



ALFA

Latin America - Advanced Training

Third Phase - ALFA III (2007–2013)
Indicative Budget : 85 M €

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Priorities of the Regional Cooperation

The priorities for 2007-2013 regarding EC Regional Cooperation Policy with Latin America are:

Theme 1 – Support of social cohesion, poverty alleviation and fight against inequalities and exclusion

Theme 2 - Regional integration

Theme 3 - Respond to regional challenges and mutual understanding



Programme ALFA

Cooperation Programme between the European Union (EU) and Latin America (LA) on Higher Education.

The programme will enhance Higher Education in LA as a contribution to the economic and social sustainable development of the region.

**Third Phase - ALFA III
Period 2007-2013 85 M €**

2nd Call for proposals appr.26 M €



Objectives

Aligned with regional development priorities and EU regional cooperation policy to LA, in conformity with D.C.I. (*Development Cooperation Instrument*)

General objective: to contribute to the development of the higher education in LA through cooperation between the EU and Latin America.

Specific objectives:

- to improve the quality, relevance and accessibility of higher education in LA
- to contribute to the process of regional integration in LA, fostering progress towards the creation of a joint higher education area in the region and exploiting its synergies with the EU.



Specific Priorities:

- to promote the reform and **modernisation of higher education** (institutions and systems) in the beneficiary countries;
- to increase **quality, accessibility and relevance of higher education**;
- to develop **skilled human resources** in the Latin America region, taking particular account of the least favoured or vulnerable groups and the region's poorest countries (women, indigenous, rural remote communities);
- to support HEIs and other relevant actors in making progress towards the creation of a joint **higher education area in LA**;
- to promote cooperation and the establishment of **networks and lasting links between HEIs on the two continents**.



Programme Components

- ⇒ **Joint Projects (Lot 1)**
- ⇒ **Structural Projects (Lot 2)**
- ⇒ **Accompanying Measures (Lot 3)**



Joint Projects (Lot 1)

The actions will be designed to encourage exchanges of experience between the institutions taking part in the action. They will encompass **one or more of the following sectors or themes:**

1. Institutional and academic management

- a) Joint study plans; educational or research approaches and methods; relevant materials; innovation and curricular relevance, etc.
- b) Methods for the evaluation of the quality of education; mechanisms for the recognition of titles, degrees and diplomas, academic credits, and management and governance of HEIs.

2. Social cohesion

- a) Access and retention of the less favoured strata of society to the HEIs and retention of such students;
- b) Links with the labour market and business and the public sector (HEIs-business-public cooperation);
- c) Promoting entrepreneurship; applied research in relation to business and the public sector.

Structural Projects (Lot 2)

The main aim of these projects will be to discuss and design mechanisms to promote the modernisation, reform and harmonisation of higher education systems at regional level in LA. Their purpose will be to promote convergence and/or harmonisation at intra-regional level. They will encompass **one or more of the following sectors or themes:**

1. Modernisation of higher education systems in LA

- a) Governance of HEIs and Edu systems in the Latin American region;
- b) Curricular convergence at regional level, particularly in the light of the challenges posed by the knowledge-based society;
- c) Common practices at regional level for quality evaluation, accreditation, academic credits and other relevant subjects;

2. Social Cohesion

- a) Measures at regional level to promote equitable access to higher education and social integration for the most underprivileged groups;
- b) University and society: links between universities and their surroundings (business, regional governments, civil society, etc).



Eligible Countries

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The 27 EU Member States

The 18 countries of Latin America

Duration of the Actions

- **Lots 1 & 2**
- **between 24 & 36 months**
- **Lot 3**
- **48 months**



Participants and Partners

▶▶ HEIs

Higher education Institutions established in EU or LA countries recognised as such by the competent authorities of the countries concerned.

▶▶ Other Entities

Associations/organisations/established networks or higher education entities and/or other relevant players established in EU and LA countries whose priority action is higher education

(excepted national public administrative bodies or international organisations)

Applying Entity (Coordinator)

**Lot 1:
only HEIs**

**Lots 2 & 3:
HEIs & Other Entities**

Preference => **joint coordination between a EU partner and a LA partner**

Associated entities

Other organisations may be involved in the action. Such associates play a concrete role in the action but may not receive funding from the grant **with the exception of per diem and travel costs**. Associates do not have to meet the eligibility criteria referred. They are not partners and are not required to sign the 'Partnership Declaration'.

These entities may include, for example:

- public or semi-public authorities (ministries, national and/or provincial/regional administrative bodies) involved in higher education;
- non-governmental organisations
- private or public enterprises
- social partners or their training organisations
- chambers of commerce or other public or private professional organisations.

Partners (per lot)

Joint Projects: at least **6 HEIs**, all coming from different countries: **4 countries from LA and 2 countries from EU**.
If more than 6 HEIs => the n° of LA must double n° of EU.

Structural Projects: at least **12 countries from LA** (at least 1 from each sub-region: Mercosur, CAN, Centralamerica) and **4 countries from EU**.

Accompanying Measures: there is **no requirement concerning the minimum number of partners**. However, the applicant (or at least one member from the network) must have **previous experience in cooperation with HEIs in a minimum of 6 Latin American countries**.

The international component of each network (n° of institutions from different countries) must always exceed the national component (n° of different institutions from the same country)

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a2

The international component of each network (the number of institutions from different countries taking part in the network) must always exceed the national component (the number of different institutions from the same country).

aidco-sd-tech2; 5.3.2008



Financial allocation & indicative distribution per Lot (2nd call)

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Lot 1: Joint Projects	Lot 2: Structural Projects
between € 11.500.000 & € 13.500.000	between € 4.000.000 & € 6.000.000

The global indicative amount assigned to the **2nd Call for Proposals amounts to appr. € 27 Million.**

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Latest information will be provided by the call once it is published.

Folie 16

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The Contracting Authority reserves the right not to award all available funds. In the case where the minimum percentage determined for a specific lot cannot be applied because the proposals are of inadequate quality or too few in number, the Commission reserves the right to reallocate the remaining funds to another lot.

aidco-sd-tech2; 5.3.2008



Financial Rules

EC contribution can amount to a minimum of 50% and to a maximum of 80% of the action's total eligible costs.

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Indicative criteria for proposals

- ➔ At least 70% of the total budget for actions must be applied in the Latin American countries;
- ➔ To operate in one or more priority sectors in the respective Lot;
- ➔ To mention clearly the indicators to measure the expected results and follow a logical framework.

Indicative criteria for proposals

The following types of activities cannot be subject of grants :

- ❖ exclusive or mainly focused on individual support for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences or congresses;
- ❖ exclusive or mainly focused in individual fellowships, mobility and trainings;
- ❖ fundamental research.

ALFA III, as an institutional cooperation programme, does not focus on mobility or on specialised/individual training or research. It will only support student mobility on a small scale (maximum 10 % of total budget) and short-term training (maximum 6 months)].



Eligibility criteria for proposals

Number of proposals and grants per applicant

One (1) proposal per lot and per applicant entity. Although the same institution/entity can be partner in several proposals.

A maximum of **two (2)** subventions can be granted to an applicant in different lots.

Certification of participants

The curriculum vitae (maximum 3 A4 pages) of the technical coordinator responsible for the proposal must be included.

Each partner, by means of his responsibility, must sign the 'Partnership Declaration' enclosed in the Application Form.



Special attention to proposals that include one or several of the following aspects:

For **Component I (Lot 1)**,

- **actions** which **can be reproduced/multiplied in similar institutions in the Latin American region**,
- **innovative character** and **relevance** to local or regional needs.
- **tangible and measurable results** after implementation. The proposal must make explicit mention of the indicators for measuring the results. The project must be implemented at least as a pilot project in a specified number of participating Latin American entities.

Example: the start-up of a new curriculum in X number of institutions with X number of students registered.

For **Component II (Lot 2)**

- relevance of the regional and structural character of the actions and innovative nature. Depending on the themes chosen, they may take the form of actions designed to promote:
 - sectoral or thematic dialogue at regional or inter-regional level between the relevant actors linked with higher education; (including the participation of national/regional authorities, associations, etc);
 - the dissemination/adoption of best practices; conducting of studies and/or research into and/or systematisation of experiences relating to specific problems/challenges in the region and of progresses already made,
 - tangible and measurable results after implementation. The indicators used to measure results must be set out in the proposal.



Contact

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