

FAQ der NA beim BIBB und der Europäischen Kommission

(Stand 07.04.2020)

Questions raised by Erasmus+ participants

1. I was on Erasmus+ mobility in another country, but had to return home. Do I get to keep my grant?

If you are back home but a) you still have expenses directly and exclusively linked to your stay in the destination country, like rent and electricity and/or b) you are taking part in virtual learning or other virtual activities (if the institution/ organisation in the destination country has made those available, as an alternative to the originally planned activities) then yes, you can keep your grant.

In addition, you may be able to obtain a refund of additional travel costs you may have incurred. You should check with your institution / supporting organisation (subject to availability of additional EU funds at disposal of the organisation for your activity).

If you do not continue to have expenses in the destination country then you might have to pay back the portion of the grant, covering the period between the date you terminated your mobility experience and its planned end date.

2. I was on Erasmus+ in another country, but my course was cancelled because the institution closed. I decided to stay in my destination country. Do I get to keep my grant?

If you remain in the destination country and a) you still have expenses directly and exclusively linked to your stay in that country, like rent and electricity and/or b) you are taking part in virtual learning activities (if the institution in the destination country has made those available as an alternative to the originally planned activities) then yes, you can keep your grant.

In addition, you may be able to receive an additional grant to cover the extra period of time, beyond what you had initially planned, that you had to stay abroad due to the Covid-19 outbreak. You should check with your institution (subject to availability of additional EU funds at disposal of the organisation for your activity).

3. I was planning to go on Erasmus+ mobility in another country, but had to cancel before the start because of the Covid-19 outbreak. I had already paid for my flight ticket and part of my accommodation. Do I get to keep the pre-financing I received for that?

If you have paid travel expenses linked to the planned mobility, such as a flight ticket that you never used and that could not be refunded, you can receive the grant for travel costs, whenever the funding rules of the action envisage a financial support for travel. If the action does not envisage this, you are entitled to keep or receive the part of the pre-financing that corresponds to the costs incurred. You may also be able to obtain a refund of costs for the reservation of accommodation. You should check with your institution/ supporting organisation (subject to availability of additional EU funds at disposal of the organisation for your activity).

4. Can I postpone my planned Erasmus+ mobility to a later date?

Check with your home institution/ supporting organisation, but in principle, the National Agency of your home institution/ supporting organisation will accept to prolong an Erasmus+ project (which might include periods of mobility abroad for multiple participants) or a European Solidarity Corps project by up to 12 months.

5. I am a recent higher education or VET graduate and wanted to do a traineeship placement abroad. However, these are only open to recent graduates within 12 months of completing their education. Can I get an exception to this rule?

Recent higher education or VET graduates who need to postpone their planned placements abroad will be allowed to take them up within 18 months of their graduation, instead of the normal 12-month timeframe.

Questions raised by organisations/ institutions

6. Wir planen, in unserem KA2-Projekt Multiplikatorenveranstaltungen und transnationale Projekttreffen virtuell im Internet durchzuführen statt real vor Ort. Sind solche digitalen Formate förderfähig?

Der Transfer realer Treffen vor Ort in das Internet ist eine Möglichkeit, den Fortgang des Projekts unter den erschwerten Bedingungen der Pandemie sicherzustellen. Wenn Projektträger ihr Projektvorhaben nicht verlängern wollen oder können, so ist die Durchführung entsprechender virtueller Veranstaltungen förderfähig, wenn eine qualitative und zielführende Durchführung sichergestellt ist und dargestellt ist. Im Falle einer reduzierten Zielerreichung können die Einheitenkostensätze nach Bewertung des Abschlussberichts von der NA ggf. gekürzt werden.

Wenn Projektträger ihr Projektvorhaben verlängern, so gehen wir davon aus, dass die realen Aktivitäten nach Beendigung der Krise nachgeholt und durchgeführt werden.

7. Welche Kosten können im Falle von höherer Gewalt finanziert werden?

Die durch die Corona-Pandemie verursachten Kosten können in einer zeitweisen Unterbrechung oder einem Abbruch der Aktivitäten während oder vor Beginn der Aktivitäten begründet sein. Die hiermit verbundenen Kosten können in der Finanzierung von Einheitenkosten und/oder Realkosten bestehen:

- Aufenthaltskosten (Einheitensatz) der Teilnehmenden während einer zeitweisen Unterbrechung, wenn den Teilnehmenden in dieser Zeit weiterhin Kosten entstehen (bspw. Miete) und die Teilnehmenden an Online-Lern-Aktivitäten der aufnehmenden Einrichtung teilnehmen;
- Organisatorische Unterstützungskosten (Einheitensatz);
- Reisekosten im Falle abgesagter Aktivitäten (Einheitensatz);
- Außergewöhnliche Kosten (nach Belegen).

8. When the borders started closing, one of our participants had to buy an extra flight ticket to get home early, as the airline did not agree to change her original date of return. Can we cover these additional or exceptional costs with Erasmus+ funds?

Yes, you can consider these costs as “eligible” as long as the overall budget for your project covered by the grant agreement in question is not exceeded. If you are subject to a later audit, you might need to provide proof of the need to reimburse these additional costs.

Die Anerkennung der Kosten ist an die folgenden Voraussetzungen geknüpft:

- Die „höhere Gewalt“ tritt zu einem Zeitpunkt auf, an dem Sie eingegangene finanzielle Verpflichtungen nicht mehr zurücknehmen können.
- Sie haben alle Möglichkeiten einer Minimierung anfallender Ausgaben z.B. durch Kündigung von Verträgen, Rückgabe von Tickets oder die Nutzung Reiserücktrittsversicherungen ausgeschöpft.
- Sie erläutern Sie unter der Kostenart „Außergewöhnliche Kosten“ im Feld“, warum und wann es zu welchen Änderungen im Projekt gekommen ist und kennzeichnen die Kosten im MT+ entsprechend mit *Force Majeure*.
- Sie belegen die entstandenen außergewöhnlichen Kosten im Abschlussbericht durch Vorlage entsprechender Dokumente wie bspw. Rechnungen.
- Die Förderhöchstsumme kann in keinem Fall überschritten werden.

9. Due to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to cover some exceptional costs for a participant with a disability, who needed help for a longer period of time. Are these eligible costs?

Yes, you can consider these costs as “eligible” as long as the overall budget for your project covered by the grant agreement in question is not exceeded. If you are subject to a later audit, you might need to provide proof of the need to reimburse these additional costs.

10. I work on coordinating Erasmus+ projects and the organisational support pays my wages, and that of my colleagues. Given the cancellation of many of the activities, can we still be sure that we can keep the operational support we were counting on?

For those cases, where the individual participants are eligible to receive or retain the individual support grant, yes, you will be entitled to receive Erasmus+ organisational support.

Even in cases where the Erasmus+ activities are cancelled, you are entitled to receive the organisational support. This approach takes into account the rent of premises costs of preparation and follow up of participants prior to the departure as well as the tasks you are carrying out to support the participants in managing the exceptional nature of the Covid-19 pandemic (cancellations, contacts with host partners, counselling, etc.).

11. I am a project coordinator and have had to suspend the project. Do I get to keep the project management grant? Can I ask to prolong my project to complete the activities later on?

Beneficiaries of strategic partnerships can opt to temporarily suspend their project, ask for an extension of the project duration and carry out the planned activities once the restrictions in place in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic have been lifted. In this case, the project management grant will be calculated based on the new project duration, excluding the suspension, but cannot exceed the total agreed grant amount.

12. I am a project coordinator. I had to cancel activities but already incurred expenses that I will not get back (rental of room, accommodation for participants etc.). Will these costs be covered?

In the cases where the Erasmus+ activities are cancelled and organisations have incurred costs that cannot be reimbursed, they will have the possibility to have those costs covered.

Wir empfehlen Ihnen unsere Kurzanleitung (für KA1-Projekte) zur Eingabe von Stornokosten und entstandener Kosten im Falle von „Höherer Gewalt“. Darin wird Ihnen aufgezeigt, wie Sie mit verschiedenen Szenarien umgehen sollen, wie Sie entstandene Kosten ins Mobility Tool+ eingeben und welche Nachweise (Belege) notwendig sind.