



## TEMPUS IV PROGRAMME

The following information is about the **Tempus IV Programme** (2007-2013) initiated by the European Commission to support the modernisation of higher education in countries surrounding the EU.

Tempus supports the modernisation of higher education and creates an area of co-operation in countries surrounding the EU. Established in 1990 after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the scheme now covers countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. Partners can be from:

- 27 Member States of the European Union;
- 6 countries of the Western Balkans region<sup>1</sup>, as well as Kosovo;
- 16 countries in the Southern<sup>2</sup> and Eastern<sup>3</sup> neighbouring area of the European Union and the Russian Federation;
- 5 Central Asian countries<sup>4</sup>.

Partnerships are made up of consortia of organisations including higher education institutions, businesses, ministries, NGOs, and other organisations working in higher education; both from the EU and partner countries.

The specific objectives of Tempus are as follows:

- To promote the reform and modernisation of higher education in the Partner Countries;
- To enhance the quality and relevance of higher education in the Partner Countries;
- To build up the capacity of higher education institutions in the Partner Countries and the EU, in particular their capacity for international cooperation and for a permanent modernisation process, and to assist them in opening themselves up to society at large, the world of work and the wider world in order:
  - to overcome the fragmentation of higher education between countries and between institutions in the same country;
  - to enhance inter-disciplinarity and trans-disciplinarity;
  - to enhance the employability of university graduates;
  - to make the European Higher Education Area more visible and attractive in the world;
- To foster the reciprocal development of human resources;
- To enhance mutual understanding between peoples and cultures of the EU and of the Partner Countries.

Tempus IV programme finances the following types of action:

- **Joint Projects (JP)** based on multilateral partnerships between higher education institutions in the EU and the Partner Countries aim at exchange of knowledge and practices between EU universities and institutions in the Partner Countries and between Partner Country institutions as appropriate. Joint Projects are implemented at institutional level and pursue objectives such as curriculum development, university governance and issues of Higher education and society. Joint Projects may include small scale and short duration mobility activities for students, academic staff, researchers, university administrators and enterprise.

<sup>1</sup> Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia

<sup>2</sup> Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Occupied Palestinian territory, Tunisia

<sup>3</sup> Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

<sup>4</sup> Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

*Two categories of Joint Projects:*

- National projects target to benefit one Partner Country and focus on the national priorities set for that Partner Country.
  - Multi-country projects aim to benefit more than one Partner Country. They focus on addressing the regional priorities which are common to all Partner Countries within a specific region. They can also address a national priority which is common to each of the participating Partner Countries.
- **Structural Measures (SM)** seek to contribute to the development and reform of educational institutions and systems at national level in the Partner Countries. They can address issues linked to the reform of governance (qualification systems, quality assurance, etc.) or links between higher education and society. Structural Measures include studies and research, conferences and seminars, trainings, policy advice and dissemination of information.

*Two categories of Structural Measures:*

- National Structural Measures target to benefit one Partner Country and focus on the national priorities set for that Partner Country.
- Multi-country Structural Measures aim to benefit more than one Partner Country. They will focus on addressing the regional priorities which are common to all Partner Countries within a specific region. They can also address a national priority which is common to each of the participating Partner Countries.

Programme priorities under Tempus are defined around the main components of the EU's higher education modernisation agenda and are therefore structured in the following three building blocks:

- Curricular Reform
  - Modernisation of curricula in academic disciplines identified as priorities by the Partner Countries, using the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), the three cycle system and the recognition of degrees
- Governance Reform
  - University management and services for students
  - Introduction of quality assurance
  - Institutional and financial autonomy and accountability
  - Equal and transparent access to higher education
  - Development of international relations
- Higher Education and Society
  - Training of non-university teachers
  - Development of partnerships with enterprises
  - Knowledge triangle education-research-innovation
  - Training courses for public services (ministries, regional/local authorities)
  - Development of lifelong learning in society at large
  - Qualifications frameworks

The themes from the above building blocks are the basis to define national and regional priorities. National and regional priorities are defined in calls for proposals.

Joint Projects and Structural Measures are implemented through regular calls for proposals. Every year, the call for proposal contains all the general information and the conditions on how to apply for funding. The publication of the **third call** for proposals Tempus IV is expected by the end of year 2009 with tentative **deadline** in February/March 2010.

The following can participate:

- *Higher education institutions* that wish to implement Joint Projects or Structural Measures within the framework of consortia composed of institutions originating from the EU and the Partner Countries.

- *Any organisation intended to contribute actively to the objectives of the projects (Joint Projects or Structural Measures). Such organisations may be:*
  - Associations, organisations or networks of higher education institutions national or international rector, teacher or student organisations.
  - Non-governmental organisations;
  - Social partners or their training organisations;
  - Chambers of commerce, labour associations or other public or private professional organisations;
  - Private or public enterprises;
  - Research institutions.
- *Individual students, university and other staff.* Individuals cannot apply directly to the programme. Individual mobility is not an objective per se of Tempus. Small-scale and short term mobility flows for students, academic staff and university administrators can be envisaged in the framework of Tempus projects as long as they contribute to the achievement of the project objective(s).
- *Public administrations.* Ministries, other national, regional and local administrations may be "associate partners" in the project but may not receive funding from the grant with the exception of per diem and travel costs. This applies to both Joint Projects and Structural Measures.
- *Individual experts from outside the partnership* may be invited to participate in project activities provided that their involvement is justified and will assist all partners in reaching the project objectives, and that their particular expertise cannot be found in any of the partner institutions.

For more information please visit [Tempus](#) website. Information and advice is also available from [Tempus Information Offices](#) in EU countries and EU Delegations in non-EU countries.

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