



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Erasmus Mundus and External Cooperation

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Brussels, 13/08/2010
EACEA/P4/JF/SM/dm D (2010) 303678

**Re: Erasmus Mundus Action 1.A - Joint Masters Courses – Call for Proposals
EACEA/29/09**

Title: European Master in Nuclear Fusion Science and Engineering Physics

Ref.: 512025-1-2010-1-BE-ERA MUNDUS-EMMC

(Please quote this number in all correspondence)

Dear Sir/Madam,

You have submitted a proposal under Action 1.A in the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Call for proposals EACEA 29/09.

I am pleased to inform you that your above-mentioned proposal has been selected.

The Agency received 181 proposals under Action 1.A – Joint Masters Courses. 29 of these proposals were selected for funding, and a further 3 are on the reserve list.

All proposals were assessed with the assistance of independent academic experts. Enclosed you will find the consolidated version of the experts' assessments of your proposal. Please take account of the fact that most of the assessments were written by non-native speakers and that the Agency cannot comment on these independent assessments.

The selection decision is based on the quality of the proposal, its relative position in comparison with the other proposals received, the budget available as well as the extent to which it addresses the priorities indicated in the Call for proposals.

As mentioned in our email of 13 July, a description of your project will be published on the Erasmus Mundus website. This description will correspond to the summary sheet of your project as provided in your application or amended as a result of our 13 July email.

EACEA – "Education, Audiovisual and Culture" Executive Agency
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A Framework Partnership Agreement will be sent to you by separate mail in the course of September. If you have not done it yet, please complete a "Legal Entity" form (http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/legal_entities_en.htm) and a "Financial Identification" (http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/ftiers_en.htm) form. Originals signed by your institution's legal representative should be returned as soon as possible to the Agency.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions.

Sincerely Yours,



Joachim Fronia
Head of Unit

Annex: Comments and recommendations from the academic experts who assessed your proposal.

Proposal number:	512025-EM-1-2010-1-BE-ERA MUNDUS-EMMC
Proposal title:	European Master in Nuclear Fusion Science and Engineering Physics
Coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Guido Van Oost
Applicant organisation:	Ghent University

Award Criteria
<p>A.1 Academic quality - Course content (30 % of the max. score)</p> <p>This proposal concerns the emerging area of controlled thermonuclear fusion research using magnetic confinement. As a sustainable energy source. The EU fusion programme is at the forefront of international fusion research and engineering. This area is bound to be of increasing future importance given the trends of the economy, particularly in developed countries.</p> <p>The need for education in fusion science and related engineering is very well argued in the proposal, and shows the importance of a joint education by experts in the field where an extensive knowledge is necessary.</p> <p>It is demonstrated that the joint programme will substantially widen teaching and research competences. The extensive range of study possibilities represents added value compared to the possibilities of the individual partners alone. However, the mobility pattern is not very convincing towards achieving a joint program, or for the aim of gathering the best courses. It seems the students will be dispersed over the different partners with few opportunities to be in the same place at the same time.</p> <p>The outcomes, skills and wider competences of graduates by this programme are relevant and are likely to guarantee fast employability.</p> <p>As it is to be expected or required in such a field, considerable effort was put in the interaction with organizations, partners, and non-EU Institutions.</p> <p>The broad and high quality education to be provided will open opportunities to build professional careers for the graduates.</p> <p>The consortium composition is justified by a high reputation and complementary expertise of the partners.</p> <p>Interaction of the EMMC partners with the private sector, in particular in the field of nuclear fusion, is very strong. A large number of the associated partners from different sectors reflects this interaction.</p>
<p>A.2 Course integration (25% of the max. score)</p> <p>There is an effort of integration of the courses developed and delivered separately in the four institutions, and the first year syllabus covers the basic subjects agreed within the partner universities while, during the second year, complementary courses are provided at each partner.</p> <p>A joint degree will be delivered but with no Diploma supplement. This seems adequate, and ECTS grading is used or translated through a conversion table.</p> <p>A detailed common and centralized procedure of admission and the selection criteria are discussed. However it is not stated how the consortium will ensure full transparency of the selection procedure. No statements are made on the actions to be taken to ensure gender balance, nor the participation of students with special needs. Some concrete and convincing actions are taken to give the possibility to students already engaged in their professional career to enroll in the Master.</p> <p>The issues of ECTS mechanisms and conversion to local grading scheme at University of Ghent are correctly addressed - although without lengthy details.</p> <p>Life long learning requirements could be met by allowing professionals to attend just part of the programme; this is not explicitly addressed.</p> <p>Tuition fees take into account the required special treatment of category A scholarships (discounted</p>

fee).

A.3 Course management, visibility and sustainability measures (20 % of the max. score)

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The management is very clearly designed. The cooperation mechanisms are described in details, with the presence of a Steering committee and a Strategic Advisory Board. It is not stated if the consortium will prepare an EMMC agreement to be signed between all partner institutions, which will define the responsibilities and role of the partners and include appropriate contingencies. However a financial management plan is signed between the four partners. The contribution of the partner institutions to the management and administration of the courses are provided and details of the financial management are sufficiently explained. A consortium agreement is enclosed (Annex 8).
The consortium proposes a clear and common scholarship schemes.

Classical concrete measures are discussed to ensure the appropriate visibility and worldwide promotion of the EMMC and to reach out to potentially interested Third Country students. Promotion of the courses will be done through the dedicated web site and other promotion strategies are described (conferences, embassies, fairs, etc.) will be employed.

The consortium discusses a convincing Development and Sustainability Plan. Conditions and needs for sustainability are analyzed and explained, and various solutions are presented.

The consortium is aware and engaged in providing complementary funding solutions. The consortium should also look into possible grants from national funds. In the future the consortium plans to ask funds to their industrial associate partners.

It is very satisfactory that those companies are associate members of the EMMC.

A.4 Students' services and facilities (15% of the max. score)

The content and way of information delivery to the applicants is clearly described and sufficient. It reflects the previous EMMP phase experience.

A copy of an existing Student Agreement is enclosed in Annex 7 and it contains rights and duties of the student in reasonable detail. Obligations and responsibilities of the two parties (students and consortium) concerning the academic, administrative and financial aspects of the student's participation in the joint programme is presented.

The services provided to the students by the institutions are highly sufficient helping to organize students' living. Each institution gives high standard integrated and individualized support to the EMMC students regarding visas, housing, welfare and financial matters through International Relations Offices. However, there is no mention of availability of family facilities and facilities for disabled people.

The insurance policy fully satisfies requirement of EACEA and a copy of an insurance contract is enclosed as Annex 9. Insurance and Health insurance coverage are included in the registration Fees.

English is the teaching language and the other national languages will be a part of the curriculum presented in the proposal. Language courses can be validated with ECTS credits. Courses on national history in particular countries are also offered.

The universities have established a wide platform for all kinds of social events and networking. The EMMC students will be integrated into the students community and participate in the university life. Websites and ALUMNI are used to promote networking among students, and they will attend a Summer School Event.

A.5 Quality assurance and evaluation (10 % of the max. score)

Internal evaluation measures seem adequate, given that the four partner universities have in place evaluation schemes for their courses. In addition to the local universities' tools, the EM Steering Committee has also organised internal quality evaluation of the courses. The students' opinion will be a reference point. Associated partners will periodically assess the programme.

The issue of external quality assurance is treated with greater creativity, perhaps given the fact that the area is an emerging one. The feedback from 2 previous external quality assessments is used to implement modifications in the EMMC.

-In the past periods, the external evaluation employed an independent committee ECOTEC and their observations and recommendation for the previous period of the already running programme are listed as feedback for the Steering committee. A public report will be published as a result of an independent external committee evaluation.

Global comments
<p>The FUSION-EP European Master in Fusion Science and Engineering Physics programme is a joint curriculum consisting of basic parallel courses during the first year and complementary courses provided by different partner universities during the second year. The proposal is a renewal of existing courses and the gained experience is clearly visible in the detailed design of mobility, syllabus, management and other issues. This gives a good basis for a successful joint European master course in nuclear fusion. A significant benefit for the students and an impact for European education can be expected.</p>