

detailed information about the

Blended Intensive Programmes (BIP)

03.11.2022

BIP-Partners, Mobile Participants and Venue

A BIP partnership consists of **at least three universities** (holding a valid **ECHE**), from **three different programme countries** (EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme). The partners develop and implement the learning unit together. In total, at least 15 learners must be mobile, with the BIP taking place in one of the participating programme countries. Learners can be both **students (SMS)** and **university staff (STT)**.

Although one university is responsible for the overall coordination and application for the organizational support for the BIP, each of the participating universities must assume at least one of the following roles in the implementation of the BIP:

- **Coordinating University**

is responsible for the overall coordination, application and administration of the BIP organizational support (BIP-OS) and is at the same time either the sending or the receiving university. Administratively, it is easiest if the coordinating university is also the receiving university since funds have to be directly allocated and not transferred between the BIP-partners. However, it is also possible that the coordinating university is the sending university and funds are transferred between the partners. Nevertheless, the coordinating HEI must report to its National Agency (and in the *Beneficiary Module*) on the use of BIP-OS.

- **Sending University**

This role will be taken by several HEIs of the consortium (BIP-partnership), at least by two, but logically not by the receiving HEI.

Each sending university must finance the lump sums (grants) for its mobile participants (SMS/STT) from its Erasmus+ budget, i.e., plan and calculate them, and document and report each mobility as usual. This includes the preparation of Learning Agreements, Confirmation of Stay, etc.

- **Host University**

Only one of the universities assumes this role. The BIP is implemented at the university of the host country or at any other location in the host country. The learners of the host HEI can participate in the BIP, but they are not mobile in the Erasmus+ sense - they do not change location and thus are simply participants and do not count to the 15 mobile BIP-participants. In other words: One of the at least three universities do not send any participants, because a national funding from Erasmus+ is not possible. The participants who do not change their location (country) do not count towards the minimum participants (15) of a BIP.

International partners from **partner countries** (third countries not associated to the Programme) can also be included. However, mobile participants from partner countries do not count towards the minimum number of participants in a BIP.

Mobile participants of a BIP are therefore students (**SMS**) or staff members (**STT**) who leave their country of higher education. This group consists of learners only and includes 15 to 20 participants. **STA** mobilities can participate in a BIP as teachers and be funded from the regular Erasmus+ budget, but **do not count towards the BIP participants**. With regard to eligibility, participating HEIs should always distinguish between mobile participants and the total number of participants when planning a BIP!

Duration of the Physical Mobility Phase

The minimum stay is **5 days** and the maximum stay is **30 days**, depending on the content and learning objectives of a BIP. Stays must be compulsorily combined with a virtual learning phase.

As mentioned above, there are no specifications regarding the minimum duration and scope of the virtual component of the BIPs. Rather, this is derived from the content and learning objectives of the BIP itself.

Funding Logic of a BIP

BIP participants (learners and teachers) are funded by their sending HEI (always their home HEI) with Erasmus+ mobility grants. The funds for this come from the regular Erasmus+ budget. This means that prior to organizing a BIP, an arrangement has to be made between the universities, both on the academic and on the administrative level, as all sending universities have to plan for the partial budgets of their grantees.

Students (SMS) participate in a BIP as part of a **short-term blended mobility**. Funding rates for short-term blended mobility for students can be found in the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2022](#) (p. 68). In addition, students with fewer opportunities receive travel expenses for the short-term blended mobility. In addition, one day of travel before the start of the mobility period and one day of travel after the mobility period can each be covered by the individual support (no Green Travel). Students who are not eligible for the travel allowance (i.e. do not qualify as students with fewer opportunities) can receive €50 for sustainable travel (one-time Top-Up for Green Travel), as well as up to 4 additional travel days (only if these additional days are justified by the travel duration).

The applicable funding rates for staff mobility can be found in the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2022](#) (p. 71-73).

Organizational Support for the Implementation of a BIP (BIP-OS)

The coordinating university (which has applied for a BIP within an application in KA131) receives BIP-OS funds for the implementation of a BIP. The amount of OS funding depends on the planned number of mobile participants, which is **at least 15 and is limited to a maximum of 20 persons**. The universities are entitled to **€ 400 per mobile participant**, which means that an eligible BIP receives a **minimum of € 6,000** and a **maximum of € 8,000** as OS.

Academic Requirements for a BIP

Ideally, a BIP is integrated into the curriculum of participating learners. **A minimum of 3 ECTS credits** must be awarded to students as part of a BIP. This should be certified at the end of the BIP in the form of a Transcript of Records, or a similar document. The credit points should be recognized at the home university. An exception is made for doctoral students, who do not have to acquire ECTS credits as part of their dissertation studies.

Applying for a BIP

HEIs that already have an ECHE can apply for one or more BIPs within the ERASMUS+ call (the application in KA131) each year to their National Agency. In advance it is advisable to discuss with potential partners the number of participants and sending learners (SMS and STT) and teachers (STA). Although this is not a prerequisite for applying for OS funds, it lays the foundation for realistic planning and implementation of the BIPs.

Further Information

- [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#)
(general eligibility criteria, concise program description)
- [Higher Education Mobility Handbook](#)
(additional information on blended short-term mobilities and blended intensive programs)
- [Blended Mobility Implementation Guide](#)
(further document of the European Commission to guide the planning as well as to inspire the organization and implementation of high quality blended intensive programs)

Contact at the German National Agency (NA DAAD)

Tijana Funk

Telephone: +49(0)228 / 882-619

Unit Erasmus+ Individual Mobility – EU02

Erasmus+ National Agency „Higher Education“

DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service

Kennedyallee 50, D-53175 Bonn

E-Mail: funk@daad.de