



Erasmus Accreditation in the field of youth

European Solidarity Corps Quality Label

GUIDELINES FOR BUDGET ALLOCATION

Call 2026

This document outlines guidelines based on the rules for budget allocation to Erasmus+ accredited organisations and Quality Label lead organisations, in line with the frameworks established in the Erasmus+¹ and European Solidarity Corps² (ESC) Programme Guides. The process presented here supplements and elaborates on the rules laid down in both programmes, with due consideration to key differences relating to the nature of actions, duration of projects and number of rounds.

The National Agency may translate the information provided in this document, as appropriate.

As specified in the Programme Guides, the budget is allocated to projects after their quality has been assessed through accreditation/Quality Label and therefore no qualitative assessment takes place at the budget allocation stage. All positively evaluated grant requests should receive funding, provided the applicants remain eligible under the call conditions and are not in an exclusion situation. The awarded grant amount per applicant shall depend on a number of elements, as defined for budget allocation rules in the Programme Guides:

- the total budget available for allocation
- the estimated budget required to implement the requested activities
- the minimum and maximum grant amounts established for all applicants
- the score of the Quality Label for lead organisation or Erasmus accreditation in the field of youth
- applicant's performance (progress report score, budget absorption and final report score of the last completed KA151/ESC51 project, if available)
- the quality performance, policy priorities and thematic areas addressed by the activities applied for
- optionally for Erasmus+, the geographical balance.

¹ Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2026: [Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2026 - Erasmus+](#)

² European Solidarity Corps Guide 2026: [Reference documents and resources | European Youth Portal](#)

Linked to the above elements, the NAs should respect the principles of fairness, transparency and ensure equal treatment when defining the budget allocation rules.

The National Agency is required to publish the rules of allocation on their websites well in advance and at the latest 10 days before the relevant deadline for applications.

1. TOTAL BUDGET AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION

The NAs will publish the total budget available for allocation³, as approved by EAC in the NA Work Programme.

Total budget available for allocation for Erasmus+	3 604 201 euro
Total budget available for allocation for ESC	2 167 893 euro

For the ESC the NA may choose to have more than one round, so the total budget available for ESC will be split to cover each round.

Specific amounts per programme will be reserved for budget categories based on reimbursement of real costs (e.g. exceptional costs of Erasmus+ inclusion support for participants that would be calculated in addition to the unit cost for inclusion support for organisations). Beneficiaries can make requests for this type of costs during the implementation of the grant agreement, by submitting a written request to the National Agency. In case of need, the National Agency may further increase these specific reserved amounts. For ESC, if part of these reserved funds is left unused, the National Agency may distribute it in an (optional) second round.

The rest of the available budget will be apportioned between the following applicable allocation components as follows⁴:

Minimum grants amount Erasmus	40 000 euro per project (a total minimum of at least 760 000 euro)
Qualitative performance, policy priorities and thematic areas Erasmus	At least 2 804 201 euro
Exceptional costs and Inclusion support for participants Erasmus	40 000 euro

³ If additional funding becomes available, the National Agency may increase the available budget. The indicated amounts may be lowered if all applicants have already been allocated the maximum amounts according to the rules set out in this document.

⁴ Exceptionally, the specified amounts may be lowered if the budget required for exceptional costs is higher than originally foreseen; if all applicants have already been allocated the requested amounts according to the rules set out in this document; or if a minor correction is required due to rounding rules.

Minimum grants amount ESC	35 000 euro per project (a total minimum of at least 875 000 euro)
Qualitative performance, policy priorities and thematic areas ESC	At least 1 252 893 euro
Exceptional costs and Inclusion support for participants ESC	40 000 euro

At least 5% of the total budget should be allocated for the minimum grant amounts, at least 40% to qualitative performance, policy priorities and thematic areas and, for Erasmus+ only, between 5-20% for geographical balance, if applicable.

2. ESTIMATING THE BUDGET REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUESTED ACTIVITIES

The National Agency will calculate the budget required to implement activities requested by each applicant, on the basis of unit costs defined in the Programme Guide and historical data on grant amounts for similar activities.

An estimation cannot be performed for all actual costs that are highly dependent on each specific case, namely exceptional costs. Requests for this type of costs will be assessed based on the description, justification and estimated amount provided by the applicant as part of the application.

In all cases, the awarded grant shall not be higher than the estimated budget required to implement all activities requested by the applicant. As an exception, real costs (exceptional costs and for Erasmus+ inclusion support for participants) will not count towards the maximum awarded grant amount.

3. BUDGET ALLOCATION RULES

3.1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

If the total budget available for allocation is not sufficient to provide each applicant with the budget required to implement their requested activities, then a competitive allocation will take place as described below. However, if the total available budget is sufficient to fully address requests of all applicants, then the budget allocation rules described in the paragraph below will not apply.

The competitive budget allocation will take place in multiple phases. In each phase, the available budget will be divided between eligible applicants based on their score on the relevant criterion (see section 3.4). Applicants that receive the full budget required to implement their requested activities (or that reach their maximum grant amount) will not participate in further allocations. Available funds will be allocated to applicants based on the corresponding allocation rules. All allocated amounts will be rounded to the nearest whole Euro.

3.2 SETTING THE MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT

A minimum grant amount will be provided to each applicant. The purpose of the minimum grant amount is to allow all organisations to implement a sufficient number of activities and progress towards the objectives set in their Activity Plan.

The National Agency will establish a method for determining a single minimum grant amount, which will be applicable for all applicants. This can also be determined based on data from previous selection rounds and absorption rates. The minimum grant amount should aim to ensure that accredited beneficiaries (that are not affected by penalties due to low performance) receive a grant equivalent to a medium-sized KA152/153/ESC51 activity. The minimum grant amount to be awarded to each applicant and the method should be published on the National Agency's website.

Grant requests which are estimated to be lower than minimum grant amount will be fully awarded.

If sufficient funds are available, the National Agency may increase the minimum grant amount after the submission deadline. This information will be published on the National Agency's website.

The NAs should advise applicants that, in view of future calls, they should make sure to request an appropriate number of activities according to what they are able to implement. Failing to use the awarded funds during the implementation of the grant agreement can lead to low past performance and therefore a lower grant amount in future calls.

3.3 SETTING THE MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT

The National Agency will establish a method for determining a single maximum grant amount, which will be applicable for all applicants. This will act as a funding ceiling and could be determined based on data from previous selection rounds, i.e. amounts granted to recurrent beneficiaries for a given call year. The maximum grant amount and the method should be published on the National Agency's website.

If relevant in its national context, the National Agency may decide not to set any maximum grant amount.

The National Agency may also further limit the awarded grant amount for applicants under observation in accordance with the specific decision on establishment of observation measures.

Applicants that have completed their last accredited project (KA151 or ESC51) with an absorption rate below 60% will receive at most the grant amount that they were able to absorb.

The National Agency may also limit the grant amount awarded to applicants who deviate considerably from the annual targets set in their Activity Plans.

In all cases, the awarded grant amount shall not be higher than the estimated budget required to implement all activities requested by the applicant. As an exception, cost categories 'inclusion support for

participants' and 'exceptional costs' will not count towards the limits set by the rules on maximum grant amount.

3.4 QUALITATIVE PERFORMANCE, POLICY PRIORITIES AND THEMATIC AREAS

The National Agency will allocate the budget according to the assessment of the qualitative performance, the policy priorities and thematic areas addressed by the activities applied for. The purpose of this assessment is to ensure that the budget is allocated to applicants that deliver good quality activities, while also enhancing them to gradually progress towards the objectives of their Activity Plan.

The National Agency will calculate per applicant a **total score** by taking into account the criteria below. The National Agencies are free to define the exact weighting for each criterion before publishing the information on their websites.

- the evaluation score of the applicant's **accreditation/Quality Label application** (30% of the score).
- the **policy priorities** score, calculated based on the number of policy priorities that the applicant will tackle through each activity (10% of the score). The proportion of young people with fewer opportunities taking part in activities has to be factored in for this calculation. This ensures that the inclusive dimension of the programme is reflected in the budget allocation criteria.
- average or the arithmetic mean of the **progress report** score (KA150 or ESC50) and the beneficiary **final report** evaluation score of the last completed accredited project (KA151 or ESC51), if available (60% of the score). If neither progress report nor final report are available, the National Agency may give more weight to the evaluation score of the applicant's accreditation/Quality Label application.

The **total score** for qualitative performance, policy priorities and thematic areas will be calculated per activity and averaged per project.

After this assessment, the budget will be divided among the applicants in proportion to their total score. The calculation will take into account the total estimated budget required to implement the requested activities⁵, the minimum and the maximum grant amounts available. This ensures that the calculated grant amount is proportional to the size of the budget requested by each applicant.

3.5 GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE (ERASMUS+ ONLY, OPTIONAL)

The available budget for ensuring the geographical balance will be divided among the applicants in proportion to their geographical balance score.

The National Agency must define a methodology applicable in their country, based on the principle of equal participation opportunities in the Programme. To ensure that an impartial approach is used, quantitative indicators must be used, and applicable geographical areas must be clearly defined in a way that allows applicants to know which area their organisation belongs to. The methodology may take into

⁵ Excluding the scores that would equal zero for a specific applicant.

consideration factors such as: past number of participants from each region, past grants to applicants in each region, GDP per capita etc.

4. TOTAL AWARDED GRANT AND TARGETS FOR DELIVERY

For each applicant, the total awarded grant will be the sum of amounts they have received in each allocation phase. If any requests for real costs (exceptional costs and for Erasmus+ inclusion support for participants) have been approved by the National Agency, these amounts will be added to the total awarded grant.

Before issuing a grant agreement, the National Agency will calculate appropriate targets for delivery. If the applicant has been awarded the full budget required to implement their requested activities, then the activities requested in the application will become the targets for delivery. If the awarded grant is lower than the full budget required to implement the requested activities, then the targets will also be lowered proportionally to ensure that the applicant is able to deliver them.

The National Agency has to ensure that the awarded grant corresponds to the number of units. In any case, at least one participant in each activity type requested by the applicant shall be maintained.

Beneficiaries are able to implement the target activities with a wide flexibility, while remaining within the scope of their approved Activity Plan and Programme Guide rules. Delivery of agreed activities and targets will be evaluated at the final report stage.