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2004



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Comisia pentru bugete

2007/0145(COD)

22.4.2008

PROIECT DE AVIZ

al Comisiei pentru bugete

destinat Comisiei pentru cultură și educație

referitor la propunerea de decizie a Parlamentului European și a Consiliului de stabilire a unui program de acțiune pentru ameliorarea calității învățământului superior și promovarea înțelegerii interculturale prin cooperare cu țări terțe (Erasmus Mundus) (2009-2013)
(COM(2007)0395 – C6-0228/2007 – 2007/0145(COD))

Raportoare pentru aviz: Helga Trüpel

PA_Legam

JUSTIFICARE SUCCINTĂ

1. Current Erasmus Mundus programme

The current Erasmus Mundus programme covers the 2004-2008 period. Its overall aim is to enhance the quality of European higher education by fostering cooperation with third countries. The particular objectives include: promoting a quality offer in higher education, attracting quality graduates and scholars, fostering cooperation with third countries' educational institutions, improving accessibility and visibility of higher education in the EU.¹

The financial framework of the programme for the years 2004-2008 has been set for EUR 230 million, financed under Heading 1a of the Financial Framework.

The so called "External Cooperation Windows" of the programme are based on several Council regulations concerning various external policy instruments; accordingly, they are financed separately, under the financial envelopes of these instruments.

2. Commission's proposal for the extension of the programme

The aim of the proposal is to extend the programme for a further five years (2009-2013), in a modified form. One of the major modifications to the programme, apart from the inclusion of doctoral studies, is the proposal to incorporate its External Cooperation Windows more directly.

The programme has, so far, been implemented by the Education and Culture Executive Agency (EAC EA), and according to the proposal it would still be the case in the coming years. One should note, however, that the mandate of the Agency still needs to be extended for that purpose (see amendment 2).

From a budgetary point of view, a major modification is the integration of the activities currently covered by the "External Cooperation Windows" into the Erasmus Mundus programme itself as Action 2 (Erasmus Mundus Partnerships with Third-Countries Higher Education Institutions including Scholarships). The financial provisions are very much different from those applying to Action 1 (Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes including Scholarships) and Action 3 (Enhancing the Attractiveness of European Higher Education).

Financing of Action 1 and 3

The overall reference amount for the five years of the duration of the programme is EUR 493,69 million, to be financed under Heading 1a of the Financial Framework. This represents a serious increase compared to the envelope foreseen for the 2004-2008 period, which is to be welcomed, in light of the proposed inclusion of doctoral studies into the programme and the declared ambition to ensure better funding to the successful applicants.

¹ Decision No 2317/2003/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 5 December 2003 establishing a programme for the enhancement of quality in higher education and the promotion of intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries (Erasmus Mundus) (2004 to 2008) (OJ L 345, 31.12.2003, p. 1).

The breakdown of this expenditure is as follows:

EUR million

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014+	Total
Operational expenditure - CA	90,25	92,52	94,1	95,86	98,54		471,27
Operational expenditure - PA	63,17	91,839	93,63	95,33	97,74	29,56	471,27
Administrative expenditure within ref. amount	4,42	4,46	4,48	4,51	4,56		22,42
Total reference amount - CA	94,67	96,98	98,58	100,37	103,10		493,69
Total reference amount - PA	67,59	96,30	98,10	99,84	102,29	29,56	493,69

The operational expenditure is in line with the Financial Programming as presented by the Commission in January 2008. This is also the case for the overall amount of administrative expenditure of the programme.

The administrative expenditure within reference amount comes to EUR 22,42 million over the five years of the duration of the programme. It represents 4,5% of the reference amount, which seems to be an acceptable ratio. Out of this sum, EUR 17,44 million (78%) will cover the needs of the Executive Agency, which, according to the information from the Commission, will implement some 97-98% of the operational budget.

Financing of Action 2

The current "External Cooperation Windows" were launched in 2005 at the initiative of the Commission's DG AidCo and implemented on the basis of various external policy instruments, such as DCI or ENPI.

However, the proposal for the new Erasmus Mundus regulation does not include concrete and binding provisions on the financing of Action 2; it only refers to the legal bases of the external policy instruments, namely: Instrument for Pre-Accession (Regulation 1085/2006), European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (Regulation 1638/2006), Development Cooperation Instrument (Regulation 1905/2006), Instrument for Cooperation with Industrialised and Other High-Income Countries (ICI, Regulation 1934/2006), and European Development Fund (ACP Partnership Agreement (Decision 2005/599/EC) and the relevant Internal Agreement (Decision 2006/608/EC)). The indicative expenditure on Action 2 of Erasmus Mundus under those instruments - covered by Heading 4 of the Financial Framework - would amount to EUR 460 million, with following indicative breakdown:

- ENPI: EUR 140 million
- DCI: EUR 240 million
- ICI: 20 EUR million

- IPA: EUR 30 million
- 10th EDF: EUR 30 million

It should be noted, however, that this overall amount and contributions from these instruments are neither definite nor legally binding, as they are not determined in the legislative part of the proposal. Accordingly, your rapporteur proposes amendment 3 to the legislative resolution.

The detailed breakdown of the amounts planned for action 2 under different external instruments provided by the Commission is indicative only; nevertheless, it should be monitored by the responsible parliamentary committees whether this breakdown is followed and what are the extent and reasons behind its modifications, if any.

AMENDAMENTE

Comisia pentru bugete recomandă Comisiei pentru cultură și educație, competentă în fond, să includă în raportul său următoarele amendamente:

Amendamentul 1 Punctul 1a (nou)

1a. consideră că pachetul financiar menționat în propunerea legislativă trebuie să fie compatibil cu plafonul prevăzut la rubrica 1a din noul cadru financiar multianual (CFM) și subliniază faptul că valoarea anuală va fi decisă în cadrul procedurii bugetare anuale, în conformitate cu dispozițiile punctului 37 din Acordul interinstituțional din 17 mai 2006 privind disciplina bugetară și buna gestiune financiară;

Amendamentul 2 Punctul 1b (nou)

1b. observă că mandatul Agenției Executive pentru Educație, Audiovizual și Cultură nu acoperă extinderea propusă a programului Erasmus Mundus; subliniază faptul că agenția executivă poate pune în aplicare programul doar după o extindere aprobată în mod corespunzător a mandatului său, în conformitate cu dispozițiile juridice în vigoare;

Justificare

Parliament should insist on the obligation to respect legal provisions regulating the functioning of executive agencies.

Amendamentul 3
Punctul 1c (nou)

1c. subliniază faptul că suma totală indicativă de 460 MEUR propusă pentru finanțarea Acțiunii 2 a programului ar urma să fie acoperită de pachetele financiare ale respectivelor instrumente de politică externă;

Justificare

Amendment clarifies financial characteristics of the expenditure on Action 2.

Amendamentul 4
Punctul 1d (nou)

1d. subliniază faptul că finanțarea activităților prevăzute în cadrul Acțiunii 2 nu trebuie să se facă în detrimentul altor activități finanțate de respectivele instrumente; își reafirmă poziția conform căreia noile acțiuni ar trebui finanțate din bugetul UE doar în cazul în care acestea dispun de mijloace financiare suplimentare; invită Comisia să prezinte Parlamentului un raport anual care să includă date detaliate privind activitățile din cadrul Acțiunii 2 și defalcarea lor în funcție de instrumentul financiar și între regiunile și țările în cauză;

Justificare

Amendment aims at ensuring that expenditure on education under different external policy instruments is not made at the expense of other objectives determined in respective legal bases.

Text propus de Comisie

Amendamentele Parlamentului

Amendamentul 5
Articolul 7 alineatul (2) litera (b)

(b) ***bugetul anual și defalcarea*** fondurilor între diferitele acțiuni ale programului și a sumelor estimative pentru burse;

(b) ***alocările anuale și distribuirea*** fondurilor între diferitele acțiuni ale programului și a sumelor estimative pentru burse;

Justificare

This is a clearer formulation, in line with earlier legislation within the policy area.