Erasmus+
Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)

December 2023

European Education and Culture
Executive Agency

Objectives

Purpose

Focus on the needs

of the third countries not associated to the E+ programme

Targeting priorities

of the third countries not associated to the E+ programme and matching them with the EU priorities

Maximising benefit

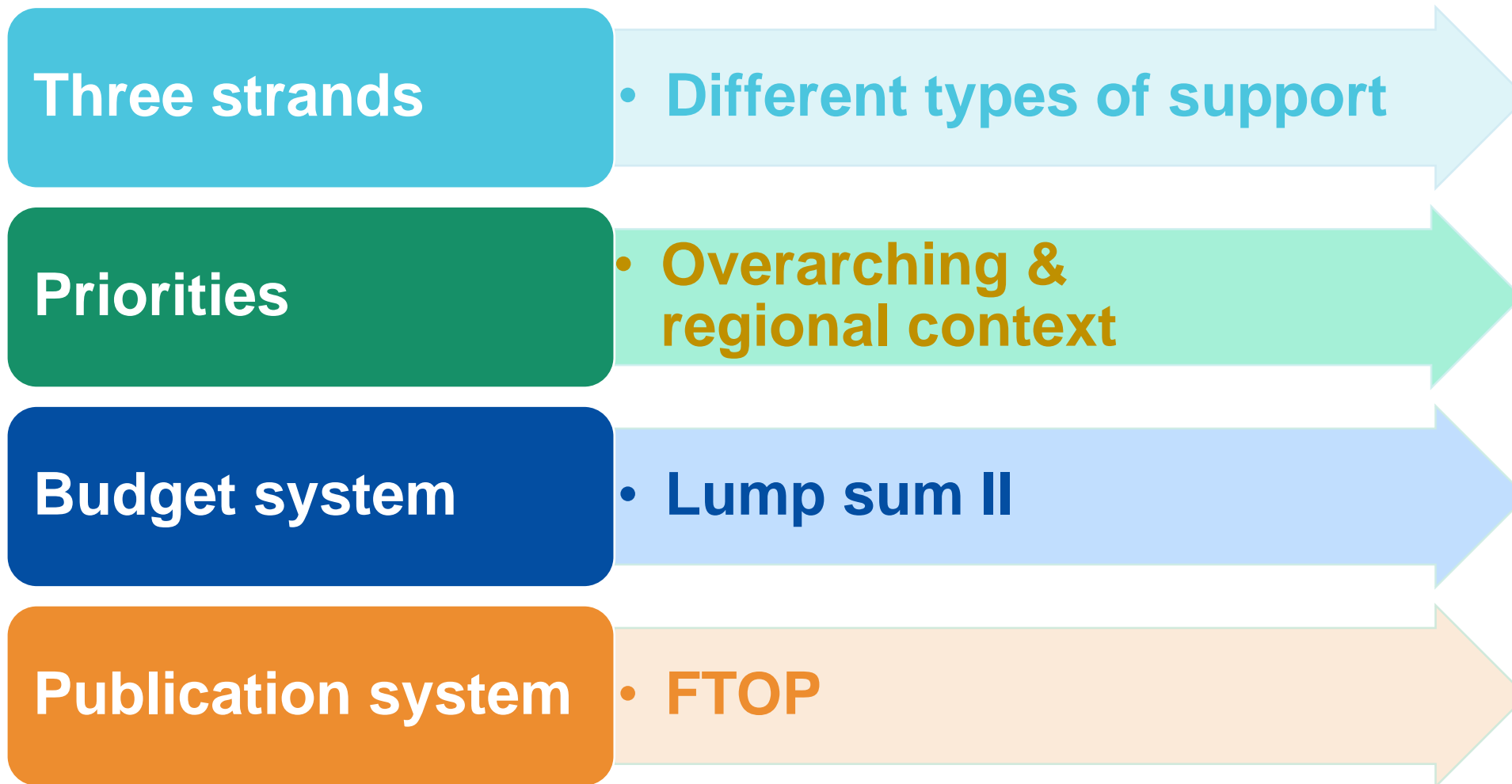of third countries not associated to the E+ Programme

European Commission

Regions eligible for CBHE

Western Balkans (Region 1)	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro
Neighbourhood East (Region 2)	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine*
South-Mediterranean countries (Region 3)	Algeria, Egypt, Israel*, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine*, Syria**, Tunisia
Asia (Region 5a)	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam
Central Asia (Region 6)	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
Middle East (Region 7a)	Iran, Iraq, Yemen
Pacific (Region 8a)	Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
Sub-Saharan Africa (Region 9)	Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo - Democratic Republic of the, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Latin America (Region 10)	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela
Caribbean (Region 11)	Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago

* As defined in the Programme Guide
** Exception: Organisations from Syria are not eligible to participate in Strand 3

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CBHE main features

Three strands
- **Different types of support**

Priorities
- **Overarching & regional context**

Budget system
- **Lump sum II**

Publication system
- **FTOP**

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Overarching priorities

Green deal	Regions: 1, 2, 3, 5a, 6, 7a, 8a, 9, 10, 11
Digital transformation	Regions: 1, 2, 3, 5a, 9, 10
Integration of migrants	Regions: 1, 2, 3, 9
Governance, peace, security and human development	Regions: 1, 2, 3, 5a, 9, 10, 11
Sustainable growth and jobs	Regions: 1, 2, 3, 5a, 6, 7a, 8a, 9, 10, 11

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Overarching priorities – example of topics

Green Deal

- environmental challenges
- biodiversity
- agri-food value chains
- climate awareness, sustainability and resilience
- green and efficient energy
- sustainable transport

Digital transformation

- digital technology
- business digitalisation
- digital economy
- artificial intelligence
- digital skills and pedagogy
- distance learning

Integration of migrants

- access to education to migrants
- recognition of degrees and credentials
- support for academic, social, physical and psychological development

Governance, peace, security and human development

- health and well being
- public policies
- protection of human rights
- peace and security
- respect for diversity
- tolerance
- gender equality

Sustainable growth and jobs

- entrepreneurship
- uptake of STEAM skills
- prevent brain drain
- links with labour market
- address school dropouts

European Commission

Overarching priorities – example of projects

- HOST-EG - Fostering sustainable growth and employment by building higher education capacities in hospitality and tourism management in Equatorial Guinea

Sustainable growth and jobs

- DigiGrad Africa - Internationalisation and Digitalisation of Graduate Training and Research for the Attainment of African Regional and Global Development Goals

Digital transformation

- CHAIN - Cooperation for Holistic Agriculture Innovation Nests in Sub-Saharan Africa
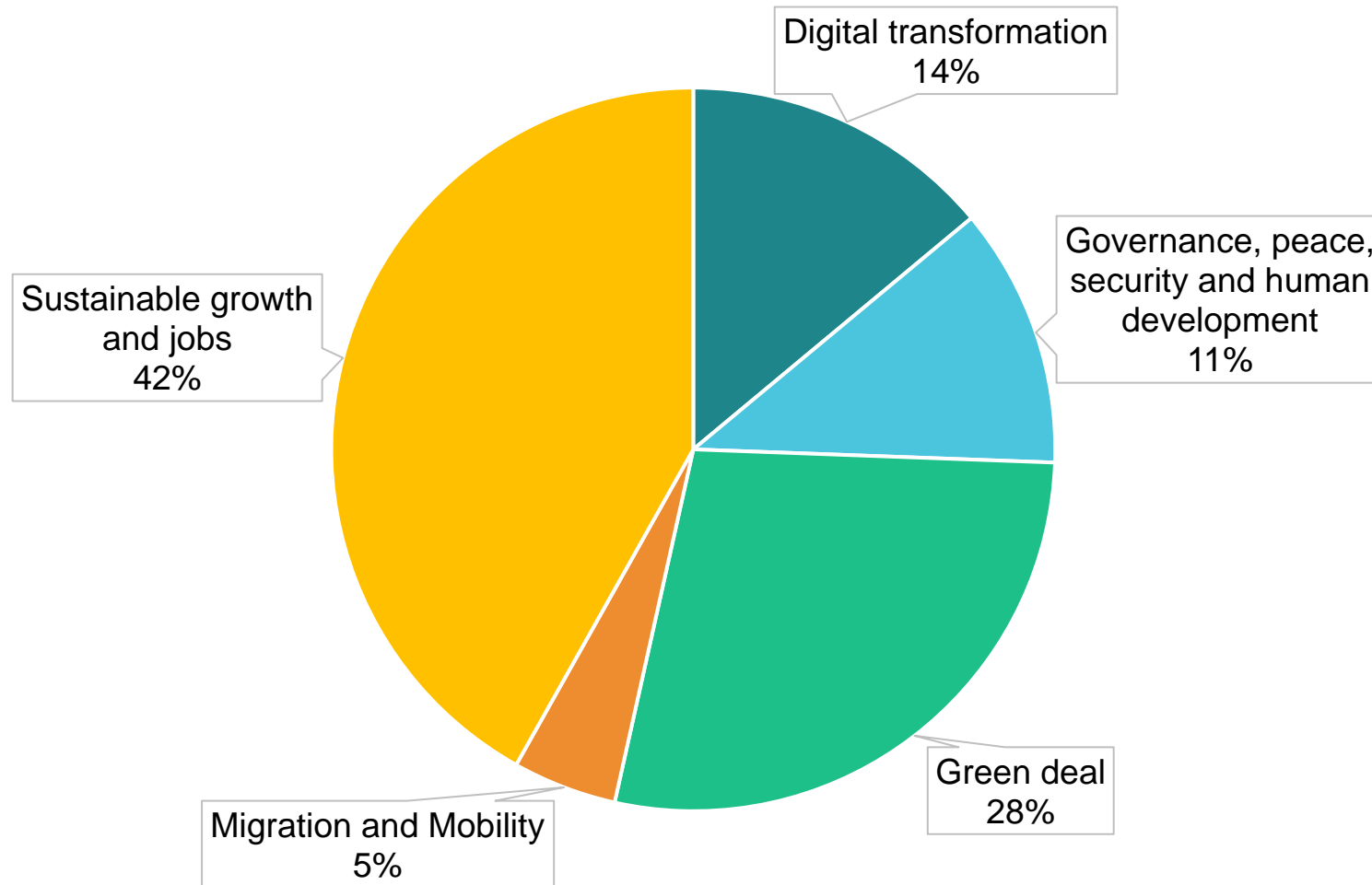
Green Deal

- ANSWER- Advance iNclusion for Students With disabilities on higher Education in Rwanda

Integration of migrants

- eMAMA - Developing Post Graduate Training Programme for Maternal Mental Health in Sub-Saharan Africa

Governance, peace, security and human development

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Sub-Saharan Africa in 2023 selected projects – thematic fields

- Digital transformation 14%
- Governance, peace, security and human development 11%
- Green deal 28%
- Migration and Mobility 5%
- Sustainable growth and jobs 42%

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Three types of CBHE projects

National projects	Multi-country regional projects	Multi-country cross-regional projects
HEIs from **one** third country not associated to the Erasmus+ Programme	HEIs from **several countries** not associated to the Erasmus+ Programme from **one Region**	HEIs from countries not associated to the Erasmus+ Programme belonging to **several Regions**

- At least **2 EU Member States** or **third countries associated to the Erasmus+ Programme**. Among them, each participating country must involve at least **1 HEI**.
- For **third countries not associated to the Erasmus+ Programme** participation, specific eligibility criteria should be checked in the Programme Guide (per Region, Strand and type of project).

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Three Strands:

Strand 1:
Fostering access to cooperation in higher education

- Projects can last 24 or 36 months
- Funding between EUR 200.000 and EUR 400.000 per project

Strand 2:
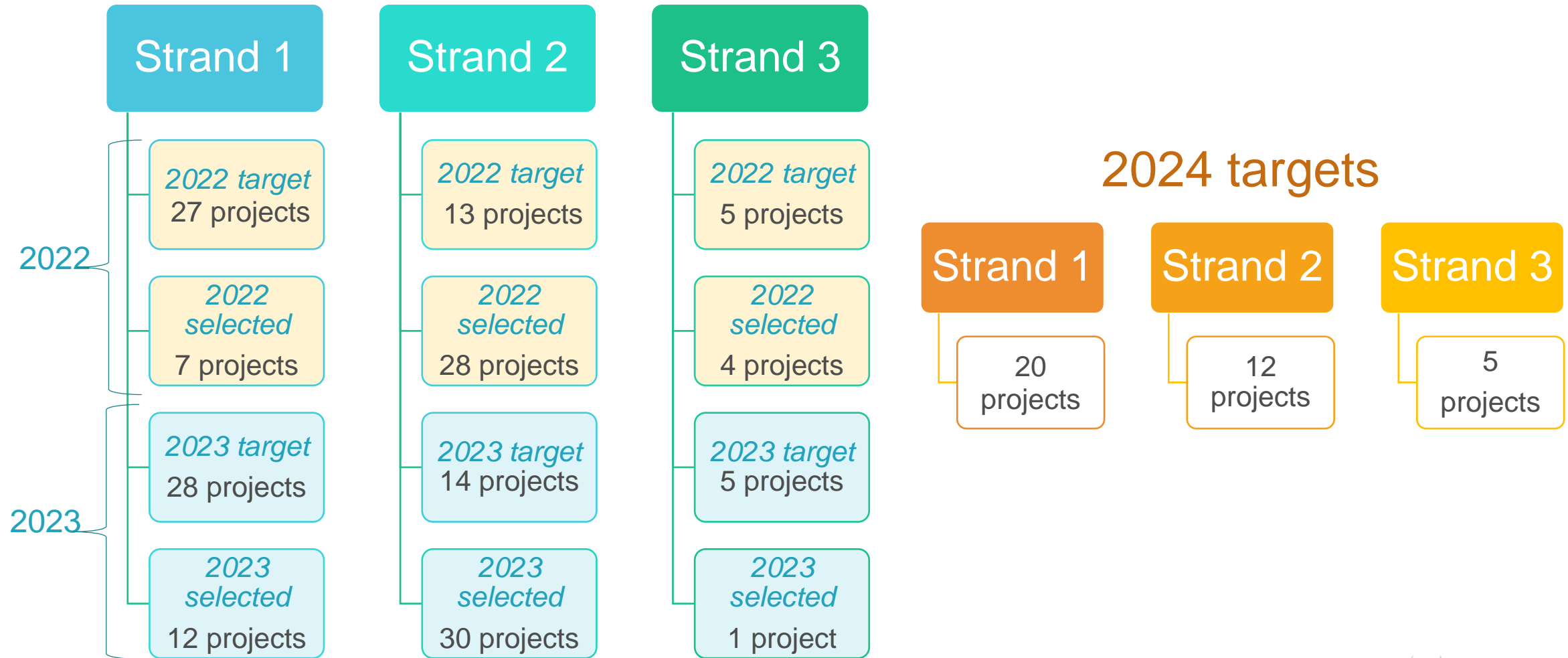**Partnerships for transformation in higher education**

- Projects can last 24 or 36 months
- Funding between EUR 400.000 and EUR 800.000 per project

Strand 3:
Structural reform projects

- Projects can last 36 or 48 months
- Funding between EUR 600.000 and EUR 1.000.000 per project
- Involvement of the Ministry

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Sub-Saharan Africa in selected projects (2022 and 2023)

Strand 1	Strand 2	Strand 3

2022

2022 target 27 projects	*2022 target* 13 projects	*2022 target* 5 projects
2022 selected 7 projects	*2022 selected* 28 projects	*2022 selected* 4 projects

2023

2023 target 28 projects	*2023 target* 14 projects	*2023 target* 5 projects
2023 selected 12 projects	*2023 selected* 30 projects	*2023 selected* 1 project

2024 targets

Strand 1	Strand 2	Strand 3
20 projects	12 projects	5 projects

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Strand 1. Fostering access to cooperation in Higher Education

Target groups

HEIs from least developed countries

HEIs located in remote regions

Newcomers or less experienced

Individuals with fewer opportunities.

Enhance management or administrative capacities

Reforming and modernising university governance

International Relation Offices

Quality Assurance

Capacity (mobility, evaluation, planning, etc.)
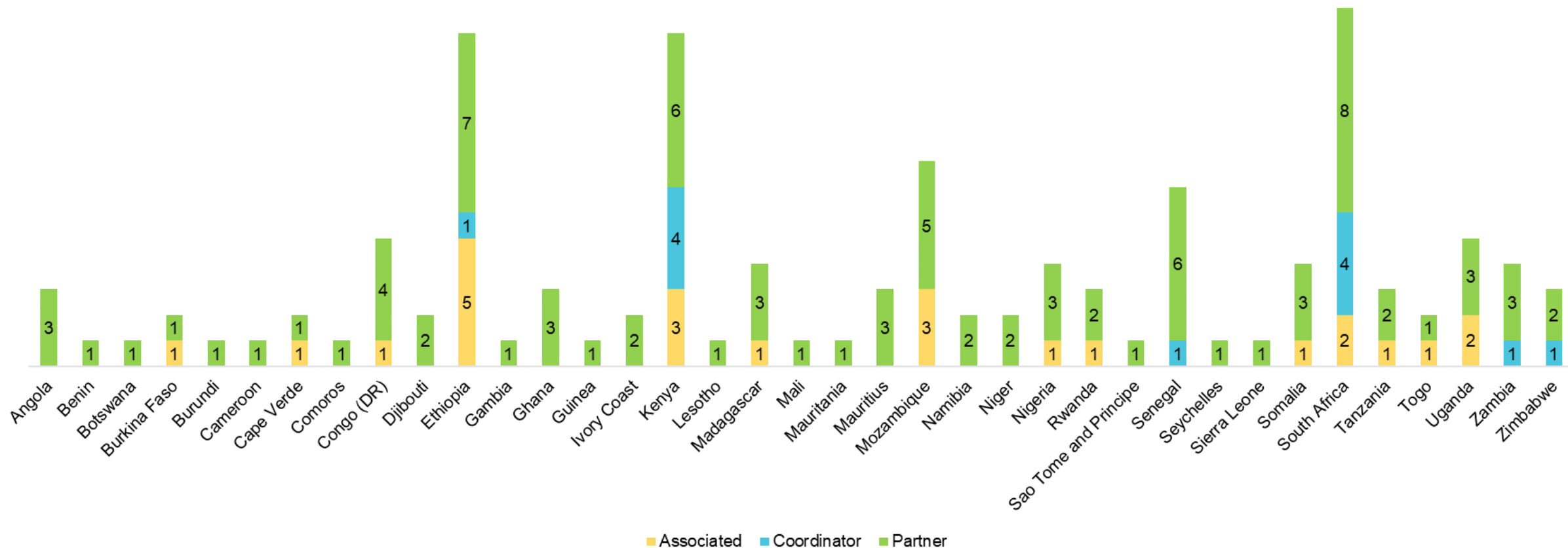
Ensure high quality and relevant education

modules or **study programmes**, technical or professional orientations of programmes

developing capacities **for postgraduate student and academic staff** as well as promoting postgraduate students and/or staff mobility;

implementing **training courses for HEI staff**

Increasing the **accessibility** of individuals with fewer opportunities

European Commission

Sub-Saharan Africa in 2023 selected projects – country participation

Legend: ■ Associated ■ Coordinator ■ Partner

Strand 2. Partnerships for transformation in HE

Target groups

- HEIs
- Local actors with a link to industry and business sectors
- Individuals: students, staff, learners in general
- Bodies responsible for HE at local and national level

Innovation in higher education

- Design of innovative curricula
- Innovative learning and teaching methods
- Active engagement with the business world and with research

Promoting reforms of HEIs

- Introduction of Bologna type reforms at institutional level
- Reform of governance and management systems and structures at institutional level

Strand 3. Structural reform projects

Promoting reforms and innovation of HE system

Target groups

HEIs

National Ministry for higher education (HE)

Research institutions

Other relevant authorities and stakeholders in the field of HE

Mutual learning between public authorities of the countries involved	Promote inclusive Higher Education systems	Increase capacities of bodies in charge of Higher Education	Identify synergies with ongoing EU initiatives
Foster national ownership	Efficient and effective policy making	Foster common regional strategies in Higher Education	Introduction of funding mechanisms

European Commission

Novelties in 2024 call for proposals

Reduction n° of page of application (max.70 pages for Part B)

Eligibility criteria

Specific budget for cross-regional proposals

Approach for the consultation of the EU Delegations

European Commission

Who can participate?

Who can apply as coordinator?

- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) or organisations of HEIs

- Applicant must be established in an EU Member State or third country associated to the Erasmus+ programme or in an eligible third country not associated to Erasmus+ programme

- The applicant applies on behalf of all organisations involved in the proposal

Who can participate as partner?

- Organisations or institutions active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training and youth may also participate, but not as coordinator.

Specific rules per Region, per Strand and per type of project should be checked.

European Commission

Minimum partnership composition (1)

NATIONAL PROJECTS (open <u>only</u> for Regions 2, 3, 5a, 6, 7a, 8a, 9)

- **Strand 1 and Strand 2**
  - **at least 2** EU Member States or third countries associated to the Programme
    - ➢ each of these countries must involve **at least 1 HEI**
  - **only 1** eligible third country not associated to the Programme
    - ➢ involving **at least 2 HEIs***

Exception: In third countries not associated to the Programme where the number of HEIs recognised by the competent national authorities is lower than 5 in the whole country, or in cases where one single institution represents more than 50% of the overall student population of the country, applications counting only one HEI from those countries will be accepted.

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Minimum partnership composition (2)

MULTI-COUNTRY PROJECTS (open for all eligible Regions)

- **Strand 1 and Strand 2**
  - **at least 2** EU Member States or third countries associated to the Programme
    - ➤ each of these countries must involve **at least 1 HEI**
  - **at least 2** eligible third countries not associated to the Programme
    - ➤ each of these countries must involve **at least 2 HEIs***

Exception: In third countries not associated to the Programme where the number of HEIs recognised by the competent national authorities is lower than 5 in the whole country, or in cases where one single institution represents more than 50% of the overall student population of the country, applications counting only one HEI from those countries will be accepted.

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Minimum partnership composition (3)

Strand 3

- **at least 2** EU Member States or third countries associated to the Programme
  - ➢ each of these countries must involve **at least 1 HEI**

NATIONAL PROJECTS (open for all eligible Regions)

- **only 1** eligible third country not associated to the Programme

MULTI-COUNTRY PROJECTS (open for all eligible Regions)

- **at least 2** eligible third countries not associated to the Programme
- ❖ **each** participating eligible third country not associated to the Programme must involve:
  - ➢ **at least 2 HEIs***
  - ➢ **national competent authority** (e.g Ministry) responsible for higher education

Exception: In third countries not associated to the Programme where the number of HEIs recognised by the competent national authorities is lower than 5 in the whole country, or in cases where one single institution represents more than 50% of the overall student population of the country, applications counting only one HEI from those countries will be accepted.

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2024 CBHE indicative available budget and n° of projects (FTOP)

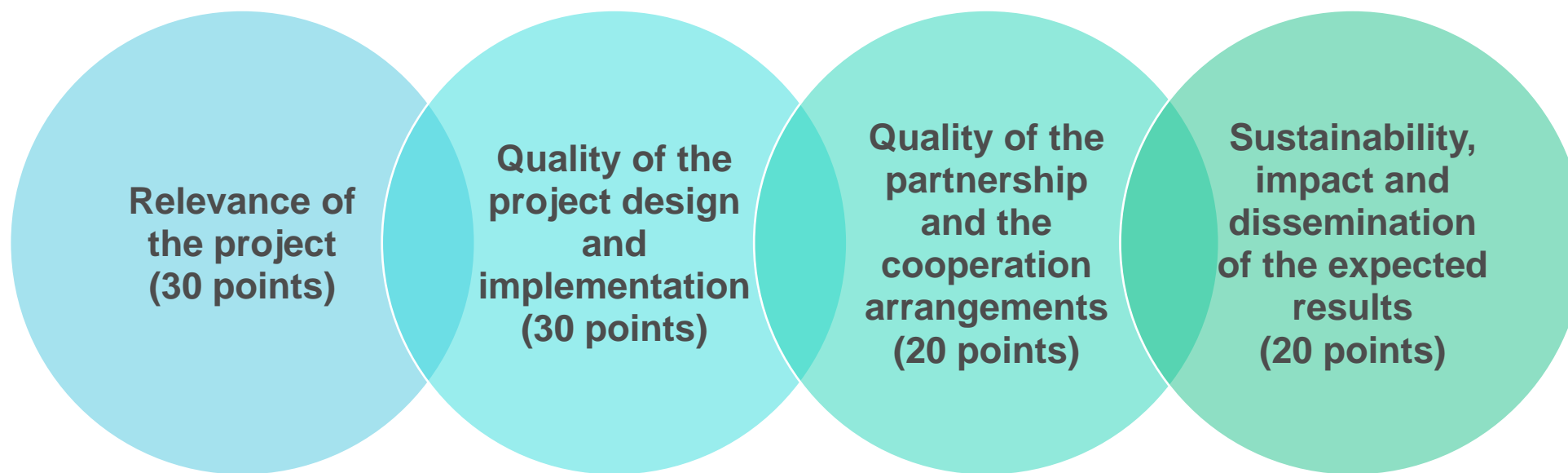| Regions	Indicative 2024 CBHE budget	Strand 1	Indicative n° of projects	Strand 2	Indicative n° of projects	Strand 3	Indicative n° of projects
Region 1 Western Balkans	11.613.668	4.593.668	11	4.320.000	5	2.700.000	2
Region 2 Neighbourhood East	12.666.143	4.926.143	12	5.040.000	6	2.700.000	2
Region 3 South-Mediterranean countries	7.984.883	4.104.883	10	2.880.000	3	1.000.000	1
Region 5a Asia	17.789.182	3.749.182	9	12.240.000	15	1.800.000	1
Region 6 Central Asia	4.923.200	1.043.200	2	2.880.000	3	1.000.000	1
Region 7a Middle East	720.000	720.000	1				
Region 8a Pacific	400.000	400.000	1				
Region 9 Sub-Saharan Africa	22.790.669	8.210.669	20	10.080.000	12	4.500.000	4
Region 10 Latin America	8.667.780	927.780	2	5.940.000	7	1.800.000	1
Region 11 Caribbean	720.000	720.000	1				
2024 CBHE indicative budget and n° of projects to be funded (national / regional)	88.275.525	29.395.525	69	43.380.000	51	15.500.000	12
2024 CBHE indicative budget and n° of projects to be funded (cross-regional)	9.541.725	≈ 12 proposals					
Indicative 2024 CBHE budget	97.817.250	≈ 144 proposals					

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Lump sum II: approach – basic principles

Applicants must define **work packages** and **detailed estimation of costs** for each work package **per beneficiary**

Evaluators assess cost details during the evaluation and make recommendations if needed.

Based on this, the EU grant in the form of **lump sum** is fixed **during grant agreement preparation**

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Award criteria

Relevance of the project (30 points)

Quality of the project design and implementation (30 points)

Quality of the partnership and the cooperation arrangements (20 points)

Sustainability, impact and dissemination of the expected results (20 points)

➢ Proposals must score **at least 60/100 points** in total to be selected
➢ **At least half of the maximum points** for each award criterion
➢ Additional considerations apply to determine priority among equal scoring proposals

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Award criteria

Purpose

• Relevant to objectives and activities of CBHE and specificities of the Strand,
• Adequate response to current needs of the target country(ies) or Region(s) and of the target groups,
• The extent to which the proposal addresses the EU overarching priorities.

Objectives

• Based on a sound needs analysis; clearly defined, specific, measurable, achievable, realistic,
• They address issues relevant to the participating organisations and development strategies for higher education in the eligible third countries not associated to the Programme.

Link to EU policy and initiatives

• The proposal takes into account and enhances complementarity/synergies with other interventions funded by the EU and other entities.

EU added value

• The proposal demonstrates that similar results could not be achieved without the cooperation of HEIs from the EU Member States or third countries associated to the Programme and without the EU funding

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Award criteria

Quality of the project design and implementation

Coherence

- Consistency between project objectives, methodology, activities and the budget proposed,
- Coherent and comprehensive set of appropriate activities to meet the identified needs and the expected results.

Methodology

- The logic of the intervention is of good quality, planned outputs and outcomes are coherent and feasible, and key assumptions and risks have been clearly identified.

Work plan

- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan are in line with their objectives and the deliverables,
- The relation between the resources and the expected results is adequate and the work plan is realistic, with well-defined activities, time-lines, clear deliverables and milestones.

Budget

- Cost efficiency and appropriate financial resources for a successful implementation of the project,
- The estimated budget is neither overestimated nor underestimated.

Quality control

- Control measures (continuous quality evaluation, peer reviews, benchmarking activities, mitigating actions etc.) and quality indicators ensure a project implementation of high quality.

Environmental sustainability

- The project is designed in an eco-friendly way.

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Award criteria

Management

- Solid arrangements are foreseen,
- Timelines, governance structures, collaboration arrangements and responsibilities well defined and realistic.

Composition

- Appropriate mix of organisations with the necessary competences relevant to the objectives of the proposal and to the specificities of the Strand,
- most appropriate and diverse range of non-academic partners.

Tasks

- Roles and tasks are assigned on the basis of the specific know-how, profiles and experience of each partner.

Collaboration

- Effective mechanisms to ensure efficient collaboration, communication and conflict resolution between the partner organisations and any other relevant stakeholders.

Commitment

- The contribution from the project partners is significant, pertinent and complementary,
- the proposal demonstrates the partners' involvement, commitment and ownership of the project's specific objectives and results, in particular from the third countries not associated to the Programme.

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Award criteria

Exploitation

- How the outcomes of the project will be used by the partners and other stakeholders; how multiplier effects will be ensured and it provides means to measure exploitation within the project funding time and after.

Dissemination

- Clear and efficient plan for the dissemination of results, appropriate activities and their timing, tools and channels to be spread effectively to all relevant stakeholders and non-participating audience, reaching out and attracting relevant stakeholders to the outcomes within and after the project's funding time.

Impact

- Tangible impact on its target groups and relevant stakeholders at local, national or regional level,
- Measures, goals and indicators to monitor progress and assess the expected impact at individual, institutional and systemic level.

Open access

- Materials, documents and media produced freely available and promoted through open licenses and without disproportionate limitations.
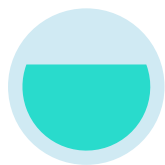
Sustainability

- How the project results will be sustained financially and institutionally and how the local ownership will be ensured.

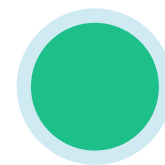European Commission

Application Forms

Part A

Administrative Information on the applicants

Part B

1. Description of Action (do not forget to embed LFM !)

2. Detailed Budget Table (Excel File)

Part C

Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

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What are we looking for ?

➢ Clear and ambitious proposals that correspond to the needs of your countries and your institution

➢ Activities in line with EU overarching priorities and your countries' strategic priorities/needs

➢ Results that make a difference on several levels: impact

➢ Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan executed by a competent team

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To be improved

➢ **Discrepancies** between part B and part C (2 pages with KPI)

➢ **Confusion between tasks / milestones / indicators / deliverables**

➢ **Logical Framework Matrix (LMF)** missing or not correctly completed

➢ **Weak needs analysis**

➢ **Poor risk assessment**

➢ **Budget insufficiently detailed** with too high share of Staff Costs

➢ **Accreditation not considered** for curriculum projects

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To be improved

➢ **Impact assessment indicators missing or not correctly identified**

➢ **The workflow needs →objectives →activities →budget→results remains, often, insufficiently articulated**

➢ Equipment for newcomers often not planned

➢ Too limited purchase of **specialised equipment** vs generic material (laptops, photocopiers, etc.)

➢In **Strand 1 missing or too few newcomers**, not well justified

➢ In **Strand 2 lack of involvement of non-academic partners and innovation not visible**

➢ In **Strand 3 national impact** not clearly identified

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To be improved - budget

➢ Pay attention to **copy to Part A the very exact amounts of the Detailed Budget** Table (Excel)

➢ Need to ensure **value for money:** reflect **objectively** if the outcomes you propose are worth the amount you request

➢ **No depreciation**: the whole amount of the equipment is supported by the grant, provided it is purchased 12 months before the end of the project

➢ **Staff costs inflated** (both in quantity and in monthly rate)

➢ **Do not include financial audit** costs (not eligible)

Detailed Budget Table

	FILL IN THE VALUES BELOW BEFORE STARTING:
Insert the name of your call :	
Insert the acronym of your project :	
Maximum grant amount for the EU contribution as stipulated in the call :	400.000,00 €
Maximum cofinancing rate as stipulated in the call :	90,00%

The document which will be created with format .XLSX
will be saved in the same folder
where this workbook .XLSM is currently placed.

Create XLSX document

Double-Click to activate

...).
Please, note that this definition is common to all Work Packages for all Beneficiaries.

A. DIRECT PERSONNEL COSTS

A1. Employees (or equivalent) person months (you can change the types based on your structure)

| Senior Professor |
| Junior Professor |
| Technician |
| Administrative staff |
| Manager |

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Commission

How to submit a proposal?

- **Where?**

  Applications must be submitted through the **European Commission's Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal** (F&TP) using the Portal Submission System:

  https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home

- **Who?**

  Proposals must be created and submitted by a contact person of the coordinating organisation

- **When?**

  Publication: 28 November 2023

  Deadline: 8 February 2024 (17:00:00 Brussels time)

Applicants are highly recommended to submit proposals as early as possible and at least 48 hours prior to the call deadline.

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Useful links for preparing your application

- **Erasmus+ Call and Programme Guide**:

https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-programme-guide

- **Funding & tender opportunities portal** (**FTOP**):

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/erasmus2027

- **Logical Framework Matrix**:

https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-capacity-building-higher-education-cbhe-2024_en

European Commission

Erasmus+ CBHE 2024 promotion activities

General CBHE Infoday (online) organised by EACEA (30/11/2023)

- [Online info session: Erasmus+ programme - Capacity Building in Higher Education (europa.eu)](europa.eu)

Participation to National Erasmus+ Info-days organised by NAs, NEOs and ENFPs

- https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/contacts/national-agencies
- [Erasmus+ National Focal Points | Erasmus+ (europa.eu)](europa.eu)
- [National Erasmus+ Offices | Erasmus+ (europa.eu)](europa.eu)

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Thank you

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