



Brussels, 11.9.2014
C(2014) 6316 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 11.9.2014

**on the Annual Action Programme 2014 (part 2) in favour of Jordan to be financed from
the general budget of the European Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action¹, and in particular Article 2 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted a Single Support Framework for the period 2014-2017³, providing for the following priorities:
 - Reinforcing the rule of law for enhanced accountability and equity in public service delivery;
 - Employment and private sector development;
 - Renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- (2) The objective pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2014 (part 2) in favour of Jordan, to be financed under Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument⁴, is to reinforce the partnership between the people in Europe and Jordan enabling an increased mobility of Jordanian students who could go and study in the EU.
- (3) The action entitled "Special Window for Jordan in the Capacity Development for Higher Education component of Erasmus+ in 2014" overall objective is to contribute to the development of human resources and the international co-operation capacity of higher education institutions in Jordan by increasing mobility between the European Union and Jordan and to contribute to the employability of young people in Jordan.
- (4) This Decision complies with the conditions laid down in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ C(2014) 5130 of 24.7.2014.

⁴ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27.

application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union⁵.

- (5) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks to the Education, Audio-Visual and Culture Executive Agency in accordance with Decision 2005/56/EC of the European Commission of 14/01/2005.
- (6) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by this Decision should cover any possible claims for interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (7) The Commission is required to define the term "non-substantial change" in the sense of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer by delegation, or under his or her responsibility, by sub-delegation (hereinafter referred to as the 'responsible authorising officer').
- (8) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee set up by the basic act referred to in Recital 2,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The following Annual Action Programme, constituted by the action identified in the second paragraph and attached as Annex, is approved:

Annual Action Programme 2014 (part 2) in favour of Jordan:

The action constituting this measure is:

- Annex: Special Window for Jordan in the Capacity Development for Higher Education component of Erasmus+ in 2014.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this programme is set at EUR 5 million to be financed from budget line 21 03 20 00 of the general budget of the European Union for 2014.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

Section 4 of the Annex referred to in the second paragraph of Article 1 sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

The financial contribution referred to in Article 2 shall also cover any possible interests due for late payment.

⁵ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution referred to in Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20 % of that contribution shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions. The use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling referred to in this Article.

The responsible authorising officer may adopt these non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 11.9.2014

For the Commission
Štefan FÜLE
Member of the Commission

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ANNEX

of the Commission implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2014 (part 2) in favour of the Kingdom of Jordan

Action Document for a Special Window for Jordan in the Capacity Building for Higher Education component of Erasmus+ in 2014

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Special Window for Jordan in the Capacity Building for Higher Education component of Erasmus+ in 2014		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 5,500,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution is EUR 5,000,000 Total indicative amount of Higher Education Institutions contribution is EUR 500,000		
Aid method / Management mode and type of financing	Call for proposals Direct management with the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) ¹		
DAC-code	11420	Sector	Higher Education

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

This decision aims to reinforce the Capacity Building Higher Education (CBHE) action of the Erasmus+ programme by providing extra-funding opportunities to increase the number of projects involving Jordanian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to be selected under the call for proposals to be published in autumn 2014.

The overall objective of this action is to contribute to the development of human resources and capacities of higher education institutions in Jordan by increasing co-operation, transfer of know-how and experience among institutions and individuals between Europe and Jordan and to contribute to the employability of young people in Jordan.

This action aims to support the modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of Higher Education in Jordan by developing trans-national co-operation projects

¹ The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) is a public body created by the Decision 2005/56/EC of the European Commission adopted on 14/01/2005. The Agency's mission is to implement a number of strands of several programmes and actions in the fields of education and training, active citizenship, youth, audiovisual and culture.

based on multi-lateral partnerships between institutions from Programme and Partner countries encouraging collaboration between institutions and people in the EU and Jordan (and other Partner Countries) and enabling to modernise the Jordanian higher education system.

Furthermore, the purpose is also to increase mobility activities with an emphasis on Jordanian students and staff who could study in Europe.

Recent developments concerning the employability of young graduates in Jordan have shown that particular attention needs to be given to supporting actions in favour of young people since they play an important role in the stability of the future development of the country. According to the most recent World Bank data nearly 30% of youth is unemployed (age group 15-24) while these data for university graduates are in some fields even higher, especially among female graduates.

In a Regional Conference on the theme: “Mobility around the Mediterranean” that was held from 15-17 March 2014 in Amman, Jordan emphasised the importance of free mobility to develop the society, since currently the focus is on the security and migration control aspects.

This action will be carried out in the context of the priorities identified in the communications “Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change”² and “European Higher Education in the World”³ also taking into account the national priorities for Jordan as indicated in the Single Support Framework (2014-2017)⁴ and in the Education strategy of the Ministry of Higher Education.

The Decision will contribute to fund two types of projects: “Joint Projects” and “Structural Projects”, each type involving a wide variety of activities aiming to address the real needs of the Partner Countries' higher education systems and institutions, to increase the local relevance and ownership of the education programmes and to respond in the best manner to immediate social and labour market requirements.

Both categories of projects may include a Special Mobility Strand for staff and students which must be instrumental to the objectives of the project (integrated mobility) therewith reinforcing the action logic of the CBHE Projects.

2.2. Context

The Joint Communication “A new response to a changing Neighbourhood”⁵ outlines a new approach towards the European Union (EU)’s neighbours to the East and South, based on mutual accountability and a shared commitment to respecting universal values, international human rights standards, democracy and the rule of law. A strengthened engagement in the area of education is a crucial element of the new approach vis-à-vis the European Neighbourhood countries. Mobility and development of skills are also among the priorities of the current agenda between the

² COM(2011) 637 of 13.10.2011.

³ COM(2013) 499 of 11.7.2013.

⁴ COM(2014) 5130 of 24.07.2014.

⁵ COM(2011) 303 of 25.5.2011.

EU and Jordan which is governed by the Single Support Framework (SSF) covering the period 2014-2017.

The recent focus on the employability of young graduates in Jordan shows that particular attention needs to be given to supporting actions in favour of young people since they play an important role in the stability and the future development of the country. In this light the reinforcement of employment and labour market relevance of studies is an important national priority for Jordan. This was most recently reconfirmed in the EuroMed study "Youth work and youth unemployment in Jordan" of May 2014.

Furthermore, Jordan continues to be in a transition towards establishing a fully-fledged market economy. In this context, partner country institutions, including higher education institutions, are under strong pressure to provide the skills required by these new economic conditions. At the present moment many young graduates miss working or international experience to provide them with employability skills to find a job either within Jordan or the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries which have traditionally provided a fruitful career ground for Jordanian Graduates.

Support for partner country institutions in their reform efforts and in establishing people-to-people co-operation, especially in the field of higher education, is therefore needed and can contribute to mutual understanding between people, countries and cultures in the EU's neighbouring countries.

This decision aims to reinforce institutional co-operation and people to people contacts in higher education between Jordan and Europe, enabling the modernisation of Jordanian higher education institutions (HEIs) and an increased mobility of students and staff between Europe and Jordan and between Partner Countries (Jordan and other Partner Countries). In the recent Regional Conference on the theme: Mobility around the Mediterranean (Amman, 15-17 March 2014), Jordan emphasised the importance of free mobility to develop their society. The EU is the main strategic partner of Jordan in education and employment reform, providing direct budget support for implementation of the sector strategy and intensive technical assistance including capacity building of various Employment - Technical and vocational Educational Training (E-TVET) institutions. For Higher Education EU support is mainly delivered through the Erasmus Mundus and Tempus programmes, which have now been replaced by the ERASMUS+ programme.

EU-Jordan relations are governed by the Association Agreement, of May 2002. In 2010 Jordan entered the "Advanced Status" of partnership. The Country Strategy Paper (CSP) under the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI) outlined the strategic framework for EU co-operation with Jordan in the period 2007-2013. A new Single Support Framework has been prepared to provide a framework of cooperation between the EU and Jordan for the period 2014-2020. It identifies 3 key focal sectors of co-operation; one of which is 'employment and private sector development', which focuses particularly on the support to human resources. One of the specific objectives is 'promoting human resources development policies for better matching with the labour market requirements and enhanced mobility'.

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Higher Education in Jordan

Higher education has a key role in the economic, social and political development of any country as noted in the Interregional Strategy Paper and Indicative Programme 2007-2013 for the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) region.

Globalisation and the move towards knowledge-based economies have been major drives behind developments within the higher education sector world-wide over recent years. These have enhanced the level of internationalisation of higher education, and have had a strong influence on the on-going review of the role of the university as a key player in the development of the economy and society.

At the same time, co-operation between European and Jordanian HEIs and mobility among European and Jordanian students and staff is becoming ever more important for the cross-fertilisation of ideas and for cultural understanding. In the last Tempus selection round (autumn 2013) in total 11 Joint and Structural Measures Projects in which Jordanian institutions are represented have been approved and in 3 of them they are the lead partner.

Recent economic growth has failed to generate sufficient quality jobs for young Jordanians, which in turn has been the cause of further 'brain-drain'. Young people between 15-24 years of age constitute 22% of the total population. Unemployment is high under this target group, mainly composed of high school and university students. Each year sees more than 60,000 new entrants to the labour market. Given the lack of potential for economic stimulation through public spending, the Government is looking at the private sector to take the lead in stimulating growth and creating more jobs, particularly in regions outside the capital where unemployment is widespread, fuelling social unrest.

For this reason higher education in Jordan is under strong pressure to produce the skills required by the new economic conditions and to provide the expertise to plan and manage new growth and development in a sustainable and equitable way. Jordan is therefore increasingly aware of the need to improve the overall quality and relevance of its higher education system, to stimulate entrepreneurship education and is increasingly interested to align to Europe's Bologna Process.

The strategy paper for the higher education reform programme in Jordan was published in spring 2014 and covers the period 2014-2020. It lays down an action plan in three main areas: Governance and University; Administration, Admission Principles and Accreditation and Quality Assurance. Through this reform process, specific standards were applied to all higher education institutions operating in Jordan and paving the way for participating in the Erasmus+ programme. In March 2014 Jordan's draft new 5 year strategy was published called 'Where to?' which highlights the main challenges for the Higher Education & Scientific Research in Jordan:

1. Ensuring the HEIs autonomy through adopting "efficiency" as a unified criterion for workforce appointments; abolition of all exemptions within the admission principles and the application of accreditation principles;
2. Extra financial resources;
3. Institutionalisation of the technical education system and widening of its scope;

4. Amending the legislation accordingly.

EU response

The EU response under the Single Support Framework focuses on economic and social objectives through supporting the National Employment Strategy 2011-2020 in its various components, the ongoing Employment- Technical and vocational Educational Training (E-TVET) strategy and the National Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Micro, Small and Medium enterprise development for 2013-2017. The EU support to education and VET sector will be complemented by the CBHE part of the Erasmus+ programme which Jordan can use to modernise its higher education system (in particular its link with the world of work) and to finance mobility of students and staff in the region and Europe.

The external dimension of Erasmus+ aims to support partner countries to address the challenges facing their higher education institutions and systems, including those of quality, relevance, equal access, planning, delivery, management, governance and internationalisation by offering a balanced mix of actions addressing individuals, institutions and higher education systems. Objectives and principles underlying development cooperation such as national ownership, social cohesion, equity and proper geographical balance and diversity have to be ensured.

The CBHE component of this action supports joint projects based on multi-lateral partnerships between HEIs to fund curriculum development and modernisation, such as new joint/double degrees or diplomas, modern teaching and learning practices, upgrading of facilities and equipment, improving university governance and creating better links between higher education and the world of work. This action also finances structural projects targeting national systems, through the involvement of national authorities, alongside universities. Both joint and structural projects aim to enhance sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth in Partner Countries. These projects may include a Special Mobility Strand for staff and students. The additional component should be instrumental to the objectives of the project (integrated mobility) and should be seen as an additional support provided by the EU to reinforce the intervention logic of the project.

Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport provides the regulatory framework for the Erasmus+ programme.

The overall objective of the Erasmus+ programme's external dimension is to promote people to people contacts, inter-cultural awareness and understanding, develop capacity and contribute to modernising higher education in partner countries, with particular attention to least developed countries and disadvantaged groups. It specifically targets through mobility actions: 'to improve the skills and competences of students and the employability of graduates'. This is fully in compliance with the SSF for Jordan.

An EU-Jordan declaration establishing a mobility partnership that will be signed before the end of 2014 will contain commitments to stimulate more mobility of vocational trainees, students, academics, researchers, artists, culture professionals and others. It will also seek to improve employability of Jordanian youth and address

the issue of brain-drain. Actions that will be developed in the future to implement the Mobility Partnership will be thus aligned with the objectives of this present document.

2.3. Lessons learnt

The final evaluation of Tempus III (November 2009) together with the mid-term evaluation of Tempus IV (November 2012) confirm that the programme has been highly relevant and has significantly contributed to the modernisation of higher education in the Partner Countries surrounding the EU. The Tempus programme has encouraged voluntary convergence with EU developments and has enhanced cooperation between higher education institutions in the EU and Partner Countries. The programme is considered to effectively support the reforms at institutions as well as at system level. In addition, academic and administrative staff as well as students benefited significantly from their involvement in the programme, notably through contacts with foreign colleagues, improved training, access to new learning materials/methods and mobility opportunities.

An interim evaluation of the Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 programme was conducted in 2011-2012. Results showed that the objectives of Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 remain relevant to the key stakeholders and target groups of the programme and that it contributed significantly to the adoption of European and international credit and mobility recognition systems and of international quality assurance mechanisms in third countries. In addition, participation in Action 2 allowed less-privileged institutions to develop their management capacities and achieve a higher level of excellence.

2.4. Complementary actions

The proposed programme will also build on the achievements of the previous Euro-Med Youth programming cycles, most particularly the current Euro-Med Youth IV⁶, and will capitalise to the greatest extent possible on the experiences and networks of the youth organisations that took part in Euro-Med Youth, along with the 'multipliers' and leaders that were identified and trained during the process.

Another complementary programme, where Jordan is in the list of International Co-operation partner countries, is the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme, one of the key pillar for the European Research Area supporting the 'knowledge triangle' - research, education and innovation – for the period 2014-2020 in particular the Marie Curie Actions that enhance transnational mobility of researchers.

Furthermore, a EUR 35 million budget support programme to the E-TVET⁷ sector which supports vocational training and employability of young graduates and an EUR 33 million programme Support to the Second Phase of the Education Reform⁸ are currently under implementation which aim to consolidate the basis of a knowledge economy and to make Jordan more competitive in particular through more skilled and qualified human resources and through a better employability of

⁶ C(2009)5215 of 1.7.2009.

⁷ C(2009)7521 of 7.10.2009.

⁸ C(2011)5702 of 11.8.2011.

students. Parallel to this project proposal an action document has been developed to support the employability of Jordanian students through a budget support programme and accompanying capacity development component of total EUR 52 million. The programme specifically aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the education, higher education and vocational training systems in Jordan.

Finally, EU Member States higher education exchange and co-operation agencies are also very active in Jordan such as the German Academic Exchange Service “DAAD” and the British Council and they provide for example, individual scholarships for students from Jordan.

2.5. Donor co-ordination

Donor co-ordination is the responsibility of the Ministry of Planning and International Co-operation (MOPIC) which has been traditionally reluctant to commit resources to this undertaking. As a result of the impact of the Syrian crisis on Jordan’s development agenda, MOPIC has become more pro-active. Aid co-ordination is driven by a number of working groups which have merged since the crisis and have resulted in the creation of the Host Community Support Platform (HCSP), formed September 2013. The HCSP provides for thematic working groups on health, education, livelihood and municipal services. The EU leads the working group on the employment/livelihood sector and together with the United Nations, took the lead in discussing with MOPIC, as a concerted attempt by development partners, to co-ordinate assistance in a way to maximise the impact of support and to ensure that its strategic focus is fully in line with the needs of Jordan.

Separate co-ordination meetings take place in the framework of the Budget Support programme in the education sector (with the World Bank, Canada and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)).

The EU Delegation in Amman and the National Erasmus+ Office (formerly National Tempus Office) in Jordan also facilitate networking between the different Tempus and Erasmus Mundus projects and co-ordination with other donors active in the area of higher education.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective of this action is to contribute to the development of human resources and capacities of higher education institutions in Jordan by supporting their modernisation process and increasing mobility opportunities between Europe and Jordan and to contribute to the employability of young people in Jordan.

This Decision aims to reinforce the Capacity Building Higher Education action of the Erasmus+ programme by providing extra-funding opportunities to increase the number of projects involving Jordanian HEIs to be selected under the call for proposals to be published in autumn 2014.

More specifically, the objectives pursued in the eligible Partner Countries (including Jordan) are to:

- improve the quality of higher education and enhance its relevance for the labour market and society;
- improve the level of competences and skills in HEIs by developing new and innovative education programmes;
- enhance the management, governance and innovation capacities, as well as the internationalisation of HEIs;
- increase the capacities of national authorities to modernise their higher education systems, by supporting the definition, implementation and monitoring of reform policies;
- foster regional integration⁹ and co-operation across different regions¹⁰ of the world through joint initiatives, sharing of good practices and cooperation.

The Decision will give the possibility to fund approximately 4 or 5 additional projects (including their Special Mobility Strand) involving Jordanian HEIs. In comparison with the past (Tempus IV), this would represent almost a doubling of the number of accepted projects in one call. These projects will have the possibility to support the mobility of approx. 350 to 400 students/staff, depending on the duration and destination of the mobilities.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The expected results are:

- Enhanced capacities of Jordanian institutions in terms of management, governance, international co-operation, undergraduate and postgraduate programme development (including curricula and work placement development) through sharing of best practices;
- Increased inter-cultural dialogue and understanding between participants from Jordan and from the EU Member States as well as in the region;
- Enhanced skills and capacities of some 350-400 students from the involved higher education institutions in Jordan;
- Links with research and between education, research and industry strengthened;
- Transparency, recognition, and comparability of higher education institution qualifications increased;
- Human resources developed.

⁹ In the framework of this action, a region is defined as a grouping of countries belonging to a certain macro-geographic area.

¹⁰ The classification of regions applied under Erasmus+ is in line with the categorisations made by the different EU external action instruments.

The main activities which are expected to contribute to the above-mentioned results are Capacity Building Projects including a Special Mobility Strand.

Capacity Building Projects can be:

1. Joint Projects: aimed at producing outcomes that benefit principally and directly the organisations from eligible Partner Countries involved in the project. These projects will typically focus on 3 different types of activities:

- curriculum development (modernisation of curriculum by developing new and innovative courses and methodologies);
- modernisation of governance, management and functioning of higher education institutions;
- strengthening of relations between higher education institutions and the wider economic and social environment including social partners.

2. Structural Projects: aimed at producing an impact on higher education systems and promoting reforms at national and/or regional level in the eligible Partner Countries. These projects will typically focus on 2 different types of activities:

- modernisation of policies, governance and management of higher education systems;
- strengthening of relations between higher education systems and the wider economic and social environment including social partners.

These activities will include a Special Mobility Strand aimed at:

- Awarding scholarships to students registered in a HEI involved in the Capacity Building Project and enrolled in studies leading to a recognised degree or other recognised tertiary level qualification (up to and including the level of doctorate). In case of mobility for studies, the students must be enrolled at least in the second year of higher education studies. For traineeships, this condition does not apply.
- Awarding scholarships to staff employed in a HEI or in an enterprise involved in the Capacity Building Project for teaching or training periods.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

Four main risks are often mentioned in relation to the programme: possible brain drain effects, possible non-compliance with the mobility flows foreseen per project, a bias towards already advantaged groups and practical problems with providing visas.

The partnerships have to identify ways in which individual mobility activities foreseen in the project increase knowledge rather than favour brain drain, for instance by encouraging more reciprocal relationships between participants from the EU and the third country. The mobilities will be limited in time and be relevant for the project, therefore the chances that students and staff stay in the host country after their visit are reduced.

The issue of bias to already advantaged groups (higher education institutions in capitals; candidates in the capital and in some other large cities) can be overcome by repeated information and communication efforts aimed at more remote HEIs and disadvantaged groups of students.

On the issue of visas, partnerships are encouraged to liaise with EU Delegations in partner countries and EU Member States embassies in these countries in order to ease the visa application process.

3.4. Priorities

National priorities will be defined prior to the call in relation with the Jordanian authorities and the EU Delegation in Amman.

Proposals not respecting the national and/or regional priorities will not be considered for funding.

These priorities are defined alongside the call and programme guide and will be published on the action website with the official documents of the call.

Four categories of priorities are proposed, covering the following areas:

- Subject areas (for curriculum development);
- Improving quality of education and training;
- Improving management and operation of higher education institutions;
- Developing the higher education sector within society at large.

3.5. Stakeholders

The main stakeholders are HEIs, students and staff from Jordan and the EU. Additional stakeholders for the structural projects, aiming at reform of the higher education systems, are the Jordanian authorities as they are partners in the project as well.

The direct beneficiaries of the programme are Jordanian HEIs and their students and staff. Higher education institutions in the EU will also benefit indirectly from greater international contacts and profile at institutional and individual level and the closer co-operation this generates.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of the global action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2 and 4.3 will be carried out, is 5 years from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement, subject to modifications to be agreed by the responsible authorising officer in the relevant agreements. The European Parliament and the relevant Committee shall be informed of the extension of the operational implementation period within one month of that extension being granted.

Individual projects selected under this action will last 3 years with a possible one year extension.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

This action will be included in the Global Erasmus+ call for proposals to be launched in autumn 2014 and committed in 2015. The action will be implemented under direct management in accordance with Article 58(1)(a) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. The implementing body is the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). This implementation method is justified because the Executive Agency is responsible for the implementation of the CBHE component of the Erasmus+ programme.

The EACEA will be responsible for the management of this Special Window for Jordan under the same implementation methods as foreseen under the CBHE component of Erasmus+ (programme Guide), under the supervision of relevant services of the Commission. As contracting authority, the EACEA will be responsible for the selection/evaluation/award procedure.

The selection of partnerships will be a competitive process organised by the Agency and based on the assessment of the quality of the proposals from the academic and organisational point of view. All applications will undergo assessments by external independent experts according to the award criteria established in the calls for proposals.

Commission representatives will participate as voting members and observers in the selection/evaluation committee chaired by the EACEA, and EU Delegations will be consulted on the eligibility of partner country institutions and relevance of the proposals to the country needs, when justified.

4.3.1. *Special Window for Jordan under the Capacity Building for Higher Education action of Erasmus+ (Autumn 2014 Call) (grants under direct management)*

- (a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The overall objective of this action is to contribute to the development of human resources and the international co-operation capacity of higher education institutions in Jordan by supporting their modernisation process and increasing mobility between the European Union and Jordan and to contribute to the employability of young people in Jordan.

The specific objectives are:

- increase the degree of internationalisation of higher education institutions from Jordan and improve their capacities to manage mobility actions and international co-operation projects through CBHE in structural and joint projects;
- allow students from Jordan to improve their educational and career perspectives by attending programmes in the EU universities through mobility projects;
- contribute to improved quality, relevance, capacity and governance of higher education in Jordan and to the international opening of its universities;
- ensure high quality mobility activities with maximum impact for both students and staff.

(b) Eligibility conditions, Essential selection and award criteria

The basic eligibility criteria and essential selection and award criteria are those specified under the CBHE action of the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

(c) Maximum rate of co-financing

Financial conditions will be those specified under the CBHE action of the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

(d) Indicative trimester to launch the call

The call for proposal including this specific window is foreseen to be launched in autumn 2014.

(e) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs

NA

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

Subject to the following, the geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act shall apply.

In accordance with Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 and Article 17(3) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014, Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 shall apply to the implementation of actions financing the Erasmus+ programme.

4.5. Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR	Third party contribution in EUR
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		(indicative)
4.3.1. Call for proposals autumn 2014 Erasmus+ (direct management)	5,000,000	500,000 ¹¹
Total	5,000,000	500,000

4.6. Performance monitoring

EACEA will regularly report to the Commission on the use of committed funds and programme implementation and provide ad hoc information on this additional funding for Jordan under the CBHE action of the Erasmus+ programme. The report on programme implementation shall also focus on project results, obstacles, lessons learnt and any useful information for improving the programming and identification.

4.7. Evaluation and audit

Evaluations (mid-term, final, ex post) and audit arrangements are integral part of the contractual arrangements. External evaluations and audits might also be carried out by independent consultants recruited by the Commission and the EACEA in accordance with EU rules and procedures and specifically established terms of reference. EACEA will financially audit the projects financed under this programme according to its procedures.

4.8. Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action will be launched under the Call for Proposals for Erasmus+, consequently communication and visibility measures for this action will be included in the actions foreseen under the Erasmus+ Regulations.

The measures shall be implemented either (a) by the Commission, and/or (b) by the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, financing agreements, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The EU's international programmes to support education account for a large part of the success of its public diplomacy abroad. Bringing together students and academics from the EU and the wider world broadens the understanding of the EU, and forms lasting partnerships and networks that sustain support for European values. Special attention will be paid to increasing visibility, dissemination and exploitation of results.

The EACEA promotes the programme and its call for proposals on its website. Information on yearly calls for proposals is broadly disseminated. Information sessions are organised by Erasmus+ National Agencies in the Member States and the newly enacted National Erasmus+ Offices in the partner countries.

¹¹ The source of the funding of the third party contribution comes from the participating institutions and doesn't require any additional funding from the Jordan Government. It corresponds to 10% of the programme.

The National Erasmus+ Office in co-operation with the EU Delegation in Amman acts as a relay in Jordan. In co-operation with the EU Delegation in Amman it disseminates the information about the Erasmus+ programme and ensure the close monitoring of on-going projects., The Commission services and the Executive Agency will assure the visibility of the actions, in compliance with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions (http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/visibility/index_en.htm) in all partner countries, including Jordan, as well as in all EU Members States.