rate financing and lump sums</i>	<i>Call for proposals</i>	<i>4th quarter 2010</i>
Civil society dialogue with Korea on development	120 000	75%	Call for proposals	3 rd quarter of 2010
Civil society dialogues with the Gulf Countries	1 900 000	75%	Call for proposals	4 th quarter 2010

3.2.1. Bilateral projects with Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Korea

The project activities will be supported by multiannual grants. So far, the duration of projects focusing on mobility has been three years, with the possibility of extending them by one year. For projects aiming at joint/double degrees, there are plans to provide funding for four years, with the possibility of a one-year extension. As regards the maximum amounts of flat rate and lump sum payments, the following provisions will apply:

A maximum lump sum of EUR 7 500 should be paid per year to eligible participating higher education or training institutions to cover organisation and administrative costs for the whole duration of the partnership.

The maximum flat rate paid to eligible students will be EUR 1 000 per month of mobility, plus a maximum amount of EUR 1 500 for travel.

The maximum flat-rate paid to eligible faculty members will be EUR 1 000 per week of mobility, plus a maximum amount of EUR 1 500 for travel.

Essential selection criteria

The essential selection criteria will be:

- Operational capacity of the beneficiary
- Financial capacity of the beneficiary

Essential award criteria

The selection of bilateral partnerships will be a competitive process based on an assessment of the significance and quality of the project, the quality of cooperation and the content of the partnerships:

- Significance of the project for the relationship between the European Union and the partner countries
- Contribution to educational quality and excellence
- The quality of project implementation.

3.2.2. Erasmus Mundus partnerships for industrialised countries

The multiannual grants will provide support for project activities for up to 48 months. They will be open to universities and other higher education institutions in EU Member States and in the countries/territories covered by the Industrialised Countries Instrument.

A lump sum of EUR 10.000 should be paid to eligible participating higher education institutions for organisation and administrative costs for the entire duration of the partnership.

The maximum flat-rate paid to eligible master students will be: EUR 1 000 per month of mobility.

The maximum flat-rate paid to eligible doctorate candidates will be: EUR 1 500 per month of mobility.

The maximum flat-rate paid to eligible post doctorate candidates will be: EUR 1 800 per month of mobility.

The maximum flat-rate paid to eligible faculty members will be: EUR 1 000 per week of mobility.

In addition to these amounts, there is provision for a contribution to insurance costs (about EUR 75/month) and travel costs (depending on distance and on the category of the beneficiary; and subject to a maximum of EUR 3 500).

Essential selection criteria

The essential selection criteria will be:

- Operational capacity of the beneficiary
- Financial capacity of the beneficiary

Essential award criteria

The selection of Erasmus Mundus partnerships will be a competitive process based on an assessment of the significance and quality of the project:

- Relevance of the project for the relationship between the European Union and the partner countries
- Contribution to educational quality and excellence
- Quality of project implementation.

3.2.3. Civil society dialogues with Korea on sustainable development

The grants will provide support for two years of activity.

Essential selection criteria:

- proven previous experience in organising activities of this kind;

- in-depth knowledge of development policy, including the development policies of the EU and Korea;
- details of the educational and professional qualifications of the person(s) undertaking the project;
- financial and economic capacity enabling the applicant to perform the tasks involved in this project;
- evidence of co-financing capacity, with own resources and third-party resources.

Essential award criteria:

- quality of the activity proposed;
- expected impact of the proposed event(s)/activity, in terms of value-added input to the EU-Korea relationship and in terms of formulating recommendations and providing analyses to both the EU and Korean governments;
- cost-effectiveness in implementing the activity proposed and capacity to mobilise resources to supplement the Commission's grant.

3.2.4. Civil society dialogues with the Gulf Countries

The grants will provide support for up to three years of activity.

Essential selection criteria:

- proven experience of the applicant in the proposed area of activities as well as in the range of activities;
- details of the educational and professional qualifications of the person(s) undertaking the project;
- financial and economic capacity enabling the applicant to perform the tasks involved in this project;
- evidence of co-financing capacity, including own resources and third-party resources.

Essential award criteria:

- relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call;
- expected impact of the proposed action, in terms of deepening mutual understanding and establishing links between the EU and the Gulf societies;
- cost-effectiveness in implementing the proposed action and capacity to mobilise resources to supplement the Commission's grant;
- regional coverage of participants and range of activities;
- potential sustainability of the action (through fora, networks, information sharing, etc.)..

4) SMALL-SCALE COOPERATION ACTIVITIES, EVALUATION AND AUDIT

1. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2010

Small-scale cooperation projects are designed to underpin the broader political, economic, social and people-to-people cooperation and dialogue activities between the EU and the partner countries.

These small-scale cooperation events would typically consist of conferences, workshops or seminars about issues of common interest for the European Union and partner countries. These events could potentially cover a wide range of themes and sectors (e.g. environment, energy, science and technology, transport, economic cooperation, statistics...).

Most of these activities are implemented in the form of public procurement contracts.

However, some small scale projects could be implemented under grant agreements.

For Japan: Studies, conferences and seminars with different stakeholders could be organized on the future of the EU-Japan relationship in the context of the follow-up to the Action Plan for EU-Japan Cooperation (adopted in 2001). These activities would normally be in the form of public procurement. However, some might take the form of grants, especially in the case of co-funding by the Japanese government. The possibility of grants, including direct grants to the Japanese government if it has a monopoly for the organisation of such activities, is kept in reserve.

For Australia and New Zealand: there could be further actions, for example in the context of projects to promote peace, security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Some of these actions may be financed jointly by the EU and the governments of Australia and New Zealand. In such a case, the financial contribution of the Commission is likely to take the form of a direct grant to the government of Australia or the government of New Zealand, which would have a monopoly for the organization of such events. A grant is earmarked for this purpose.

2. GRANT PROGRAMME

Subject/Programme component	Indicative amount (€)	Maximum rate of co-financing	Procedure	Estimated timetable for launch of procedure
Cooperation with Australia and New Zealand as regards peace, security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region	50 000	60%	Direct grant agreement with the governments of Australia and/or New Zealand	3rd quarter of 2010
<i>[in reserve] Studies and conferences on EU-Japan relations</i>	<i>150 000</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>Call for proposals or direct grant to the Japanese government.</i>	<i>3rd quarter 2010</i>

Essential selection criteria

- proven experience in the organisation of events
- professional qualifications of the person(s) undertaking the project, as demonstrated by the curriculum vitae
- financial and economic capacity enabling the applicant to perform the tasks involved in the project

Essential award criteria

- nature of the activity proposed
- cost-effectiveness in the implementation of the activity proposed and capacity to mobilise resources to supplement the Commission's grant