



# ERASMUS+ Key Action 2

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EUROPE

# SPEAKER



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# Short introduction

Please introduce yourself taking into account:

- your name
- your profession / scientific background
- your experience with ERASMUS+ projects
- your expectations for this workshop



# AGENDA

- 1 WHAT IS ERASMUS+?
- 2 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIVERSITIES  
AND RESEARCHERS
- 3 APPLICATION PROCESS (FOCUS:  
COOPERATION PARTNERSHIPS)
- 4 GOOD PRACTICE PROJECTS: HS HARZ
- 5 DISCUSSION



# WHAT IS ERASMUS+ ?

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# WHAT IS ERASMUS+?

- Largest education funding programme of the EU
- Current programme generation: 2021 to 2027
- Erasmus+ offers a broad range of funding opportunities for individuals & institutions
- GOAL: to promote exchange & academic cooperation on international level
- Germany 2010-2017: 217 higher education institutions were involved in 1,193 cooperation projects



# WHAT IS ERASMUS+?

Supports the internationalization of participating institutions

Promotes the quality of teaching

Contributes to networking with other institutions, society and economy

A Sustainable contribution to the further development of the European Education Area



# KEY ACTIONS







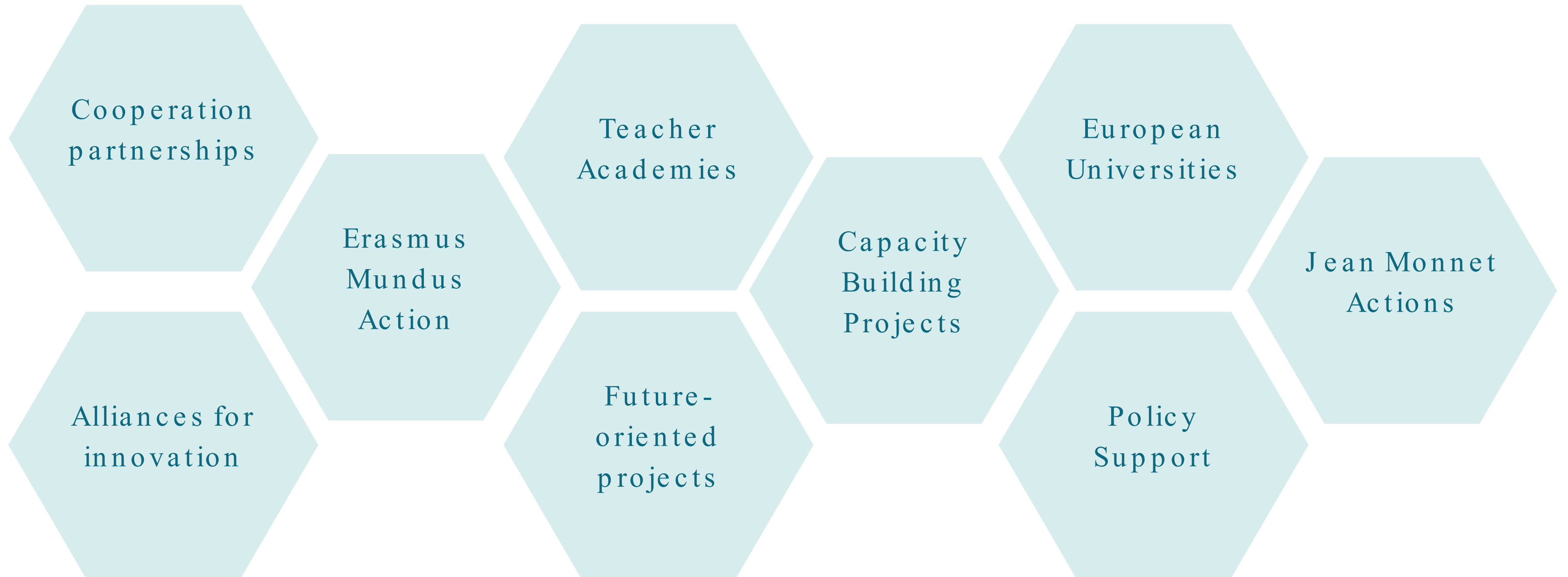
# OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCHERS



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# COOPERATIVE PROJECTS





## KEY ACTION 2

- Partnerships for:
  - Cooperation (Cooperation Partnerships & Small-scale Partnerships)
  - Excellence (Centres for Vocational Excellence & Erasmus Mundus Action)
  - Innovation (Alliances & Forward-looking projects)
- Capacity Building projects in the fields of higher education, vocational education & training, youth and sport
- Not-for-profit European sport events



# OUTCOME

- More attractive education and training programmes
- Participatory approaches and digital methodologies
- Integrate good practices and new methods including digital capabilities into daily activities
- Increased capacity and professionalism to work at EU/international level



# IMPACT

- Increased sense of initiative and entrepreneurship
- Increased competence in foreign languages
- Increased level of digital competence
- More positive attitude towards the European project and the EU values
- Increased opportunities for professional development



# APPLICATION PROCESS

With Focus on  
Cooperation  
Partnerships

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# Eligible Partners

- Who can submit an application?  
EU Member State or an associated third country (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Northern Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey)
- Minimum number of partners:  
**At least three** institutions from EU Member States or from associated third countries
- Who can participate?  
Organizations in non-associated third countries can participate as partners:
  - If the participation provides a significant added value for the project
  - If the minimum participation of partners is ensured



# Associated Partners

- Participate in specific project tasks and activities
- Assist in publicizing and sustaining of the project
- They are not full project partners
- Do not receive funds from the program





# Places for Activities

- In the countries of the full project partners or associated partners
- And additionally in Brussels, The Hague, Frankfurt, Luxembourg, Strasbourg or seats of the EU institutions
- Dissemination activities can also take place at thematic transnational events/conferences in EU Member States or third countries associated with the program or in third countries that are not associated with the Program



# “In a nutshell”: Cooperation Partnerships

- Very open regarding topics
- Call for proposals once a year (spring)
- Three different funding amounts: 120.000 €, 250.000 €, 400.000 €
- Project duration between 12 and 36 months



# Priorities

- Each project must cover at least one of the general priorities or one of the sector-specific priorities for the field of higher education
- More than one priority may be chosen (with justification in each case)

The 4 priorities of the ERASMUS+ programme:

- INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY
- DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION
- ENVIRONMENT AND FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE
- PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC LIFE, COMMON VALUES AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Source: ERASMUS+ Programme Guide Version 3 (2023), page 7-8



# Priorities for the field of higher education

- Promoting inter-connected higher education systems
- Stimulating innovative learning and teaching practices
- Developing STEM/STEAM in higher education, in particular women participation in STEM
- Rewarding excellence in learning, teaching and skills development
- Supporting digital and green capabilities of the higher education sector
- Building inclusive higher education systems
- Supporting innovation and entrepreneurial skills of students
- Supporting Higher Education institutions in their cooperation with Ukrainian counterparts to respond to the war in Ukraine

# Application for Cooperation Partnerships



- Proposals are submitted online via the ERASMUS+ and European Solidarity Corps Programme Portal of the EU  
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-esc/index/>
- Questions have to be answered in the online forms and some files must be uploaded
- Online form is saved and can be opened and edited again
- Every Beneficiary is added with their OID number to the proposal
- Attachments are “Declaration of Honour” and “Mandates” and other documents if needed (e.g Gantt Chart is recommended)



# Application Details

- Context
- Participating organizations
- Project relevance
- Partnership and Cooperation agreements
- Project planning and implementation
  - Project management
  - Work Packages
- Budget Summary
- Impact
- Project description
- Attachments
- Checklist
- Share Submission
- History



# Lump Sum Funding

- New financing model
- No defined cost categories and unit costs as before
- Instead: different fixed amounts  
120.000€ , 250.000€ or 400.000€ for Cooperation Partnerships
- The lump sum
  - Must be chosen at proposal stage
  - Can't be changed later
  - Is calculated on real costs
  - Must be justified in proposal
  - If considered too high by expert evaluators no downgrade to other amount, but refusal of proposal
- Principle of co-financing
  - Total costs of the project must be higher than the requested lump sum ,
  - No indication of this in the application required



# L u m p S u m F u n d i n g

- Calculation of costs
  - Based on work packages
  - Based on real costs
  - E.g. personnel costs, travel costs, ..
  - Subcontracts are possible
    - No key activities to achieve the project goals
    - Max. 20% of the grant
- Value for money
  - Is the budget planned for the project and for every partner adequate?
  - Are all activities and partners needed to achieve the project goals?





# Work packages

- Work must be structured in work packages (WP)
- WP project management is mandatory
  - Max. 20% of max. grant amount
  - Coordination of the consortium, monitoring, risk management, ...
- Recommendation of European Commission: 5 WPs incl. project management
  - Description of activities for each WP, including specific objectives and main results
  - Description of costs incl. allocation to individual partners for each WP
  - Sum of all costs must correspond to the chosen lump sum
  - Qualitative and quantitative indicators of target achievements and quality of results



# Budget management

- Flexibility of budget within a work package
- Lump sum is paid according to status of the work package
  - If all tasks and objectives are fulfilled according to the indicators the whole lump sum for this WP is paid
  - If it is only partially fulfilled, only a corresponding percentage is paid out
  - Independent of the actual costs occurred



# Indicators

- Applicants for Cooperation Partnerships are requested to describe each work package with an indication of specific objectives, targets, qualitative and quantitative result indicators.
- An indicator is a measurable factor or value used to assess the quality of the project results and thus, the level of achievement of the objectives. An indicator can be quantitative or qualitative:
  - Quantitative: defines measurable information about quantities, facts, and can be mathematically verified
  - Qualitative: describes events, reasons, causes, effects, experiences etc. Qualitative indicators can be made quantitative through scoring methods

Source: Handbook on the lump sum funding model -Key Action 2 Partnerships for Cooperation, page 22, 23: <https://eu.daad.de/eudownloadcenter/download/969/>



# Indicators

- There are two main kinds of indicators:
  - Elementary Indicators: provide basic information on which other indicators can be built
    - Ex: Number of trainees, number of participants to a meeting, number of visits to a website, etc.
  - Derived indicators: based on the calculation of the ratio between two elementary indicators
    - Ex: number of students who passed a test, participants to a conference who presented a paper, visitors to a website who downloaded a document, % budget used, etc.
- Indicator  $\neq$  Target
  - An indicator is the measurement of a value at any moment in time. A target is the desired value of the indicator when the action is completed.



# Examples of indicators

Examples of indicators	
Quantitative	Qualitative
<p><u>Number of</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants in events, meetings, training activities, etc.</li> <li>• Partner meeting reports</li> <li>• Public events connected with objectives and results of the project</li> <li>• Registrations to e-learning courses</li> <li>• Hits at the project website</li> <li>• Unique visitors to websites</li> <li>• Visits to project's blog and documents downloaded</li> <li>• Public and private entities to which project's results are shared</li> <li>• Stakeholders and multipliers reached through the networking activities of the partners</li> <li>• Manuals in different languages</li> <li>• Certificates developed and their use in the participating countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to improve media literacy by, for example, rating the information in the net, validating the resources, carrying out intelligent searching, etc.</li> <li>• Satisfaction level of the participating institutions</li> <li>• Participants' satisfaction in training activities</li> <li>• Satisfaction of participants with the provided educational materials and guest lecturers</li> <li>• Improved competences of the partners to teach intercultural competences</li> <li>• Quality and extent of the evaluation reports from participants</li> <li>• Involvement of the partners in the project activities through the lead-partners and quality of the results</li> <li>• Teachers with improved skills in curriculum delivery, employing a wider range of classroom strategies, evidenced in observations of teaching</li> </ul>

Source: Handbook on the lump sum funding model - Key Action 2 Partnerships for Cooperation, page 31: <https://eu.daad.de/eudownloadcenter/download/969/>



# Declaration of Honour

- Must be downloaded from the web form, filled out and signed and then uploaded again
- To be signed by the legal representative of the organization as named in the online forms (rector, president, CEO,...)
- May not be signed by the PI of the proposal, even if he/she is the legal representative



# M a n d a t e s

- Can be downloaded for each participating organization, after they were added to the proposal
- Signed by the Legal Representative of the partner organization and by the legal Representative of the coordination organization
- At least 1 mandate must be uploaded and submitted with the proposal (without the proposal can't be submitted)
- All mandates must be signed before the Grant Agreement is signed
- If Mandates or proposal are signed by someone else their signatory authority or business allocation plan must be uploaded



## 4 Award Criteria

Relevance

Project design  
&  
implementation

Partnership &  
Cooperation  
agreements

Impact





# Award criteria

- Relevance 25 points
- Quality of the project design and implementation 30 points
- Quality of the partnership and the cooperation arrangements 20 points
- Impact 25 points

➔ Maximum 100 points

Source: ERASMUS+ Programme Guide Version 3 (2023), page 231-233



# Award criteria 1 – Relevance

- Objectives and priorities of the action are addressed by the purpose and aim of the project
- "Inclusion and diversity" are considered highly relevant
- Profile, experience and activities of project partners are relevant
- Genuine and adequate needs analysis
- A potential for synergies between the education sectors or a strong potential for impact is evident
- The project is innovative, complementary to other projects of the partners and has a clearly identifiable European added value

# Award criteria 2 - Quality of the project design and implementation



- Clearly defined and realistic objective of the project
- Objectives fit the target groups
- Methodology is clear, appropriate and feasible
- Work plan is clear, complete and effective
- Appropriate work phases for planning, preparation, implementation and sharing of results
- Project is cost effective, adequate resources allocated to each activity
- Quality control, monitoring and evaluation are well described
- Activities are accessible and inclusive also for people with fewer opportunities
- Possibility of using digital tools
- Ecological approach to the implementation of activities recognizable
- Assessment and recognition of learning outcomes

# Award criteria 3 - Quality of the partnership and the cooperation arrangements



- Appropriate combination of partner organisations
- Profile, programme experience, completed projects
- Newcomers and less experienced organisations included
- Distribution of tasks reflects the active engagement of all partners in a balanced way
- Effective mechanisms of coordination, communication
- Participation of a partner country brings clear added value to the project in terms of content to the project (if not, this partner will be excluded in the review phase)

# Award criteria 4 - Impact



- Logical and concrete description of the integration of results into the other work of the partner organisations
- Impact potential on participants, organisations and communities
- Use of results at different levels (local, regional, national, European)
- Concrete and effective steps to disseminate the results
- Description of possibilities of use and open access
- Description of the sustainability efforts of all partners

# Award criteria for the proposal



- A proposal must reach at least 60 of 100 points

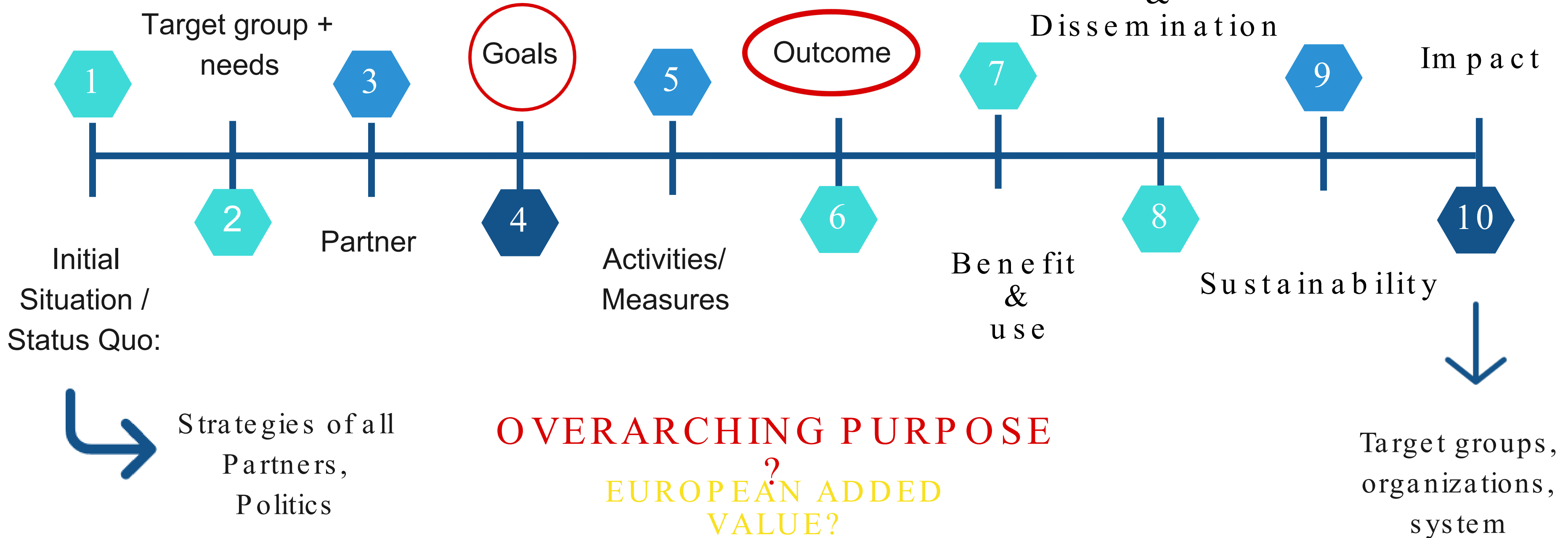
And

- At least 50% of the points in every category must be reached
  - Relevance at least **12 points**
  - Quality of the project design and implementation at least **15 points**
  - Quality of the partnership and the cooperation arrangements at least **10 points**
  - Impact at least **10 points**



# Joint project development

Information vs. multiplication





## D o s

- ✓ Clear distribution of tasks and financial parts between partners
- ✓ Project idea is clear and vividly presented
- ✓ All formal aspects are considered
- ✓ Proposal is submitted before deadline day
- ✓ Timetable with key deliverables and results e.g. Gantt chart

## D o n 't s

- ✗ Lump Sum does not correspond to project activities
- ✗ Proposal is submitted very shortly before the deadline
- ✗ Tasks and roles of partners are not described clearly
- ✗ Not all questions are answered to full extent
- ✗ Qualitative and quantitative indicators are not clearly described





# GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES FROM HARZ UNIVERSITY

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# EP SILO N

## PLAN:

Building European Knowledge Platform to support Data for Good initiatives in Europe

## PROCESS:

- Working together with data enthusiasts of Higher Education institutions and Data for Good associations to create open resources
- Transferring multi-disciplinary knowledge in data science applied to social good into innovative learning material for European higher education institutions

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Filling the gap in Europe where data enthusiasts do not have access to open resources containing best practices and workflows for Data for Good associations

- Cooperation Partnership
- Duration: 02/ 2022 - 01/ 2025
- Project partners from Portugal, Cyprus, Lithuania



# KiNESIS

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Revitalizing depopulated areas by promoting entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills
- Creating local Living Labs at the European level where the exchange of knowledge, best practices and experiences can contribute to the promotion of social inclusion and entrepreneurial development
- Testing new, innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning
- Facilitating the exchange and co-creation of knowledge at the local and global level

## GOAL:

Bringing together the interest of different groups by networking the different skills in deprived regions to make them "smart" and "attractive"

- Knowledge Alliances
- Duration: 01/ 2021 - 12/ 2023
- Project partners from Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Estonia



# ERASMI

## PROCESS:

Compiling and analysing good practice examples for network-based forms of cooperation in the context of refugee & migrant integration

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Identifying success factors for the successful formation, establishment and further development of local/regional integration networks.

- Strategic Partnerships
- Duration: 09/ 2019 - 08/ 2022
- Project partners from Germany, Turkey, Denmark, Ireland, Italy



# FARM

## PROCESS:

- Reviewing existing ICT DSS tools in agriculture and rural development (ARD) that support crop farming, precision livestock farming, climate and quality control, and farm management
- Using Software services that collect, analyse, and visualize spatial data can effectively support decision-making processes among different stakeholders

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Identifying and filling gaps by developing new training materials & two DSS prototypes for specific purposes referring to the FARM focus

- Strategic Partnerships
- Duration: 11/ 2020 - 12/ 2022
- Project partners from Spain, Cyprus, Lithuania, North Macedonia



# ADMIN

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Contributing to the individual development of research managers by strengthening their competencies, increasing the visibility of their work, and fostering the development of relationships with academic and research staff
- Strengthen and expand the network of research managers in the project partner countries and beyond

## TARGET GROUPS:

- Early-career research administrators who face the challenge of responding to day-to-day tasks in R&I projects
- Scientists and students with an interest in project management and research

- Strategic Partnerships
- Duration: 10/ 2020 - 10/ 2022
- Project partners from Poland, Lithuania, Slovenia, North Macedonia



# KoWiSt

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Making the experience of selected model municipalities with impact-oriented management fruitful for practice as well as providing training and further education

## RESOURCES:

Digital learning platform that maps real processes of strategic control of the model municipalities

- Strategic Partnerships
- Duration: 09/ 2015 – 08/ 2018
- Project partners from Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Slovakia



# DISCUSSION

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• Who already has experience with

Erasmus+ ? What went well, what

didn't?





- Who can imagine applying and in which thematic field(s)?

