



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Erasmus+: Higher Education – Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Brussels,
EACEA/A3/KH/ (2015) 564522

PROF. SERGI BONET
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ES - 17071 GIRONA
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Subject: Erasmus+: Key Action 1 – Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs)
Call for proposals 2015 (EAC/A04/2014)

Title: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in Medical Imaging and Applications

Ref.: 564522-EPP-1-2015-1-ES-EPPKA1-JMD-MOB
(Please quote this number in all correspondence)

Dear Sergi Bonet,

You have submitted an application to the Erasmus+ programme, 2015 call for proposals for the Action specified above. The call for proposals closed on 04 March 2015. The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) received 76 applications for this call.

A panel of external experts assisted the Evaluation Committee in the assessment of your application against the award criteria specified in the call for proposals. The selection decision is based on the quality of the proposal, its relative position in comparison with the other proposals submitted and the budget available. Applications were assessed on a scale from 0 to 100 points and were ranked according to merit.

As a result, the funding threshold has been set at 79/100 points.

I am pleased to inform you that your application received **81/100 points** and has therefore been selected for EU co-funding. The maximum amount of budget to be awarded to your project is **2.375.000 Euro** which corresponds to **39 Heading 1 EMJMD scholarships (9 Programme Country + 30 Partner Country)** and to **15 Heading 4 EMJMD scholarships**.

For your information, out of the 76 applications, 15 have been selected for funding, and 4 have been placed on a reserve list.

The list of all selected projects will be published on the following website of the Executive Agency when all applicants have been notified about the selection results:
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/selection-results_en

Attached to this letter you will find an evaluation report based on the opinion of the external experts. Please take into account that most of the evaluation reports were written by non-native speakers. The Executive Agency will not elaborate further on these assessments.

It is very important that you provide us with the link to your EMJMD project website as soon as this is available, so that this link can also be published on the Agency's website. If you have amendments to make to the project description after publication, please let us know via the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees functional mailbox:

EACEA-EPLUS-JMD@ec.europa.eu.



We would also like to inform you about the organisation of the 2015 EMJMDs Coordinators' meeting for newly-selected projects which will take place in Brussels during two consecutive days in the first half of November. A full programme of the event and practical information will follow in due time. Please note that for organisational reasons we cannot allow the participation of more than two representatives of your project. Your travel and accommodation costs should be covered from the project management lump-sum included in your project budget, subject to the signature of the Grant Agreement.

This letter does not represent a financial or legal commitment of the Executive Agency. The offer of an award is confirmed only when the legal representative of the Executive Agency signs the Grant Agreement associated with this application.

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

Yours sincerely,

Klaus HAUPT
Head of Unit

Annexes:

- Evaluation report – Comments and recommendations from the academic experts who assessed your proposal
- Information for applicants about PIC validation process (if relevant)

Cc: (by email) **DR. ROBERT MARTI**
robert.marti@udg.edu

Proposal number:	564522-EPP-1-2015-1-ES-EPPKA1-JMD-MOB
Proposal title:	Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in Medical Imaging and Applications
Coordinator:	ROBERT MARTI
Applicant organisation:	UNIVERSITAT DE GIRONA

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Award Criteria

A.1 Relevance of the project

The present EMJMD involves three EU universities and one associate Asian partner in Medical Imaging. The proposal convincingly demonstrates that the complementarities between the partner institutions have been exploited in an effective way for the design of the proposed curriculum. The mobility scheme is designed as a movement of trainees in cohort from one institution to the other, semester after semester. This continuous mobility of the trainees could become counter-productive. The memorandum Agreement, the common academic and management structures are sound elements of jointness. A joint degree will be delivered and recognised by the three partner institutions. However, this part of the proposal should be more documented with factual elements of the existing collaboration and joint projects.

The objectives of Key Action 1 for learning mobility of individuals are directly and convincingly presented with respect to both student and staff mobility. Professional development and a focus on employability, in particular PhD studies, are properly demonstrated.

There are some convincing elements concerning the long-lasting effects on the involved participants (MAiA students, local students and partner universities), the sharing of best practices (e.g., regarding the award of a joint degree) and the intercultural awareness. However, the discussion on the foreign language competences and more generally on transferable skills lacks sufficient detail.

The proposal clearly outlines the European and worldwide needs in the domain. It convincingly demonstrates the increasing need for combined interactions between medical imaging and computer science, identifies their relevance and emphasises the added value of the consortium in this respect. Contrary to other existing degrees, the proposed EMJMD should provide qualified specialists having competences both in medical imaging and computer aided diagnosis and does contribute to increasing the attractiveness of European Higher Education Area.

The innovative aspects of the proposed EMJMD have been sufficiently outlined. They mostly reside in tackling medical imaging from the acquisition to computer-aided diagnosis. The added value and the potential contribution to university excellence, innovation and competitiveness in the research domain of medical imaging are very clear and credible. Although the proposal is sufficiently detailed from the research point of view, the description of the training should have been further addressed.

There is an exhaustive list of institutions from Partner Countries (including UTP in Malaysia) with which the partner institutions collaborate. It is certainly a very good element for this joint master course, but the discussion on the benefits of the proposed EMJMD for the institutions of these Partner Countries is not sufficiently documented regarding training matters.

The proposed EMJMD is based on a clearly multidisciplinary programme with strong roots in medical imaging and computer-aided diagnostics. The associated learning outcomes have been very extensively detailed. They are of high quality and adequate for the needs analysis in the field of medical imaging. The proposal convincingly demonstrates that the curriculum and associated learning outcomes have been designed to optimise the employability perspectives of the graduates. In particular, there is a very good emphasis on discipline, knowledge, cognitive and transferable skills, technical and professional practices. The proposal gives convincing and detailed arguments towards sustainability.

There is a long list of potential stakeholders and companies that play a very active role in the field of medical imaging and a strong collaboration is foreseen. This is convincing, even though at this stage the numbers given in this part of the proposal are not evidenced by any commitment from non-academic actors. This is a minor shortcoming since this should be expected at this stage of the programme.

Particularly good and concrete elements are the organisation of the MAiA Industrial Day and the set-up of an Industrial Board with an assigned role. Moreover, the strategic plan involving non-academic partners and medical institutions, aimed at developing collaborations and funding opportunities, constitutes a valuable asset.

B.1 Quality of the project design and implementation

The proposal clearly addresses the particular aspects of the course regarding mobility and innovation in a concise manner. The academic excellence of the programme is evidenced by the coherent course structure that is soundly aligned with the mobility, which is organised by taking into account each partner expertise and the academic progress. In addition, the multidisciplinary aspects of the programme are very well exploited.

Some innovative learning approaches (project based learning, learning by teaching, student video-recorded presentations, induction week, MOOC, local culture modules) are outlined.

The programme is built on the complementary research and educational expertise of partner institutions and the currently running master programmes. It is convincingly demonstrated that the proposed curriculum has been built jointly, exploiting the strengths of the participating institutions. Although based on existing modules, the proposal provides several new and jointly developed elements and commitment from partner institutions to completely integrate the EMJMD.

The coordinating university will award a joint degree, which will be recognised by all partners but the integration of the proposed programme within the partners' academic offer is not addressed in detail.

The proposal gives sufficient details regarding the diploma supplement and the awarded joint degree.

The proposal outlines the course structure and evolution in terms of location and student mobility.

It is convincing regarding the content, tutorials, laboratory work, academic calendar and ECTS weighting. The peculiarity of the mobility (students move as a single cohort during the first three semesters) is taken into account in the design of the course. The programme is based on a natural progression, from basics in image processing to diagnostics and applications to medical imaging. There are also some very good elements in the proposal aimed at ensuring the proper academic induction of the students as the MAiA day and the induction week. Invited scholars are expected to give additional seminars or lectures. The awarded degree is a joint degree and each partner university follows the national procedure of accreditation. The agenda for the recognition process of the joint degree is clearly outlined in the proposal.

The programme's information for students and scholars is addressed with sufficient detail. It contains all the standard aspects regarding academic matters, application and selection, insurance and accommodation and is already available on the programme's webpage. Even if this is relevant, the proposal does not address precise measures to target specific groups and countries. The trainees administrative support and facilities before arrival and during the enrolment are sufficiently considered. Concrete elements on the insurance policy are also provided, ensuring uniform health coverage of the students and complying with the Erasmus+ minimum requirements. There is also a very good description of the language policy, which is uniformly applied at all partner institutions. Equity issues are discussed in a relevant way, in particular by encouraging female students to apply. Although the proposal lists some additional rules for selection targeting the recruitment of female students, disadvantaged students and scholars with disabilities, it is not clear in the proposal how these rules will be satisfied and how this is in compliance with the statement above.

In this part of the proposal there is no mention of a student agreement, even if there is a student agreement attached in an Annex, providing prospective students with clear information regarding course rules, examinations, financial issues, insurance, duties and rights.

The partner institutions have a long-standing interaction with non-academic actors that should be involved in the programme and allow students to become familiar with industry. The project outlines the expression of interest from scholars from third countries to collaborate. The consortium will facilitate the student networking by taking several actions both at the national (linguistic, cultural and social) and international level.

There are good and innovative elements for an effective integration of students within their socio-cultural and professional environments, like the MAIA Day and a relevant policy on internships in industry. It is mentioned that the scholars might play a role in internships, even if this discussion would have benefitted from more details.

B.2 Quality of the project team and the cooperation arrangements

The consortium has an extensive expertise in research, industrial cooperation projects, teaching, international programmes and student exchange. In addition, the consortium has proven experience in managing large-scale networks in the framework of Erasmus Mundus and FP7. However, the description of the expertise of the involved personnel should have been further detailed.

The complementarity of the high level research is sound and the existing collaboration within the consortium, substantiated by joint publications and joint theses, should enforce the training aspects of the programme. All participating institutions contribute by offering students and academic staff access to very specialized medical facilities. The foreseen contribution of the scholars to the teaching is convincingly documented.

Academic responsibilities and tasks have been clearly addressed and shared among partners. However, the presentation suggests a dominant position of the UdG within the programme's management structure. Three management bodies (including an industrial body) with precise mandates and responsibilities are given and student involvement is foreseen by the yearly election of a delegate. The composition of the boards and their roles are provided in sufficient detail. However, the student participation in the main governing body is not envisaged. The student delegate's involvement is presented in rather generic terms and is limited to communicating with the Administration and Academic Board and providing feed-back to the Quality Board. A very positive aspect is the hiring of a business developer in charge, in particular, of the strategic plan and sustainability.

The breakdown of costs is well estimated, clear and reasonable. It includes substantial private and industry contributions and anticipates financial support from non-funded students. The proposal explains how the participation costs for EU and Third Country students are calculated, which is positive even though it would have benefited from more concrete data to support their claims. The use of the EU lump sum is discussed in adequate detail. The allocation of the funds within the consortium is briefly outlined in the proposal, but more details are available in the consortium agreement.

The agreement meets all the ERASMUS+ requirements regarding functions and duties of the consortium partners, the overall cooperation mechanisms, the academic and management bodies, the description of the academic programme, interaction with non-academic actors, student application, admission criteria, enrolment, coordination of the course and scholarship management, candidates with prior experience in industry, insurance. It is convincingly shown that the procedure is fair and transparent. The admission criteria are clear and a specific agenda is provided. The information with regard to successful candidates and procedures regarding resolution of disputes are not sufficiently detailed.

B.3 Impact and dissemination

The presented development and sustainability strategy for the programme is very convincing and strongly demonstrates the consortium's ability to develop, on the basis of realistic projections, an ambitious project that will be viable beyond the initial EU funding period. The concrete actions that are set up to ensure the EMJMD's sustainability are realistic, ranging from agreements with private companies, research laboratories, institutions and private foundations (10 such agreements are targeted in a two year time-window) and institutional support from local universities and other public institutions, to self-funded students (expected to be attracted by the excellence and international visibility of the programme). Particularly innovative networking actions are the enrolment of a business developer, the MAIA day and MAIA patrons. A very positive element is the objective of sharing some of the costs with other existing programmes. The presented list of envisaged supports, partnerships and the international attraction should consolidate the programme and allow its continuance. A less convincing part is the strategy to attract self-funded students, which is not documented in detail.

The proposed international outreach of the programme should enhance the attractiveness of the participating institutions and its successful implementation should have a positive impact at European and international levels.

The strong active network involving institutions in Asia, the south ENI region and Latin America should increase the international impact of the degree and generate excellent international recruitment but the proposal gives insufficient evidence of the contribution of Third Country partners. The proposal meets all the requirements and guidelines of the EACEA for the promotion of the programme. Additionally, the research collaborations and conferences, like the planned master Winter School, should increase the reputation and visibility of the course. All consortium members will promote the programme within their networks. International agencies' advertisement will be used to attract excellent international candidates. There is a relevant use of social media and e-learning platforms, which could potentially attract students. However, this discussion insufficiently targets partner institutions from Third Countries.

The commitment to deliver educational material and promote it through open licenses is convincing. It should be noted that the consortium has already some experience in Platforms like OCW and MOOC, which should be beneficial for the proposed EMJMD.

The internal evaluation carried out by the coordinator is expected to improve the content and management of the programme and take into account the needs of industry.

Even though most of the quality assurance aspects are covered in the proposal, some important details are missing. For instance, the methodology for internal quality assurance is not sufficiently detailed. In addition, there is an unclear separation between the internal and the external quality assurance. The roles assigned to the Quality Board are not provided in detail. Concerning the external quality assurance, it is mentioned that it will be carried out by an external quality board. However, in the composition of this board, three out of five members are members of the partner institutions and are actually among the key staff of the proposed EMJMD. The relevance of this choice for external quality assurance is not demonstrated. In addition, the external quality assurance does not sufficiently involve non-academic stakeholders. At local level, the degree is subject to national monitoring.

The main involvement of employers in the course implementation is concentrated on a yearly formal meeting of the Industrial Board, bringing together representatives of the industry and members of the consortium with the aim to identify additional needs of the industry that could be implemented in the course curriculum. Although this way of doing is credible, the proposal's description is not sufficiently concrete to be fully convincing; the Industrial Board's concrete tasks and actions could also be better described. Even though the discussion on employability prospects is overall good, the proposal would have benefited from more concrete data regarding previous experience. Some figures are mentioned, but the type of placements and how instrumental the consortium has been to help the graduates find a job could have better substantiated the discussion. Also, several private institutions and foundations have already expressed interest in the course and should potentially contribute to increasing employability prospects.

Relevance of the project - Region 6-Asia

Rather than describing active methods to attract highly talented students from Asia (Region 6), the proposal credibly presents the attractiveness of the programme as a result of a long lasted collaboration with over 40 academic partners in that region under Erasmus Mundus Action 3 but the means of encouraging cooperation with HEIs from Partner Countries are not sufficiently explained. The added value of this kind of cooperation to the EMJMD is two-fold: the possibility of new collaborations for all consortium members and partners from the Asia region as well as, more implicitly, the aforementioned attraction of excellent international students.

Relevance of the project - Region 8-Latin America

This region is a potential source of highly talented students and it is likely that the programme will attract some of the best ones. Although the methods used to attract highly talented students from Latin America are convincingly described the added value for the participating institutions should have been further highlighted.

Relevance of the project - Region 3-South Mediterranean Countries

There is a clear discussion on the needs for some of the Third Countries in this targeted region in the field of medical imaging by exploiting existing collaborations with HEIs. One institution is mentioned in Lebanon. However, it is not demonstrated that the needs are the same in this country. In addition, it is not clearly stated how the consortium intends to attract highly talented students from these regions. The expected added value of such cooperation to the programme is not addressed explicitly.

Overall comments

The proposed EMJMD's main strength is the pertinent combination of medical imaging with computer-aided diagnosis. The consortium has elaborated a high level curriculum with a potentially sound societal impact. The excellence of the academic content and the consortium's jointness in creating a highly coherent course curriculum are clear. The quality of the project team and of the cooperation arrangements is convincingly demonstrated. The programme relies on very good complementarities of the partner institutions, their long established experience and a large network of non-academic institutions, which are major stakeholders in the domain. Their added value is made particularly apparent by their privileged access to very specialized medical facilities. The provided financial forecast is very complete and convincing. The graduates will be awarded a joint degree and the project provides sufficient evidence of giving the graduates research and financial possibilities in pursuit of a PhD. The sustainability strategy is well thought-out and based on realistic projections for the future. The enrolment of a dedicated "business developer" is a strong asset in this respect. The proposal also very convincingly shows how the programme will generate impact and how an efficient set of promotion and dissemination mechanisms will attract the best students worldwide. The proposal also demonstrates the consortium's ability to deliver efficient support services to the students, as well as a suitable insurance scheme.

However, some weaknesses have been identified. Sometimes the answers are insufficiently detailed (e.g. regarding jointness, the relevance to the objectives of the Action, the justification for EU financial support and the benefits for Partner Countries). The proposal could be slightly improved by including some detailed examples of other competing programmes. Also, the continuous mobility of the trainees, although justified, has to be better monitored to avoid counter-productivity. Furthermore, the description of roles and tasks of the consortium's partners is a weaker aspect of the proposal. This is mainly due to the inconsistencies between the main text and the annexed Memorandum of Agreement but also to the limited description of the Quality Board and the Industrial Board, that are announced as two out of three managing bodies, but that do not seem to be used practically (in particular the Quality Board). The Memorandum of Agreement, although defining most implementation aspects of the programme, is not fully convincing because it is partially inconsistent with the main text. The programme's management structure may suggest an exaggeratedly dominant position of UdG within the consortium. The proposal would have benefited from a better and clearer description of the quality assurance procedures. The involvement of employers could be more developed to further enhance employability prospects for future graduates.

The proposal targets three regions (Latin America, Asia and the south Mediterranean Countries) for additional funding. In particular, the proposal describes some relevant strategy towards Asia and has already secured some connections with one Asian institution. In the event of hiring candidates from the targeted regions, the programme should contribute to encourage transfer of knowledge and cooperation. While the methods used to attract highly talented students are generally related to the increased visibility of the partner institutions through the Erasmus label, the expressed added value is mostly addressed from the point of view of the targeted region. Reinforcing the links with additional scholarships will be instrumental for the programme. For ENI and Latin America, the discussion is less convincing. The needs are clearly stated in the field of medical imaging, but a detailed strategy has not been established to attract the best possible students or to ensure an optimal added value for the countries involved.

Information for applicants about PIC validation process

Your organisation has used the EACEA Portal when submitting an application for funding. During this process your organisation received a temporary **Participant Identification Code (PIC)**.

Your organisation's data and your PIC need to be validated before the Agency can grant you EU-funding. In case your organisation holds a validated PIC, the PIC validation process described below is not relevant for your organisation.

Please note that this validation will be carried out by a central validation team of the **Research Executive Agency (REA)** and that **this team may contact you** (or has already contacted you) to ask for documents or to clarify some aspects of your organisation's data. Please do not ignore the message you receive from the Research Executive Agency (REA) validation team, because any delay in the validation process will further delay the issuing of your grant agreement. **This applies to the applicants but also to the partners involved in a project as co-beneficiaries.**

Once the validation process has started you will receive (or have already received) an automatic message from the validation team at REA. Please note that this is a standard message sent to all organisations having applied for different EU programmes; therefore, not all requested documentation is necessary to all programmes. If you have applied for an EACEA grant, the documents to be uploaded for the validation are the following:

- *The completed, dated and signed Legal Entity Form (the form corresponding to your public or private status)*
- *For "Public Entities": a copy of the resolution, law, decree, decision or any other official document establishing your organisation as a "public body". In addition, a copy of a document, proving your VAT registration or if not applicable, a legal document attesting your organisation's VAT exemption. The VAT document should have been issued recently and in any case, no more than 6 months ago;*
- *For "Private Entities": an extract of registration (or its equivalent: Company Register, Official Journal) clearly indicating the name of your organisation, the address of the head office, its registration number and a copy of an official document proving your VAT registration. These official documents should have been issued recently and in any case, no more than 6 months ago;*
- *For "Non-profit organisations", a copy of the statutes, resolution, law, decree, decision or any other official document establishing your organisation as a non-profit organisation is necessary. "Non-profit organisation" means a legal entity which by its legal form is a non-profit making and/or which has a legal or statutory obligation not to distribute profits to its shareholders or individual members. Profits have to be reinvested in the same activity of the entity or in research activities.*

If you have already uploaded the documents during the application process, your file should be complete and the validation is on-going. However, you may receive a reminder if some documents are missing.

Please note that you do not have to reply to any questions which are specific for the Research programme (for example, Small and Medium Enterprise questionnaire, FP7 or H2020 participation)

We advise you to pay particular attention to the request to fill in the documentation that will enable to nominate a Legal Entity Appointed Representative (LEAR). Once nominated, the LEAR will be the only person authorized to change the organisation data in the portal. However, the LEAR is not necessarily the same person who will sign the Grant agreement.

We would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the messages from the REA validation team are "no-reply messages"; please do not ignore them. If you have any questions, please contact your correspondent at EACEA. Make sure that all your partners / co-beneficiaries are aware of this and are responding to the requests of the validation team.