



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Erasmus Mundus and External Cooperation

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Brussels, 13/08/2010
EACEA/P4/JF/SM/dm D (2010) 303678

**Re: Erasmus Mundus Action 1.A - Joint Masters Courses – Call for Proposals
EACEA/29/09**
Title: Erasmus mundus Master in Membrane Engineering
Ref.: 511935-1-2010-1-FR-ERA MUNDUS-EMMC
(Please quote this number in all correspondence)

Dear Sir/Madam,

You have submitted a proposal under Action 1.A in the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Call for proposals EACEA 29/09.

I am pleased to inform you that your above-mentioned proposal has been selected.

The Agency received 181 proposals under Action 1.A – Joint Masters Courses. 29 of these proposals were selected for funding, and a further 3 are on the reserve list.

All proposals were assessed with the assistance of independent academic experts. Enclosed you will find the consolidated version of the experts' assessments of your proposal. Please take account of the fact that most of the assessments were written by non-native speakers and that the Agency cannot comment on these independent assessments.

The selection decision is based on the quality of the proposal, its relative position in comparison with the other proposals received, the budget available as well as the extent to which it addresses the priorities indicated in the Call for proposals.

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As mentioned in our email of 13 July, a description of your project will be published on the Erasmus Mundus website. This description will correspond to the summary sheet of your project as provided in your application or amended as a result of our 13 July email.

A Framework Partnership Agreement will be sent to you by separate mail in the course of September. If you have not done it yet, please complete a "Legal Entity" form (http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/legal_entities_en.htm) and a "Financial Identification" (http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/ftiers_en.htm) form. Originals signed by your institution's legal representative should be returned as soon as possible to the Agency.

Please note that in the context of the eligibility check exercise carried out by the Agency on the partner institutions and the proposed master's degree(s), the following issue(s) has(/-ve) been identified by the relevant National Structure(s):

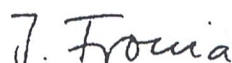
- UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA (Portugal): the degree proposed to be delivered by this institution has not yet been accredited by the relevant national authorities

We invite you to inform the Agency and the relevant National Structure(s) as soon as the accreditation process has been concluded, and in any case, prior to the end of the student's enrolment period.

Furthermore, we remind you that the Agency is organising a meeting for the coordinators of newly selected Erasmus Mundus projects. This will take place in Brussels on 15 October 2010. Therefore, please book this date in your diary. We will come back to you later in the summer with more information about the event and how to register.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions.

Sincerely Yours,



Joachim Fronia
Head of Unit

Annex: Comments and recommendations from the academic experts who assessed your proposal.

Proposal number:	511935-EM-1-2010-1-FR-ERA MUNDUS-EMMC
Proposal title:	Erasmus mundus Master in Membrane Engineering
Coordinator:	Prof. André AYRAL
Applicant organisation:	Université Montpellier 2 Sciences et Techniques

Award Criteria

A.1 Academic quality - Course content (30 % of the max. score)

The needs for setting up a 120 ECTS international education and training Master Course on Membrane Engineering are very well outlined and justified.

The scientific challenges addressed for the future of Europe and for its position in the thematic field of membrane engineering are convincingly addressed. The objectives of the project addressed reveal the multidisciplinary and intersectorial character of the proposal. The added value of the proposed programme to European education and excellence is strongly presented and justified.. The proposal is in general convincing and well written; however, in section A.1.1, the sentence ".....field of membrane technology, with more than hundred of current available positions, none...." is unclear.

The number of support letters is impressive, and suggests valuable networking skills.

The uniqueness of the course is justified. The education programme envisaged for the Masters candidates is clear and convincing. The mobility component in terms of scheduled students' placements within the partner organizations is clear and justified.

Student competencies needed regarding future employment in research and/or industry in the relative thematic field offered by the proposed EMMC are adequately outlined.

The education experience of the proposed consortium set up and the expertise of the key academic staff involved is justified. The consortium is assembled by top European institutions in the field of membrane engineering. Most of the partners and associated partners have remarkable participation records in past Erasmus Mundus and Marie Curie Actions. In part B of the application form the role of University of Twente is missing. Instead, repetition of the Lisbon University role is shown.

The role of the invited scholars and their contribution to the course is properly addressed. However, information on how the consortium will identify and invite these scholars is missing.

The type of interactions with associated partners and other non-educational organizations are very well outlined. Most of the partners have close collaborations, mostly in terms of joint research activities with industrial or other research partners. A very detailed plan on how these collaborations would be facilitated in the benefit of proposed EMMC is provided.

The statement made in the proposal concerning the specific grants that may be made available by EMS is positive; however, it is an intention ('may' exist).

A.2 Course integration (25% of the max. score)

The proposed EMMC is organized in an integrated way offering a balanced curriculum combining jointly developed education modules. The courses offered were jointly developed by all participating HEIs focusing on different complementary areas.

The proposed course leads to multiple degrees but no joint degree (according to the proposal, Dutch law does not foresee joint degrees). Steps are being taken for course recognition; joint degree is aimed at, but so far the applicants will settle for multiple degrees.

Multiple degrees (triple) will be awarded accompanied with Diploma Supplements containing a joint description of the skills acquired. Ongoing recognition process of joint degrees has been properly addressed for all partners.

The common standards and mechanisms developed by the consortium for the application, selection, admission and examination of doctoral candidates are thoroughly addressed and clarified. No criteria were set for the linguistic skills of the applicants. Measures for positive discrimination were noted. The topic of credentials evaluation, very important when dealing with applicants coming from countries with less known higher education systems, could be addressed in greater detail.

The joint examination methods and mechanisms were very well outlined and clarified. Use of ECTS for the recognition of study periods is justified. A very detailed conversion table for the ECTS grading systems which will be applied by proposed EMMC is provided.

A very detailed examination plan in terms of individual semester marks final grading is provided. An Examination Committee is responsible for the overall classification of the qualification of the students. No external actors are members in this committee.

The participation costs are realistic and in line with normal practices applied by the participants. However, a cost analysis regarding estimated implementation costs and generated income is not provided.

A.3 Course management, visibility and sustainability measures (20 % of the max. score)

The course management is well organized and follows good practice. The management scheme and monitoring measures foreseen are functional for the efficient implementation of the joint programme.

The role and the commitment of each partner in the implementation tasks of the proposed Master course are clarified. Participation of students, associated partners, as well as professionals from the field of membrane engineering in the management bodies are foreseen. Specific embedding of the present programme within the administrative structure of the partners could be further developed.

A very coherent consortium agreement is provided in which the roles of each of the partners in the implementation tasks are defined. The level and quality of resources (human, technical, financial) dedicated by each partner for the implementation of the proposed EMMC is well addressed.

A solid sustainability plan is provided in terms of self-financing through other than EC funding, and in terms of strategic future development of the EM content in order to raise academic excellence.

It is welcome to find in the proposal reference to good prospects of industry financing and other support. The intention of following the master degree by a specific doctoral program is interesting; clearly, graduates of this MSc course must be well qualified for subsequent research at doctoral level, and of course, for direct employment in industry. The types of promotion mechanisms are very well outlined. The existing website will be the central promotion and communication tool for the proposed joint programme. Description of the promotion strategy via the project's website is adequately outlined. Online services for application/registration and other information materials to the benefit of the students are foreseen.

A.4 Students' services and facilities (15% of the max. score)

Information /support provided to students prior to their enrolment follow common practice and channels. The EM3E website will be the primary source of information provided to the students and scholars. Description of the content of the website providing all the information needed regarding the scope and the services offered in the proposed EMMC is justified.

The content of the provided Student Agreement model is not detailed. However a model student agreement is provided. The roles and obligations of the partner host institutions are sufficiently outlined. Explicit treatment of a code of ethical conduct for students is not included, which is a concern, given the wide variety of origins of the prospective candidates.

Information on the services offered by the proposed EMMC before student's arrival, upon their arrival and during their stay is clear and justified. The same holds for the hosting services provided by the partners. Measures for the proper induction of third country students specific are also foreseen. Unfortunately, no reference is made to specific problems of students that may have a family (be married and/or have children etc.) Health insurance scheme will go beyond the standard coverage of minimum requirements and will be centrally managed by the coordinating organization.

The consortium has undertaken the proper actions in order to have insurance issues settled when the new program starts. The course is run in English. Although local language teaching is foreseen at the different locations, no academic credits are given for that language learning. The linguistic training offered is linked to the completion of one of the 3 cursory semesters since students have to register in one of these at least once.

The measures that will be taken to facilitate networking among EM students are very detailed and justified. Proposed platform for e-learning with the relevant EM area is a very positive measure for the promotion and networking of the proposed project. Meetings with previous cohorts are foreseen, as well as networking meetings with PhD students. The type of networking activities with EM Alumni Association is sufficiently addressed.

Support of the European Network of excellence NanoMemPro in the development of this platform will facilitate academic and industrial networking.

A.5 Quality assurance and evaluation (10 % of the max. score)

Normal means of evaluation are foreseen by the applicants. They are presented convincingly. Internal evaluation will be conducted by establishing a quality chart. The objectives set in this chart are clear and justified. The evaluation process will be performed twice a year. A jointly developed questionnaire will be used for conducting student surveys on semester basis.

Teaching quality comments will be also collected through a designated area in the programme's website. Participation of students and scholars in the Evaluation Committee is foreseen. The evaluation methodology sought is clearly outlined. Description of monitoring mechanisms regarding the content of the course, administration and students progress and success rates is properly addressed. The quality of the courses, as well as the evaluation of the managerial aspects of the proposed EMMC, will be regularly reviewed by the External Quality and Evaluation Board, composed of external evaluators (academia, industry). Proposed methodology is clear and convincing. In case of problems revealed from the evaluation, adjustments in the implementation of the programme are foreseen.

Evaluation of the success of the Master program in terms of employment after graduation is correctly included in the tasks of the Evaluation Committee.

Since national master awards should be granted, more information is needed regarding the national evaluation organization that will be involved in the evaluation of the individual partner universities.

The role of professional organizations and societies, in evaluation of the course, and in recognition of the expertise of graduates is not properly addressed.

Global comments

This proposal deserves to be considered for the final award.

As a particularly positive aspect, a very impressive number of relevant support letters suggest that the course may attract the attention of potential students and companies.

Proposed 2 years international education and training Master Course on Membrane Engineering technology is reliable and coherent from the content, organizational and structural points of view. The consortium set up is very appropriate to provide the proposed training in the rapidly growing field of membrane technologies. It has a strong innovation, academic and research character and can provide to the enrolled students high employment potential for further research or industrial careers. The objectives of the project reveal the multidisciplinary and intersectorial character of the proposal. The claimed impact of implementing the project at European level (to improve European competitiveness) is justified. The mobility component is very detailed in terms of complementary scheduled students' placements.

The jointly developed training programme is a result of the strong collaborations between partners within the framework of the European Research Network of Excellence NanoMemPro.

The programme leads to fully recognised multiple (triple) degrees from the three hosting universities, accompanied by Joint Diploma Supplements containing a joint description of the skills acquired.

The level and quality of resources (human, financial, technical) dedicated by each partner for the implementation of the proposed EMMC is well addressed.

Internal evaluation and other monitoring mechanisms are in place, and in which all actors within the consortium plus external evaluators will be involved.