

External Projects Team



Enterprise and Commercial Development Quick Facts

Funding Body	Erasmus+ European Commission
Scheme	Knowledge Alliances
Costs	Funding is based on unit costs. Maximum EU contribution awarded for a 2-year Knowledge Alliance: 700 000 EUR. Maximum EU contribution awarded for a 3-year Knowledge Alliance: 1 000 000 EUR
Intervention Rate	We are not expected to contribute a specific amount. Costs are based on unit rates. If they are over this we need to cover the additional costs. There are no indirect costs.
Project length	2-3 years
Deadlines	Estimated 2015 deadline is March/April. The calls may come out in November 2014.
Application Procedure	Apply via the European Commission using the PDF application form.
Success Rate	Unknown –the first call deadline was April 2014
Overview	Knowledge Alliances are transnational, structured and result-driven projects, between higher education and business. The partners share common goals and work together towards mutually beneficial results and outcomes. Projects should foster innovation.

More Details

Knowledge Alliances (KAs) are transnational, structured and result-driven projects, usually between higher education and business. Knowledge Alliances are open to any discipline, sector and to cross-sectoral cooperation, particularly in emerging fields. The partners share common goals and work together towards mutually beneficial results and outcomes.

KAs aim to strengthen Europe's innovation capacity and foster innovation in higher education, business and the broader socio-economic environment. They intend to achieve one or more of the following goals:

- develop new, innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning;
- stimulate entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills of students, academic and company staff;
- facilitate the exchange, flow and co-creation of knowledge.

KAs should have a short- and long-term impact on all stakeholders at various levels.

What are the essential features of a Knowledge Alliance?

Innovation in higher education, and innovation through higher education in enterprises and their socioeconomic environment: innovation is considered as state-of-the-art project-specific and related to the partnerships context and analysed needs.

Sustainability of university-business cooperation. A strong and committed partnership with a balanced participation from enterprises and higher education institutions are pivotal for the success of Knowledge Alliances. The role and contribution of each participating organisation and associate partner have to be specific and complementary.

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Impact going beyond the project's lifetime and beyond the organisations involved in the Alliance. It is expected that partnership and activities persist. Changes in higher education institutions and enterprises have to be measurable. Results and solutions have to be transferable and accessible to a broader audience.

What are the funding rules?

The European Commission will fund staff at unit rates. If a member of staffs salary is below the unit rate, then we will gain extra income. If a member of staffs salary is above the unit rate we will need to cover the additional costs. Usually on past European projects the University has contributed 25% to all project costs.

Projects also offer unit costs for travel and subsistence.

Role	Daily Rate £	Max grade to cover rate at 100%
Manager	272	9 SCP 46
Researcher	206	8 SCP 37
Technician	159	6 SCP 27
Administrator	129	5 SCP 20

Projects need strong and balanced involvement from business and the HE sectors. A well designed proposal is the result of close cooperation between the prospective partners.

A projects innovative and transnational character should be, visible across all criteria.

A proper needs-analysis clarifies the rationale, influences the selection of partners, makes the proposal specific, helps to raise the potential for impact and ensures that end-user and target groups are well involved in the project activities.

What else should you know?

Knowledge Alliances are required to accomplish targeted dissemination activities which reach out to stakeholders, policy makers, professionals and enterprises. Along the way Knowledge Alliance should deliver publications such as reports, hand-books, guidelines etc. Where appropriate, results should be made available as Open Educational Resources as well as on relevant professional, sectorial or competent authorities' platforms. Knowledge Alliances should generate new ways and instruments to facilitate their collaboration and to ensure that the partnership between higher education and business persists.

Number of participating organisations

KAs are transnational and involve at least six organisations from at least three Programme Countries. There should be at least two higher education institutions and at least two enterprises. If associate partners are to be involved, they have to provide an evident added value and their role should be clearly described.

Attributes of successful proposals

Reliable relations between HEIs and enterprises: Knowledge Alliances have to demonstrate the commitment and added value of all partners.

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Useful Links

www.staffs.ac.uk/researchfunding

On this site you can:

Get the latest on funding and research

Request a search for funding

Download a factsheet on how to use research professional

Get other information on finding funds for your project.

www.researchprofessional.com

www.ukro.ac.uk

Further Information

2014 Programme Guide

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf p110-118

Email the Commission

FACEA-KNOWLEDGE-ALLIANCES@ec.europa.eu

Guide to filling in the forms

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/documents/instructions_eplus_ka_en.pdf