

Question for written answer E-008540/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Jana Žitňanská (ECR)

Subject: Erasmus+ Programme - remuneration of experts

One of the objectives of Erasmus+ is to encourage projects geared towards cooperation in innovation and the exchange of good practices. If these projects are to be successful, the involvement of the necessary experts is crucial.

However, in Slovakia it is often difficult to find experts willing to participate in programmes under the current pay conditions. This is because countries are classified under one of four groups defined by the Erasmus+ Programme Guide (p. 120). The rates for Slovakia are half those for the Czech Republic, which comes across as discriminatory considering that the cost of living and average wages in these countries are similar. In this light, there are concerns that grant uptake will be insufficient and that projects will not be implemented on account of the low levels of remuneration.

1. How was each country's cost of living gauged, bearing in mind that the European Union's own statistical office shows that the cost of living in Slovakia – ranked among those countries with low costs of living – was actually 0.7 % higher than in the Czech Republic in 2013, yet the Czech Republic is classified among those countries with medium costs of living, meaning that the grant rates are higher there?
2. What steps is the Commission planning to take to rectify this situation so that the country classification reflects the actual cost of living?