



**Application Form for Accreditation – Call 2015
KA1 – Learning Mobility of Individuals**

Accreditation of Higher Education Mobility Consortia

Concept note

Please treat this as confidential, not for public

Project Title: COMMO – COoperation in Mediterranean and Balkan through MObility of students and staff

Programme: Erasmus+

Action: Key Action 1 – Learning Mobility of Individuals

Deadline for submission of proposals: 4 March 2015

Type of project: Accreditation of Higher Education Mobility Consortia and Grant for mobility projects to / from the countries of the Southern Mediterranean and the Balkans

Partner Country involved: Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia

Project rationale

(What are the issues and needs your mobility consortium seeks to address)

In times of recession, with the percentage of youth unemployment in too many national realities both in EU and in Partner countries, investing in education and seize the opportunities of international mobility are the first step to change lives and open minds giving opportunities to students, researchers, professionals, unemployed people and young entrepreneurs for their self-development and for their own national growth in terms of culture, education and employment. In this context, the centrality covered by the internationalization strategies adopted by institutions of higher education plays a key role as strategic incentive. Increasing the number of mobile students is essential for the development of European youth since it creates personal and academic benefits. During the European Higher Education Area Ministerial Conference, held in Bucharest in 2012, a Mobility strategy 2020 for the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) has been conceived: Mobility is essential (since the Bologna process) to ensure high quality higher education and it is also an important pillar for exchange and collaboration with other parts of the world. However, there are still several challenges to be overcome in order to secure the increase in mobility. UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union - during its 25 years of experience and activity of Euro-



Mediterranean cooperation has often analyzed the current situation of the conditions of mobility in the EHEA and in the Southern shore of the Mediterranean and the following needs have arisen as follows:

- Lack of provision of sufficient and useful information about European mobility programmes;
- Weak organizational arrangements in terms of practical arrangements before and at the start of the mobility period together with a lack of staff adapt to provide the needed support and administrative help for all outgoing and incoming students;
- Language barriers: The problem does not only lie in the low number of courses taught in English and the unequal level of language skills of exchange students, but also the unpopularity of not so wide-spread European languages;
- Low quality of exchange experiences through the European mobility programmes which discourages students: this is mainly related to the recognition of courses;
- National regulations, bureaucracy issues and visa policies that prevent from mobility, especially from North Africa and Middle East countries to EU countries;
- Political instability: after the end of 2011, following the turmoil in some North African countries, the so called “Arab Spring”, students of Programme country universities (in this case we talk of Italy) are discouraged to go to study in such countries because of political and social instability.

Therefore, within this framework, the mobility consortium led by UNIMED seeks to address the above mentioned needs and to overcome those obstacles that might prevent university cooperation between Italy and Southern Mediterranean and Balkan countries.

Wider Objectives

The general objectives pursued by the consortium of national mobility are the following :

- To contribute to internationalization process through quality attractiveness, access equity and modernising HE institutions in Southern Mediterranean and Balkan countries of the consortium in order to improve social, cultural and economic development of their national countries;
- To promote quality academic offer, innovation excellence and internationalization at the level of higher education institutions in Italy and in Southern countries of Mediterranean and the Balkans ;
- To improve a greater intercultural awareness through language learning and exchange experiences.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives that the consortium aim to meet are:

- To enhance the international dimension of education and training in particular through cooperation between higher education institutions in Italy and in Southern Mediterranean countries and Balkan, through the promotion of mobility and cooperation experiences by strengthening targeted capacity of third countries ;
- To support students in acquiring skills and capacities (language learning i.e.) in order to develop themselves and their employability opportunities;
- To strengthen participants awareness and understanding towards Southern Mediterranean and Balkan cultures, giving them the opportunity to build up international contacts, to actively participate in the social life developing a Euro-Mediterranean identity;



- To better promote the students and staff exchanges from Italy towards Southern shore of Mediterranean and Balkan countries increasing their numbers and quality of education and training;
- To facilitate organization arrangement and administrative management of the mobility activities before and after the mobility period.

Activities description

The mobility consortium is willing to carry out two different mobility activity throughout the two years of the project.

During the first year it is foreseen the staff (administrative personnel) mobility from/to Southern Mediterranean and Balkan countries for training purposes.

The second year will see the mobility students for studies purposes from/to Southern Mediterranean and Balkan countries.

The main activities of the first two years project (for which the national mobility consortium is applying to funds) are as it follows:

Preparation phase:

- Practical agreements (the establishing of inter-institutional agreements between the HEIs in Italy and the ones in Southern Mediterranean countries and Balkan;
- Selections of participants;
- Selections of academic courses;
- Establishing of agreements between the partner organisations and the participants;
- The linguistic/intercultural preparation before the departure of participants.

Mobility activity implementation:

- 100 mobilities per year of students and staff from/to Southern Mediterranean countries and Balkan (incoming and outgoing)

Follow up phase:

- Evaluation of the activities;
- Formal recognition of courses;
- Dissemination of project results

One of the innovative aspects of this mobility project lead by this national consortium is that UNIMED as coordinator will have the possibility to manage different mobility activities allowing 100 participants per year to travel from/to Southern Mediterranean and Balkan countries and experience a studying and training period abroad.

By offering a catalogue of courses provided by the partner organisations, the universities will provide their participants selection according to their needs and interests and will be equally distribute among the institutions. In this way, excellence of quality of the academic offer will be ensured and internationalization strategies of institutions in Programme country (Italy) and in Partner countries (Southern Mediterranean and Balkan) will be implemented accordingly and promoting a strong impact not only on a national level but also on a regional level.



Working in consortium allows partners to ask the host universities by offering mobility for the best courses available in order to raise the level of excellence required for students and thus promoting a competition on the merits. The consortium aims at promoting the meeting of the best minds in the Mediterranean to help to form, in a Euro-Mediterranean perspective, the future leaders to respond also to the objectives of cooperation of policy neighborhood and the Union for the Mediterranean.

Duration of the project

2 years

Coordinator

UNIMED – Mediterranean University Union, Italy
www.uni-med.net

Partners:

Italy:

- UNIMED, Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo
- Sapienza University of Rome
- University of Urbino
- University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
- University of Sannio
- University of Teramo
- University of Foggia
- UniPegaso
- University of Messina
- University of Sassari
- University of Palermo
- University of Catania
- University of Bologna
- University of Bari
- University of Carlo Cattaneo LIUC
- Calabria University

Palestine :

- University of Bethlehem
- Islamic University of Gaza
- UCAS - University College of Applied Sciences

Morocco :

- University of Muhammad V - Rabat
- University of Cady Ayyad - Marrakesh
- Euro-Mediterranean University of Fés



Algeria :

- University of Sétif 2
- Université des Sciences et Technologies Mohamed Boudiaf - USTO d'Oran
- University of Béjaia
- University of Costantine
- University of Algiers 1

Egypt :

- University of Cairo
- University of Damanhour

Jordan :

- Jordan University

Lebanon:

- American University of Beirut

Syria :

- University of Homs

Contact Person for this project

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UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA

IL RETTORE

Università degli Studi di Messina
Prot. n. 13548
del 31/3/2015
Tit/Cl. 14/13
Decreto n. 146/2015

- PREMESSO** che l'Università degli Studi di Messina partecipa al programma UE 2014-2020 per l'istruzione, la formazione, la gioventù e lo sport, **Erasmus +**, istituito con Regolamento UE n. 1288/2013 del Parlamento Europeo e del Consiglio in data 11/12/2013 (GUCE serie L 347/50 del 20/12/2013) che prevede, al suo interno, mobilità individuali (Key Action 1) ERASMUS per **Studio e staff da e verso paesi Partner**;
- CONSIDERATO** che il programma consente a studenti universitari di I, II e III ciclo ed allo staff accademico ed amministrativo di partecipare a mobilità da e verso presso Paesi Partner come definiti dal programma Erasmus +;
- VISTO** l'invito a presentare proposte 2015 - EAC/A04/2014 nell'ambito del Programma ERASMUS+ pubblicato in data 20 ottobre 2014 sulla Gazzetta Ufficiale dell'Unione Europea – serie C 344/15;
- VISTO** che, per offrire maggiori opportunità di mobilità ai nostri studenti / staff, l'Università intende aderire al progetto **Cooperation in the Mediterranean through Mobility COMMO**, coordinato da UniMed, associazione delle Università del Mediterraneo di cui il nostro Ateneo è membro;
- CONSIDERATO** che, in conformità alle condizioni previste dall'Agenzia Nazionale Erasmus Indire UniMed provvederà a partecipare alla Call KA1 2015 mobilità per consorzi ,ed in seguito, all'attribuzione delle mensilità assegnate per il progetto "**CoMMO**" (ove finanziato) a favore di ogni Università aderente;
- RITENUTO OPPORTUNO** proseguire il percorso già intrapreso negli anni scorsi, che ha consentito al nostro Ateneo di migliorare ed incentivare le opportunità di mobilità per gli studenti attraverso i progetti Erasmus Mundus EUMN ed EMMAG;
- CONSIDERATO** che l'adesione al suddetto progetto per l'anno accademico si attua sottoscrivendo un "Mandate" tra il nostro Ateneo ed UniMed, capofila del progetto– allegato al presente decreto di cui è parte integrante;
- CONSIDERATO** che la scadenza per la presentazione del progetto è il 04/03/2015;
- CONSIDERATO** il carattere d'urgenza del presente provvedimento;

DECRETA

Di autorizzare l'adesione dell'Università degli Studi di Messina al progetto Erasmus Plus International Credit Mobility **COMMO** attraverso la sottoscrizione e l'invio del Mandate.

Il presente decreto è registrato nel Repertorio di Ateneo e conservato agli atti dell'Area Alta formazione Ricerca scientifica e Relazioni Internazionali – Settore R.I.

R.P.A.: Dott.ssa F. Pollicino

IL RETTORE
(Prof. **Pietro Navarra**)