

European projects
Some tips for submitting
competitive projects

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There are many types of European projects.

Here, we focus on

- Erasmus + Strategic Partnerships

since we collected experience and some successes with them

Total I co-wrote 5 funded SP projects in years 2019-2020 where the partner is from Ukraine.

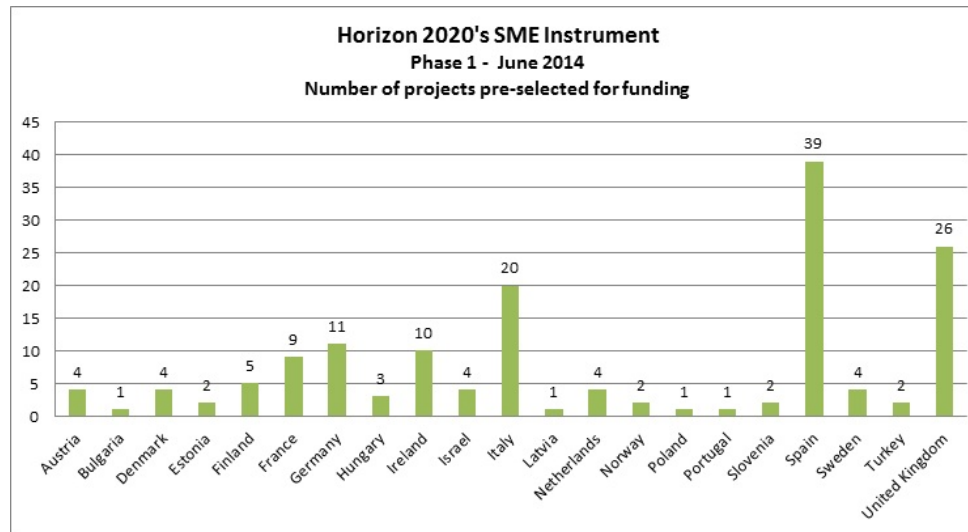
For example our SSU (written together with Svitlana Tarasenko, PhD) project GAMEON took first place in Polish NA in KA205 (May submission) with 97.5 out of 100 points. Around 100 proposals were submitted for this call.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL erasmusplus.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/E-Komunikat_KA205_2020_R2_Dobre_praktyki.pdf. The document is a PDF titled "Komunikat Narodowej Agencji Programu Erasmus+" and "Partnerstwa Strategiczne na rzecz wymiany dobrych praktyk". It contains a table with 5 rows of project data.

Lp.	Nr projektu	Tytuł projektu	Nazwa Wnioskodawcy	Ulica	Kod pocztowy	Miasto	Decyzja	Przyznane dofinansowanie
1	2020-2-PL01-KA205-082892	GAMEON - The Introduction Journey to the Game Development for NEETS	FUNDACJA EDUVIBES	Adama Mickiewicza 28/30/52	96-100	Skierniewice	Zatwierdzony	57 730,00 €
2	2020-2-PL01-KA205-082960	Analyse and think critically: media literacy for youth	Fundacja "Białoruski Dom"	Wiejska 13/3	00-480	Warszawa	Zatwierdzony	89 856,00 €
3	2020-2-PL01-KA205-082915	The C	Fundacja Innowacyjnej Edukacji	Spółdzielców 39/100	43-300	Bielsko-Biała	Zatwierdzony	101 680,00 €
4	2020-2-PL01-KA205-082790	Media Literacy Explorers	Warszawska Izba Gospodarcza	Trębacka 4 /314	00-074	Warszawa	Zatwierdzony	46 055,00 €
5	2020-2-PL01-KA205-082933	Europa tysiąca kultur	Młodzi aktywni	Szturmowskiego 2	83-200	Starogard Gdański	Zatwierdzony	46 161,00 €

Premise

The competition in European projects is very severe.



The percentage of funded proposals is very low: from 2 to 5% of the projects submitted in Horizon 2020.

Premise

In Erasmus Plus it is more chaotic and hard to predict.

Identyfikator projektu	Tytuł projektu	Organizm finansujący	Adres	Wydział	Status
26. 2019-1-PL01-KA204-06589	Adult Social Inclusion in a Digital Environment	Fundacja Instytut Badań i Innowacji w Edukacji	ul. Ciescha nr 13, 94, 03-42-224 Częstochowa	31-436 Kraków	zatwierdzony
27. 2019-1-PL01-KA204-065528	Digital inclusion of adults - let's learn from examples of good practices	Fundacja Edukacja i Media	ul. Rynek 7/2 44-100 Gliwice	79-950,00	zatwierdzony
28. 2019-1-PL01-KA204-065608	IMPROV e English	Fundacja Youth ACT	ul. Komstytucji 3 Maja 7 79-820 Koszalin	46 020,00	zatwierdzony
29. 2019-1-PL01-KA204-065798	Zbira jesien seniorów	Stowarzyszenie Seniorzy dla Chorzowa i Śląska	ul. Kołbowa 1/1 41-503 Chorzów	55 240,00	zatwierdzony
30. 2019-1-PL01-KA204-065376	Migranci - oprowadzanie po domu	"Obywatelle Wspólnej Europy"	ul. Andromedy 20/5 44-100 Gliwice	92 128,00	zatwierdzony
31. 2019-1-PL01-KA204-065588	Teatr w walce z wirtualnymi zagrożeniami	Fundacja GAMA	ul. Gen. Nikołajewy Sułki 1 16-200 Dąbrowa Białostocka	101 180,00	zatwierdzony
32. 2019-1-PL01-KA204-065793	How to teach - how to learn. Learning skills and teaching methods of older people.	Stowarzyszenie Sirefa Spółkarni	ul. 1 Sierpnia 9 37-450 Stalowa Wola	42 250,00	zatwierdzony
33. 2019-1-PL01-KA204-065122	"Lumieć się spotkać"	Centrum Kultury Wrocław Zachód	ul. Chocebuśka 4-6 54-433 Wrocław	56 300,00	zatwierdzony
34. 2019-1-PL01-KA204-065773	Akademia Edukatora Osób Dorosłych	Fundacja "Miejska i Ina Samorządowa"	ul. Daszyńskiego 16 31-534 Kraków	0,00	odrzucony
35. 2019-1-PL01-KA204-065504	The story of us - the story of Europe	Fundacja "Hagia Marina"	ul. Dworkowa 303 nr 161A lok. 25 01-470 Warszawa	0,00	odrzucony
36. 2019-1-PL01-KA204-066872	Particular Particle - Exploring Adult Education Methods for Sustainable Towns	S&I Consulting Maciej Huculak	ul. Kwiatna 16 14-300 Augustów	0,00	odrzucony

Strona 11 z 12

Komunikat
Narodowej Agencji Programu Erasmus+

For example in the above Strategic Partnership Exchange of Good Practice Adult Education (NA: Poland) call in 2019 in total 33 out of 36 projects got financing (ca. 92%). Budgets up to 120 000 EUR.

Premise

Typically, depending on call success ration in Erasmus Plus is between 10% to 30%.

But it is not unusual if it reaches 50% or 70% of projects which got financing. Sometimes it can be however lower than 5 %.

But... you will never know it before submission.

To produce a competitive proposal, it is necessary to have:

- A good idea
- A good partner Consortium
- A good project design (activities definition, partner roles, etc.)
- An excellent presentation of the project

And

The fortune of meeting the right evaluators!

In my opinion the most important for the project is the idea. It has to be innovative and should tackle important problem.

Innovation should be based on current research trends in the society and economics (not own creativity)

Even very-well technically written project with outdated and not well-researched idea has low chance of winning.

Evaluators

They represent the greatest unknown.

Problems:

- Often, they do not understand your project (lack of expertise in the field)
- Sometimes they do not share your scientific methodological approach
- Usually, they read projects quickly

But we should not be too concerned about them. Focus should be on the quality work on our idea.

Evaluators

- Project evaluation is valid only once and it is **expert opinion** ;
- **Each expert has own opinion and approach** and therefore resubmitting corrected project does not guarantee success;
- There is no re-appeal to expert opinions and no sense to question them;

Tips to get a good evaluation

Avoid misunderstandings:

- Expose your ideas with the greatest clarity
- Be concrete
- Be concise

Use attachments to provide more details.



The question of the choice of the project idea

This is the crucial issue.

The project idea must be:

- concrete
- Fall within priorities
- Justify an international effort

It is very important to show that the project goal cannot be achieved by national efforts, but its achievement requires an international effort.

The question of the project structure

Generally, evaluators assess negatively the projects that are not detailed and presents generic objectives.

Projects should be as specific as possible: one ought to avoid all forms of generality.

Follow the idea that you are presenting an executive project!

The question of the project impact

This one of the most difficult parts.

Avoid to copy the impact from other projects!

It needs an effort to clarify how the project can actually have a positive impact at different levels.

European Added Value (EAV)

This one of the most important parts.

Ukraine is Partner Country in Erasmus Plus and grant writer should describe well its participation in the consortium.

Forgetting about EAV or preparing it improperly will disqualify our project.

Erasmus +: the National Agencies

National Agencies do not share the same standards of evaluation. Even in National Agencies different sectors have not the same standards of evaluation.

A good project in Latvia can not be considered valid in Italy and vice versa. A good project for Youth Sector might not be good in Adult Sector.

One NA can be supportive for Partner Countries (like Ukraine) and other NA may prefer strictly Programme Countries

Some practical advice for projects Erasmus +

- Limit the number of Intellectual Outputs
- Not include in the Intellectual Outputs: Quality Plan, Dissemination Plan, etc. since the related activities are included into the management activity
- Distribute the activities between partners
- Minimize the number of transnational meetings
- Demonstrate that the budget was built optimizing the project costs

Start with exchange of good practices projects (simpler version of SP)

One learns to write good EU projects only writing EU projects.

It needs to present many projects.

One has to not discourage if the results do not arrive early.

Investment of time and patience is needed.

You should have broad subject knowledge and understands global trends in your domain (do not bring outdated ideas to the table)



Thank you very much

Do you have some questions
on projects? Write to me:
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add me on facebook

My blog: duranowski.com