



EUROPEAN EDUCATION AND CULTURE
EXECUTIVE AGENCY

EACEA.A - Erasmus+, EU Solidarity Corps
EACEA.A.4 - International Capacity Building

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Prof. Orazio SCHILLACI
Rector of Università degli Studi di
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Cc: comi@ing.uniroma2.it

Subject: Payment of the balance - Final Report 585832-EPP-1-2017-1-IT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Dear Prof. SCHILLACI,

Please find below the result of the assessment of the Final Technical Implementation Report and the Financial Statement of the above-mentioned Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education (CBHE) project.

As result of this assessment, and in accordance with the Grant Agreement and with the Guidelines for the Use of the Grant, your project implementation has been qualified as **VERY GOOD** (please refer to the Categories of qualification at the end of this letter). The comments below provide more detailed feedback on the content and financial outcome of the project.

1. Final Technical Implementation Report

The project confirms its Relevance as it addresses specific priorities and target group needs both in Ukraine and Georgia. The project achieved its objectives and constitutes a pertinent contribution to transferring to the two partner countries the most recent knowledge and good practice developed by EU partners in the areas of smart urban transport and logistics. The main result obtained by the project – the accredited Masters in “Smart Transport and Logistics for Cities” in Ukrainian and Georgian partner universities – together with the other outputs are relevant to the policy area and to the priorities of the partner institutions.

The report stresses that the systemic approach of the project and of the developed Masters to the management of the three major transport subsystems in cities based on smart technologies - passenger, freight and traffic - represents a response to the growing needs of Ukrainian and Georgian cities of raising the safety and efficiency of their transport systems while also decreasing its negative impact. This seems convincing.

The report provides a comprehensive list of the deliverables produced and the activities carried out. The quality of the project outputs and activities has been very good as evidenced by key

achievements such as the SmaLog Masters, the theoretical fundamentals of PhD Programmes in SmaLog, the teachers' training activities, etc.

We are pleased to learn that there have been four editions of the SmaLog MA programmes, starting from 2018, and that 67 students graduated from the first two editions. It is promising that more than 80% of the students who graduated from the programmes have found a job in transport related companies. We encourage you to keep track of the employment opportunities offered to SmaLog students and to deepen and expand the links with companies working in the fields who could employ SmaLog graduates. Finally, we acknowledge that the Master courses have been formally approved by the scientific councils of the beneficiary universities, and accredited both in Ukraine and in Georgia. The complementary information provided by the coordinator report that the only accreditation pending is the one at NTU-Ukraine. We therefore ask you to follow-up closely on this last accreditation.

Regarding equipment, we are pleased to learn that, despite some delays with the equipment purchase, all the planned equipment has been installed at the partner universities, used during project activities and deemed necessary for the achieved results. It is promising to hear that partner countries HEIs started to add some extra equipment contributing with their own financial resources.

The Special Mobility Strand (SMS) was complementary to the project objectives. We are glad to see that the project managed to implement a high number of mobilities – both for students and for staff – despite the long pandemic period. The mobility periods for partner countries students allowed them to experience a period of studying and training at EU HEIs and increased their knowledge and skills in current smart transport technology, while the mobility for partner countries staff supported their professional development. The fact that agreements between Programme and Partner countries universities have been signed - and that they include opportunities for future students and staff exchanges - should guarantee a continuation of the flow of exchanges.

The project was very well managed with an appropriate distribution of tasks among the partners. The work was performed under the direction of a very committed project coordinator and of a Project Management Committee (PMC). The consortium has established a good cooperation among all partners, combining the skills and expertise of EU partners with the specific needs of Partner Countries in relation to planning, management and control of transport services.

The project internal and external quality procedures, structures and tools put in place, as reported in the Quality Assurance Plan, were appropriate for such a curriculum development project. They included feedbacks from students as well as both an internal and external evaluation of the project.

After an initial problem with the financial transfers to partner countries HEIs, we are glad to hear that this issue was solved and that the budget was transferred to partners in advance. The report confirms the coherence of the costs with the implemented activities and the respect of the Erasmus+ visibility rules.

Dissemination was implemented to reach the relevant target groups in Ukraine and Georgia by adequate communication channels. Dissemination included a good mix of activities: among others, the project website, the use of social media (Facebook and Twitter), various leaflets and dissemination at open days and students fairs in both partner countries.

The project website has a clear structure and provides useful information related to the project activities and deliverables. We are glad to see that open access to project deliverables is granted via the website, this is in line with the open access policy of the Erasmus+ programme. The fact that the websites of Ukrainian and Georgian partner institutions provide visibility to the project and to its results also contributes to the dissemination effort.

Concerning the sustainability, it is positive that the developed Masters are accredited and officially included in the academic offers of all partner countries institutions. The mechanisms put in place should ensure that a sufficient number of students benefit from the project results.

1. Financial Assessment

Please note that the Agency's financial analysis is based exclusively on the documents that were submitted to the Agency. If after having considered our comments carefully you wish to contest the final amount of the grant, the amounts contested by you must be *identified individually*.

In order to be accepted for further review, your observations - presented as indicated above - must be **signed by the legal representative** of your institution and be sent by post or by email at the latest **within 30 calendar days following the dispatch of this letter** to the following address:

European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

Department A: Erasmus+, EU Solidarity Corps

Unit A4 - Erasmus+: Higher Education - International Capacity Building

Mr Ralf RAHDERS (Head of Unit A4) - J59 - 06/033 – 1, Avenue du Bourget - BE 1049 Brussels

EACEA-EPLUS-CBHE-PROJECTS@ec.europa.eu

Following the Agency's analyses of your observations a second and final letter will be sent to you, finalising the assessment exercise. Further observations will **not** be accepted.

We will consider that the absence of any observations from you within the above-mentioned deadline of **30 days** is equivalent to your formal, unconditional and irrevocable agreement to the amounts mentioned in the Agency's assessment below.

Summary

On the basis of the above analyses, the total eligible costs have been calculated as follows:

BUDGET HEADINGS	AWARDED BUDGET (in €)	DECLARED EXPENSES (in €)	CONFIRMED EXPENSES (in €)	INELIGIBLE (in €)	ELIGIBLE (in €)
Staff Costs	349.700,00	383.187,00	383.187,00	0,00	383.187,00
Travel Costs	68.510,00	56.620,00	56.620,00	0,00	56.620,00
Costs of Stay	168.760,00	135.240,00	135.240,00	0,00	135.240,00
Equipment Costs	259.410,00	277.712,81	277.712,81	0,00	277.712,81
Subcontracting Costs	34.740,00	16.887,59	16.887,59	0,00	16.887,59
Special Mobility Strand or Exceptional Travel Costs	597.882,00	514.904,00	514.904,00	0,00	514.904,00
TOTAL	1.479.002,00	1.384.551,40	1.384.551,40	0,00	1.384.551,40

Declared co-financing: € **70.235,31**

According to Article I.3 of the Grant Agreement, the Executive Agency shall reimburse **100%** of the eligible actual costs and eligible unit costs. Therefore, the amount of the final grant is € **1.384.551,40**.

Consequently, you may expect a payment of € **53.449,60**. This amount represents the amount of the final grant of €**1.384.551,40** minus the amount of pre-financing already paid of € **1.331.101,80**.

Yours faithfully,

Ralf RAHDERS
Head of Unit

Cc (by email): comi@ing.uniroma2.it

Very good (at least 75 pts out of 100): The consortium has achieved its objectives and delivered the expected results in full, as outlined in the Grant agreement. All the results and outputs are of very good quality. No major concerns or areas of weakness have been identified during the project implementation phase. Impact on partner countries institutions and/or Higher education systems, sustainability and exploitation of results are fully addressed.

Good (between 74 and 60 pts out of 100): To a large extent, the consortium has fulfilled its objectives and delivered (most of) its expected results as outlined in the Grant agreement. Most of the results and outputs are of good quality. Some concerns or areas of weaknesses may have been identified in the project implementation and/or its final results. Impact on partner countries institutions and/or Higher education systems, sustainability and exploitation of results are satisfactorily addressed.

Fair (between 59 and 50 pts): The consortium has fulfilled some of its objectives and delivered some of its expected results outlined in the Grant agreement. The quality of some results and outputs are acceptable. Weaknesses and concerns have been identified in the project's implementation and/or delivering of its final results. Impact on partner countries institutions and/or Higher education systems, sustainability and exploitation of results are not satisfactorily addressed.

Weak (less than 50 pts out of 100): The consortium has not fulfilled its objectives in terms of project implementation and/or delivery of expected results as outlined in the Grant agreement. This may apply to the low quality of most of the results and outputs, serious weaknesses in the project's implementation, lack of impact on partner countries institutions and/or Higher education systems, and /or sustainability and exploitation of results not addressed.

ANNEX I – INELIGIBLE COSTS

To be added with a copy/paste for evaluation excel file (evaluation tab - button ineligible)