

Erasmus+ Capacity Building projects in the field of Higher Education Call 2015

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE GRANT

Project Representatives Meeting Brussels, 27-28 January 2016



Outline of the presentation:

- 1) General financing principles
- 2) Actual costs, rules and budget headings
- 3) Unit costs, rules and budget headings
- 4) Managing the Grant
- 5) How to report
- 6) Final grant

NB: please note that this document has no legal value



ANNEX III of Grant Agreement Estimated budget of the Action Maximum Grant contribution to the project costs

	EUR
I STAFF COSTS	340.000
II TRAVEL COSTS	150.000
III COSTS OF STAY	150.000
IV EQUIPMENT	160.000
V SUBCONTRACTING	50.000
TOTAL GRANT (total I-V)	850.000



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1) General financing principles

Funding rule

Financing approaches

Budget categories and ceilings

Budget transfer



Funding rule

Amount of the Grant



Total costs of the project



Funding rule

Co-funding principle

Grant (combination of actual costs/unit costs):

Calculated so as to require co-funding to implement the project

Co-funding:

- other expenses (e.g. overhead costs) or higher expenditure than unit cost values
- not taken into account for the calculation of the Grant
- requested with final report for information purposes



Financing approaches of the grant

Actual costs: budget headings **Equipment** and **Subcontracting**

Unit Costs: budget headings Staff costs, Travel costs and Costs of stay



Budget Categories/Headings and ceilings

Staff costs	Max 40% of grant (Art I.3 of GA)
Travel costs	N/A
Costs of stay	N/A
Equipment	Max 30% of grant (Art I.3 of GA)
Sub-contracting	Max 10% of grant (Art I.3 of GA)



Budget Categories/Headings and ceilings example

Bu	dget headings	EUR	%
I	STAFF COSTS	340.000,00	40%
II	TRAVEL COSTS	150.000,00	17,5%
III	COSTS OF STAY	150.000,00	17,5%
IV	EQUIPMENT	160.000,00	19%
V SUBCONTRACTING		50.000,00	6%
TOTAL GRANT (total I-V)		850.000,00	



Modification to the budget

Possibility to adjust the estimated budget (Annex III) :

- 1) Increase up to 10% (even above the ceilings for staff, equipment and subcontracting)
 - → no prior authorization
- 2) Increase > 10% → Legal amendment is needed
 The ceilings (for staff, equipment and subcontracting)
 cannot be exceeded.



Modification to the Budget Example 1 = NO legal amendment

	EUR	Budget transfer	% of budget heading	result	% of total grant
I STAFF COSTS	340.000			340.000	40%
II TRAVEL COSTS	150.000			150.000	17,5%
III COSTS OF STAY	150.000	-10.000		140.000	16,5%
IV EQUIPMENT	160.000	+10.000	+6% of 160.000	170.000	20%
V SUBCONTRACTING	50.000			50.000	6%
TOTAL GRANT (total I-V)	850.000			850.000	



Modification to the BudgetExample 2 – legal amendment needed

	EUR	Budget transfer	% of budget heading	result	% of total grant
I STAFF COSTS	340.000			340.000	40%
II TRAVEL COSTS	150.000			150.000	17,5%
III COSTS OF STAY	150.000	-10.000		140.000	16,5%
IV EQUIPMENT	160.000			160.000	19%
V SUBCONTRACTING	50.000	+10.000	+20% of budget heading	60.000	7%
TOTAL GRANT (total I-V)	850.000			850.000	



Modification to the Budget Example 3 – Modification NOT ACCEPTED !!!!!

	EUR	Budget transfer	% of budget heading	result	% of total grant
I STAFF COSTS	340.000	+45.000	+13% of budget heading	385.000	45,5%
II TRAVEL COSTS	150.000			150.000	17,5%
III COSTS OF STAY	150.000	-20.000		130.000	15%
IV EQUIPMENT	160.000			160.000	19%
V SUBCONTRACTING	50.000	-25.000		25.000	3%
TOTAL GRANT (total I-V)	850.000			850.000	



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2) Actual costs, rules and budget headings

- Definition
- Eligible costs
- Ineligible costs
- Exchange rate
- Tendering procedure
- Budget headings : equipment
- Budget heading : subcontracting



Definition

Expenses actually incurred

Need to be duly documented and justified with the corresponding level of cost incurred

Example:

Reported cost for the project (laptops) of 1.500 EUR

Supporting document (invoice, proof of payment...) for 1.500 EUR



Eligible Costs

Article II.19 Grant Agreement

Incurred during the eligibility period

Foreseen in the application/budget

In connection with the action and necessary for project implementation

Identifiable, verifiable, recorded in accounting records of the beneficiary

Comply with requirements of applicable tax and national legislation

Reasonable, justified, complying with principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency



Ineligible Costs

Articles I.10.4/II.19.4 of Grant Agreement

Non exhaustive list:

- equipment such as: furniture, motor vehicles, alarm systems
- costs linked to the purchase of real estate
- activities not carried out in the project beneficiaries' country (see Annex IV), unless prior authorisation
- in kind contribution
- excessive or reckless expenditure
- deductible VAT (unless beneficiary can prove he is unable to recover it according to the national tax authority)



Exchange rate

Transactions ≠ EUR must be converted and reported in EUR in the Financial Statement of the final report

Which exchange rate should be applied?

From start of eligibility period until date of receipt of second pre-financing: <u>rate of month</u> in which the coordinating institution received the first pre-financing

From date of receipt of second pre-financing until end of eligibility period: rate of month in which the coordinating institution received the second pre-financing

Rate to apply: monthly rate established by the Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro

Example:

1st Pre-financing: **23 Dec 2015** – 2nd Pre-financing: **22 Nov 2016**

Invoice date: **09 January 2016** Applicable monthly rate: **December 2015**



Tendering procedure

The beneficiary shall apply the tendering procedure for the purchase of <u>any</u> <u>kind of goods or services</u> **WHENEVER** the amount of the purchase/sub-contract is between **EUR 25.000** and **134.000**

Principles of transparency, equal treatment of potential contractors, avoiding conflicts of interests

Criterion for selection of offer: best value for money

If value of purchase/sub-contract > **EUR 134.000**: national legislation applicable

Split purchase/sub-contract into smaller contracts below the threshold to avoid a tendering procedure NO!



Equipment

- Relevant to the objectives of the project

Examples: (e-)books and periodicals, fax machines, photocopying machines, computers, software, machines and equipment for teaching purposes etc

- Total purchase cost (not depreciation)
- Exclusively for Partner Country Higher Education Institutions
- Installed as soon as practically possible
- Recorded in inventory of institution where it is installed
 Not eligible: furniture, motor vehicles, telephones, mobile phones, alarm systems and anti-theft systems etc
- Labelled with E+ stickers

Not foreseen in the application/budget? — <u>Prior written</u> authorisation from Agency



Equipment - Supporting documents

<u>To keep with project accounts (may be requested in case of financial check):</u>

- Invoice(s) and bank statement(s)
- > EUR 25.000 < EUR 134.000: tendering procedure and three quotations from different suppliers
- > EUR 134.000: tendering procedure according to national legislation
- Proof that equipment is recorded in inventory of the institution

To send with Final Financial statement:

- Equipment with value > EUR 25.000, copy of invoice(s) and competitive offers
- Any prior authorisation from the Agency



Subcontracting

Implementation of specific tasks, by third party, to which a contract is awarded by one/several beneficiaries

Specific, time-bound, project-related tasks which cannot be performed by Consortium members. It includes self-employed / free-lance experts

Examples (provided that not carried out by beneficiaries' staff):

- Evaluation activities/auditing (Audit Certificate on Financial Statement)
- IT courses, Language courses
- Printing, publishing and dissemination activities
- Translation services
- Web design and maintenance
- Logistic support for the organisation of events

Not foreseen in the application/budget?

Prior written
authorisation from Agency





Supporting documents

To keep with project accounts (may be requested in case of financial check):

- Invoices, subcontracts and bank statements
- > EUR 25.000 < EUR 134.000: tendering procedure and three quotations from different suppliers
- > EUR 134.000: tendering procedure applied according to national legislation
- Tangible outputs/products
- Travel activities of subcontracted service provider: copies of travel tickets, boarding passes, invoices and receipts

To send with Final Financial statement:

- Total value of subcontract > EUR 25.000: copies of subcontract, invoice and competitive offers
- Any prior authorisation from the Agency



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3) Unit costs, rules and budget headings

- Definition
- Examples
- Budget heading: staff costs
- Budget heading: travel costs and costs of stay



Definition

- <u>Fixed contribution</u> (not fractioned) multiplied by number of units
- No need to justify level/amount of costs incurred
- Activities implemented during the eligibility period

Examples: travel activity for teaching not sufficiently documented (e.g. with presence or participation lists, or with a certificate of attendance)



CBHE units

UNIT COSTS FOR STAFF

PROGRAMME COUNTRIES

Teacher/Trainer Administrative Manager Technician /Researcher staff⁵ AMOUNTS IN EURO PER DAY Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, 241 190 157 Austria, Sweden, Liechtenstein, Norway Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Finland, 280 214 162 131 United Kingdom, Iceland Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, 164 137 102 78 Malta, Portugal, Slovenia Bulgaria, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, former 74 55 39 Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey

PARTNER COUNTRIES

	Manager	Teacher/Trainer /Researcher	Technician	Administrative staff ⁵
		AMOUNTS IN	EURO PER DAY	
Israel	166	132	102	92
Albania, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Kosovo ⁶ , Lebanon, Libya, Mexico, Montenegro, Peru, Serbia, Territory of Ukraine as recognised by international law, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela	108	80	57	45
Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Palestine ⁷ , Panama, Paraguay, South Africa, Territory of Russia as recognised by international law	77	57	40	32
Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Burma-Myammar, Cambodia, Cuba, (DPR) Korea, Egypt, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Moldova, Mongolia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Philippimes, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen	47	33	22	17

UNIT COSTS FOR TRAVEL AND COSTS OF STAY

THESE UNIT COSTS ARE NOT APPLICABLE FOR THE "SPECIAL MOBILITY STRAND"

TRAVEL COSTS®

Travel distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_en.htm

The beneficiary must identify the distance of a one-way travel to calculate the amount of the EU grant that will support the round trip. Financial support will be provided only for travels that are directly related to the achievement of the objectives of the project.

Distance band	Unit cost per participant
Between 100 and 499 KM	180 EUR
Between 500 and 1999 KM	275 EUR
Between 2000 and 2999 KM	360 EUR
Between 3000 and 3999 KM	530 EUR
Between 4000 and 7999 KM	820 EUR
8000 KM or more	1100 EUR

COSTS OF STAY9

Costs of stay are based on the duration of the activities of the participants.

STAFF	Unit cost per day per participant
Up to the 14th day of activity +	120 EUR
Between the 15th and the 60th day of activity +	70 EUR
Between the 61st day of activity and up to 3 months	50 EUR

STUDENT	Unit cost per day per participant
Up to the 14th day of activity	55 EUR
Between the 15th and the 60th day of activity	40 EUR
Between the 61st day of activity and up to 3 months	Not Eligible



Staff Costs

Performing tasks necessary to achievement of the project

Formal employment relationship

Calculation of the grant

2 variables: <u>staff category</u> and <u>country</u> in which staff member is employed

Each unit cost corresponds to an amount in Euro per working day per staff

Categories: Managers/Researchers, Teachers and trainers/Technical staff /Administrative staff

Staff category: work performed, not status of individual

Unit cost: country in which staff is employed, independently of where tasks are executed



Example: a staff employed in Lithuania performing teaching activity for 3 days 222 Euro (3 unit costs of 74 Euro each)

Calculation of grant:

- based on application of unit costs and independent from actual remuneration (defined in the Partnership Agreement)
- obtained by multiplying unit cost (corresponding to category of country and staff) by number of working days spent on the project per staff member

One working day defined according to applicable national legislation/institutional practice.

Declared working days per individual may not exceed 20 days per month or 240 days per year



Staff Costs - Supporting Documents

To keep with project accounts (requested in case of financial check):

- STAFF CONVENTION for each person employed
- TIME-SHEETS (attached to each staff convention), indicating number of days worked for corresponding month/year, description of tasks, outputs produced and related work package
- ANY EVIDENCE allowing to verify that declared workloads correspond to actual
 activities/outputs (e.g. attendance lists for lectures given, tangible outputs /
 products, salary slips, etc.)
- EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

To send with Final Financial statement:

Any prior authorisation from the Agency



Travel costs and Costs of Stay

Rules for Special Mobility Strand are defined in separate Guidelines

Staff/students participating in activities related to the achievement of the project

Unit costs to apply 3 variables: travel distance (for travel costs), duration for costs of stay and type of participant

Prior authorisation for activities not taking place in countries represented in the partnership Prior authorisation for activities not described in the Guidelines

Who may benefit?

Staff

- Under contract with beneficiary institutions and involved in the project
- Travels intended for the activities listed in the Guidelines
- Duration: Max. 3 months

Students

- Registered in one of the beneficiary institutions
- Targeted mainly at Partner Country students and intended for activities listed in the Guidelines (overview table)
- Duration: Min. 2 weeks Max. 2 months (Max. 1 week for short term activities linked to the management of the project)



Travel and Costs of Stay - Supporting documents

Justification for the following elements:

- Journeys actually took place
- Journeys connected to specific and identifiable project-related activities

To be retained with project accounts:

Individual Travel Report + Supporting documents (e.g. travel tickets, boarding passes, invoices, receipts, proof of attendance in meetings and/or events, agendas, tangible outputs/products, minutes of meetings)

To be provided with Final Financial statement:

Any prior authorisation from the Agency



Travel costs: specific rules

Staff/students from place of origin (home institution within the partnership) to venue of the activity and return

Carried out in project beneficiaries' countries - Exceptions must be authorised

How the grant is calculated?

For each participant and for each travel unit cost corresponding to applicable distance band

Each unit cost corresponds to a fixed amount in Euro per travel per person

- 1) Check travel distance of a one-way travel http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_en.htm
- 2) Apply corresponding unit cost Each unit cost contributes to costs of travel for the round trip, regardless of the expenses actually incurred



Travel costs: specific rules

Example: A participant from Madrid (Spain) takes part in activity in Rome (Italy) distance from Madrid to Rome (1365 Km) + apply unit cost (distance band 500/1999 Km): fixed contribution of 275 Euro covering travel from Madrid to Rome and return

If place of departure different from place of home institution: prior authorisation

Circular travels (A to B, B to C and return A):

sum of:

unit cost corresponding to distance band from A to B

+

unit cost corresponding to distance band from B to C Final travel not taken into account for the calculation of the grant

Not applicable to air travels with stopover(s)

No financial contribution for travels < 100 km (costs of stay eligible)



Cost of stay specific rules

Staff/students for activities outside city of participant's home institution

Activities in project beneficiaries' countries. Exception must be authorised

Unit costs for **staff**



unit costs for **students**

Unit costs can only be claimed if there is at least 1 overnight stay

For each **staff**: unit cost corresponding to the duration of the activities (in days), up to 14th day/between 15th and 60th day/between 61st day and up to 3 months For each **student:** unit cost corresponding to duration of activities (in days), up to 14th day/between 15th and 60th day

Each unit cost corresponds to a fixed amount in Euro per day per participant How to apply unit costs?

(1) Identify the duration in days of the activity (including the travel from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and vice-versa) (2) Number of unit costs = numbers of days of activity performed.

Each unit cost contributes to costs of stay regardless of expenses actually incurred



Cost of stay specific rules

Examples:

A staff from Paris (France) takes part in activity in Brussels (Belgium) during 2 days:

Max. 2 unit costs of 120 Euros each (TOTAL: 240 Euros)

A staff from Paris (France) takes part in activity in Brussels (Belgium) during 20 days:

Max. 14 unit costs of 120 Euros each + 6 unit costs of 70 Euros each (TOTAL: 2.100 Euros)

A student from Paris (France) takes part in activity in Berlin (Germany) during 22 days:

Max. 14 unit costs of 55 Euros each + 8 unit costs of 40 Euros each (TOTAL: 1.090 Euros)



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Grant management cycle	UNIT COST	ACTUAL COSTS
Grant allocation	Based on <u>estimated</u> work programme	Based on the estimated budget
Grant Implementation	Beneficiary's own FINANCIAL "RECIPE"	Record <u>costs</u> actually incurred
Grant justification	Based on <u>activities</u> <u>actually implemented</u>	Based on <u>costs</u> <u>actually incurred</u>



TRAVEL COSTS

4 meetings, 25 participants each, destination 2500 km =360 €

-1.000
+1,000



Consortium management of unit costs

Consortia have to find the most appropriate method to manage internally the accountancy.

Transparency in the methodology.

Formalisation of the methodology and the Partnership Agreement.

Acceptance of this methodology by the Consortium.



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5) How to report

Financial Reporting

Supporting documents



Financial Reporting

Final financial statement **main** financial reporting tool:

- Financial reporting with final report (request of final grant)
- Financial reporting <u>during project implementation</u> (monitoring budget consumption)

Reporting of Actual costs

Equipment and Sub-contracting: reporting of costs incurred (based on costs actually incurred, e.g. amounts corresponding to invoices, contracts, etc.)

Reporting of Unit costs

Staff, Travel costs and Costs of stay: reporting of unit costs (based on information for calculation of units, e.g. km, working or travelling days, etc.)



Supporting Documents

Originals kept by beneficiaries. Copies kept by coordinator and submitted with Final report, when requested

In case of financial checks/audits, or if doubts on implementation of any particular activity or expenditure, the Agency may request corresponding supporting documents

Quality of documentation

For all grants:

Audit Certificate ("Report of Factual Findings on the Final Financial Report - Type II") must be sent with the Final report



Reimbursement basis	Budget Headings	Documents to retain with project accounts	Documents to be sent with the Final report
ACTUAL	Equipment	 Invoices Bank statements Tendering procedure for expenses exceeding 25.000€ Proof that the equipment is recorded in the inventory of the institution 	 Invoices and three quotations from different suppliers for expenses exceeding 25.000€ Any prior authorisation from the Agency
	Subcontracting	 Subcontracts Invoices Bank statements Tendering procedure for expenses exceeding 25.000€ Tangible outputs/products* 	 Subcontracts, invoices and three quotations from different suppliers for expenses exceeding 25.000€ Any prior authorisation from the Agency
UNIT	Staff	 Formal employment contract Staff convention Time sheets Agendas* Attendance / Participant lists* Tangible outputs/products* Minutes of meetings* 	 No supporting documents should be sent with the Final report, except for any prior authorisation from the Agency
	Travel and Costs of Stay	 Individual Travel Report (ITR) Invoices, receipts, boarding passes* Agendas* Attendance / Participant lists* Tangible outputs/products* Minutes of meetings* 	 No supporting documents should be sent with the Final report, except for any prior authorisation from the Agency

For all grants, a Certificate on the action's financial statements and underlying accounts ("Report of Factual Findings on the Final Financial Report – Type II") must be sent with the Final report (see Annex VII of the Agreement).

^{*} Example of supporting documents



ANNEX II

		Project No
The reference no	umber must correspond to the progressive num	abering indicated in the financial statements of the final report
BETWEEN		
	Hereinafter "the Institution"*	
AND	Name:	
	Address:	
	Hereinafter "the Staff member"	
THE FOLLOV	VING HAS BEEN AGREED:	
	owing duties during the project's elig	at the Staff member has worked on this project and performe ibility period. ### dd/mm/yy ### dd/mm/y ### dd/mm/y ### dd/mm/y ### dd/mm/yy ### dd/mm/y ###
	FROM	то
4. Please o	complete the following information.	
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^{*}The convention must be signed by the person concerned, then signed and stamped by the person responsible in the institution where this person is normally employed. The Institution must be a member of the partnership.



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	L TRAVEL REPOR	RT for trav	el costs and costs of	stay	
Ref. No					
he reference nu	umber must correspond to th	ne progressive	numbering indicated in the	financial statements in the fina	l report
o be filled in by	y <u>each</u> participant.				
PERSONAL	<u> DATA</u>				
Surname:			Forename		
Staff position	/student year of study	at home in:	stitution:		
TYPE OF A	CTIVITY				
Tick as approp	oriate.				
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	ing assignment		Study po		
fraining and r	etraining purposes			ation in intensive courses	
	rammes and courses		Practica institution	placements, internships in ons	companies, industries or
Practical place and institution	ements in companies, ind s	ustries	Participa of the pi	tion in short term activities oject	linked to the management
Project manage	ement related meetings				
Workshops and	l visits for result dissemina	ation purposes	s		
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Signature:

Date:....



Outline of the presentation:

- 1) General financing principles
- 2) Actual costs, rules and budget headings
- 3) Unit costs, rules and budget headings
- 4) Managing the Grant
- 5) How to report
- 6) Final grant



6) Final grant

Calculation of the final grant

Practical examples



Calculation of the Final Grant

The grant may not exceed the maximum amount authorised in the Agreement (Article I.3 and Article II.25.2)

Final grant: determined following examination of financial statements and eligibility of activities implemented and declared expenses. Declared unit costs/expenses identified as ineligible will be deducted from the total amount declared

Balance = final grant - pre-financings - penalties

Penalties related to the implementation of the action described in the contractual workshop



examples (1 of 2)

All costs eligible		Total declared expenditure			
no penalties	Grant awarded	= grant awarded	< total grant awarded UNDERSPENT	> total grant awarded OVERSPENT	
I STAFF COSTS	340.000	340.000	290.000	330.000	
II TRAVEL COSTS	150.000	150.000	165.000	150.000	
III COSTS OF STAY	150.000	150.000	165.000	160.000	
IV EQUIPMENT	160.000	160.000	170.000	170.000	
V SUBCONTRACTING	50.000	50.000	40.000	50.000	
TOTAL GRANT (total I-V)	850.000				
TOTAL DECLARED		850.000	830.000	860.000	
FINAL GRANT		850.000	830.000	850.000	



examples (2 of 2)

All costs eligible no penalties			Total declared expenditure		Total declared expenditure	
no penalties	Grant	% TOTAL GRANT	= total grant awarded	% TOTAL GRANT AWARDED	= total grant awarded	% TOTAL GRANT AWARDED
I STAFF COSTS	340.000	40%	374.000	44%	385.000	45,5%
II TRAVEL COSTS	150.000	17,5%	150.000		150.000	17,5%
III COSTS OF STAY	150.000	17,5%	100.000		130.000	15%
IV EQUIPMENT	160.000	19%	160.000		160.000	19%
V SUBCONTRACTING	50.000	6%	0		25.000	3%
TOTAL GRANT (total I- V)	850.000					
TOTAL DECLARED			784.000		850.000	(- 11.000 €)
FINAL GRANT			784.000		839.000	



QUESTION NOT ANSWERED?

Please contact the E+CBHE team

<u>EACEA-EPLUS-CBHE-</u> <u>PROJECTS@ec.europa.eu</u>

Don't forget to mention your project number!





