

Lifelong Learning Programme *Info Days*

January 2009

ERASMUS Centralised Actions Good Practice





Success Factors

A strong proposal is:

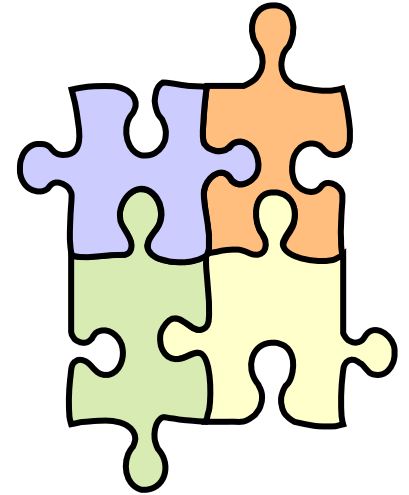
- **Coherent** (problems, solutions, target groups, activities, budget, ambitions/resources/competence)
- **Simple** (objectives, approach)
- **Evidence based** (ex-ante needs analysis, state of art)
- **Clear** (identifying the need for such proposal, the solutions, and the outputs)
- **Rigorous** in its planning (which activities, when, for how long, and with what resources)
- **Explicit** (do not take for granted any information, if it is not in the application it cannot be taken into account)
- **Circumscribed** (a proposal is not about solving the worlds' problems, but about solving a specific issue however complex this might be)





Award Criteria

1. Relevance
2. Quality of the work programme
3. Innovative character
4. Quality of the Consortium
5. European added value
6. The cost-benefit ratio
7. Impact
8. Quality of the Valorisation plan (dissemination and exploitation of results)





Award Criteria

Current requirements and past weaknesses

Some examples





Relevance

- The application is clearly positioned in one of the priority areas.
- The results foreseen are relevant to the specific, operational and broader objectives of the Programme.
- Problems / challenges addressed by the proposal are clearly described and documented and the proposed solutions are clearly described and appropriate.

- ☹
- The need for the project is not properly described.
- Usefulness of results is not convincing at the level of all partners.
- Sustainability of the results is not demonstrated.





Work-Programme

- Objectives are clear, realistic and address a relevant issue.
- Methodology is appropriate to achieving the objectives. Milestones are set up to monitor the process, including testing and evaluation phase.
- Quality management including effective communication is described.
- Work plan:
 - clearly structured, logical, coherent activities leading to concrete results
 - defines and distributes tasks / activities among the partners in such a way that the results will be achieved on time and to budget.



- Vague work programme or too general (that can fit to any project)
- Lack of systematic approach for internal monitoring and control, lack of indicators to measure progress
- Unclear allocation of tasks among consortium members





Innovation

- Innovative solutions are clearly identified to respond to target groups' needs.
 - Adapting and transferring already existing innovative approaches
 - Significant innovative added value compared to any previous project results must be demonstrated.
- ☹
- Lack of concrete background explaining the innovative character.
 - Importing already existing "innovative" solutions to new challenge.
 - Too vague description of the innovative character / approach.





Consortium

- ✓ The consortium:
 - brings together all the skills and competences required - right competencies for the right tasks.
 - includes an appropriate distribution of tasks in the partnership.
 - The need to disseminate and exploit the products is effectively reflected in the inclusion of the partners.
 - Additional opportunities for cooperation are identified.

- ☹
 - no proven complementarity between partners.
 - insufficient information on skills and expertise of key staff.
 - no balanced division of tasks among the partners.





European Added Value

- ✓ Clear demonstration of the benefits and need for European cooperation:
 - including concrete opportunities for trans-national, interdisciplinary, trans-sectoral benefits; transfer of knowledge and experience.
 - exploitation and potential transfer of the results/products in several European countries.
 - appropriate consideration of linguistic and cultural issues.
- ☹
 - Results responding exclusively to specific needs of a country.
 - Partnership restricted to very regional-limited geographic areas.





The Cost - Benefit Ratio

- ✓ The proposal demonstrates value for money in terms:
 - of the activities planned and the budget associated with them
 - efficient use of the resources
 - reasonable budget, especially regarding the envisaged outcomes and duration
 - clear correspondence between budget and WPs
 - costs are under the proper headings
 - staff days are appropriately distributed

- ☹
 - work plan not consistent with the budget
 - budget not consistent with the expected results/products
 - overestimated budget, especially on:
 - staff categories / staff working days
 - working days for partnership meetings





Impact

- Target groups are clearly identified and project results adequately address their needs.
 - Concrete contribution to demonstrate the extent of improvements brought by the project results.
 - Significant impact of the project at different levels (local, national, European).
 - Measurable indicators relating to both short-term and long term impact on target groups and end-users.
- ☹
- Lack of concrete indicators to measure the size and importance of the expected impact.
 - Vague exploitation plan of results/products.





Quality of the valorisation plan

- Appropriate and adequate plan for the exploitation / dissemination of results which:
 - clearly identifies interested sectors and end users, and their needs,
 - ensures consultation and involvement of end users in the project life,
 - demonstrates clear activities to ensure that the results / benefits will be spread throughout and beyond the consortium.
 - The valorisation plan includes measures to ensure that the benefits will endure beyond the life of the project.
- ☹️
- Lack of proper dissemination strategy covering the three phases of the project life (promotion, dissemination and exploitation).
 - Dissemination limited at local level (amongst the consortium members).
 - Dissemination objectives, means and target groups not clearly defined.
 - Lack of arrangements for ownership of the results (including copyright).
 - Lack of clear plans for the use of the project results beyond the project lifetime.