

Directorate-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences
The Director-General

GEDA (2020) 9799

Brussels, 31 March 2020

**DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR LOGISTICS AND INTERPRETATION
FOR CONFERENCES OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
ON THE ADOPTION OF THE 2020 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME ON FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FOR TRAINING IN CONFERENCE INTERPRETING**

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF LOGISTICS AND INTERPRETATION FOR CONFERENCES,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, and in particular Articles 58(2)(e), 110(1), 181 and 189 thereof;

Having regard to the Internal Rules on the Implementation of the European Parliament's Budget, Bureau decision of 10 December 2018;

Having regard to the Code of Conduct on Multilingualism, adopted by the Bureau on 1 July 2019, and in particular to article 1 thereof, which enshrines the principle of 'resource efficient full multilingualism'.

Whereas:

- (1) Grants shall be subject to a work programme to be published prior to its implementation;
- (2) The annual work programme for grants shall be adopted by the Director-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences, and shall specify the basic act, if any, the objectives, the indicative schedule of calls for proposals with the indicative amount and the results expected;
- (3) This Decision should allow for the payment of interest due for late payment;
- (4) The actions under the present work programme derive from the operational needs of the European Parliament, in the context of its administrative autonomy, as provided for in Article 58(2)(e) of the Financial Regulation;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 - Adoption of the work programme

The 2020 work programme providing financial support for training in conference interpreting, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2 - Maximum contribution

The maximum budget for the 2020 work programme is EUR 500.000 (budget line 3245-04).

These appropriations shall also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3 - Entry into force

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Agnieszka'.

Agnieszka WALTER-DROP

Annex

Annex to the Decision of the Director-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences of the European Parliament on the adoption of the 2020 work programme on financial support for training in conference interpreting

**Directorate-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences
2020 work programme on financial support for training in
conference interpreting**

1. BUDGET LINE

3245-04 Organisation of seminars and symposia¹

2. BASIC ACT

The activities covered in this work programme derive from the operational needs of the European Parliament, in the context of its administrative autonomy, as provided for in Article 58(2)(e) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.

3. PERIOD COVERED

The work programme covers the 2020-2021 academic year.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE MEASURES FINANCED UNDER THE BUDGET LINE

The European Parliament provides interpretation for the meetings it organises to comply with its legal obligations with regard to multilingualism, as laid down in Article 342 of the Treaty on the European Union, Council Regulation 1/58, and in the Code of Conduct on Multilingualism. Additionally, the European Parliament is increasingly providing interpretation for other EU bodies, both in official and non-official EU languages, according to the political needs of the different institutions and bodies served by Directorate-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences.

To ensure the availability of a sufficient number of qualified conference interpreters, Directorate-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences supports and assists in strengthening training programmes by providing professional and financial assistance. The aim of these activities is to help produce new generations of qualified conference interpreters who may, subsequently, be recruited by the EU institutions, and in particular by the European Parliament, as officials or as accredited conference interpreting agents.

In accordance with the Financial Regulation (cf. Art. 110 and 189 of the Financial Regulation), a work programme for grants is prepared and adopted. The financial support is offered as grants to universities and similar bodies.

¹ This appropriation is intended to cover, inter alia, conference management and multilingualism support measures and tools such as seminars and conferences, meetings with providers of training for interpreters (or translators), measures and actions to raise awareness of multilingualism and the profession of interpreter (or translator), including a programme of grants for universities, schools and other organisations offering interpreting (or translation) courses, virtual communication solutions, as well as participation in similar actions and measures organised jointly with other services in the context of inter-institutional and international cooperation.

5. MOBILISATION OF AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

The European Parliament intends to part-finance actions aimed at improving the professional quality of interpreter training. The overall maximum budget for the 2020 programme is EUR 500.000. These appropriations may also finance the payment of default interest in accordance with Article 116 (5) of the Financial Regulation.

6. PROGRAMME OF GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND SIMILAR BODIES

6.1. Calls for proposals

(a) An annual call for proposals is published on the internet site of the European Parliament.

(b) Indicative schedule (subject to modifications) for the call for proposals is as follows:

- March - April: Launch of the call for proposals;
- May: Closing date for the submission of applications;
- June - July: Meeting of the Evaluation Committee;
- July - October: Final award decision and conclusion of grant agreements.

6.2. Objectives of the programme of grants to universities

As a provider of interpretation services in the European Parliament, and increasingly to other EU institutions and bodies, the mission of the Directorate-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences is to ensure that a sufficient number of qualified conference interpreters are available to enable the EU institutions and bodies to function properly in a context of linguistic diversity including at regular events, all over the world, where wide language cover is required.

Under the principle of subsidiarity, Member States have the obligation to provide the necessary training. The European Parliament identifies the language combinations and skills that best match its needs, and assists universities in training high quality conference interpreters within these priority combinations.

The programme contributes to this mission by supporting the following actions in the field of interpretation:

- The promotion of quality and linguistic diversity in the teaching of conference interpreting in the official languages of the EU, of the candidate countries, and of the countries which are the main political partners of the Union;
- The establishment of postgraduate centres of excellence;
- Cooperation among postgraduate courses from different European, candidate and third countries offering relevant language combinations;
- Regional cooperation among universities with complementary language regimes; and
- Integration of modern information and communication technologies in the training of conference interpreters.

6.3. Eligible applicants

- Universities, university institutes, consortia and associations of universities or institutes, which offer or coordinate postgraduate courses specialising in conference interpreting.
- Associations, consortia and bodies, whose main mission is to support cooperation and disseminate best practices in the field of worldwide conference interpreter training.

Teaching establishments must be approved by their national authorities as public or private bodies charged with a public task of teaching and organising courses at master or postgraduate level in the field of conference interpreting. If the applicant is not a teaching establishment, its mission must nevertheless be related to the objectives of this programme and be recognised by the national authorities where it is established.

Applicants must be legally established in one of the Member States of the European Union, in one of the EFTA countries² or in a candidate country for future membership of the European Union³. Consortia of eligible applicants may include universities or university institutes based in other countries, provided that their participation in the project is limited to maximum 15% of the budget of the action per consortium partner.

For applicants from the UK: Following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement⁴ on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom. UK residents and entities are therefore eligible to participate under this call.

In addition, proposals must be submitted within the deadlines and in accordance with the requirements specified in the call for proposals, such as the confirmation of the support and commitment of the university authorities or associates and members to complete the proposed action.

6.4. Grant selection criteria

Financial capacity

Applicants must have stable and adequate financial resources to maintain their activities during the period of implementation of the action.

Financial capacity of associations and consortia must be commensurate with the scale, duration and the planned execution of expenditure under the proposed action.

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the professional skills and qualifications necessary to provide specialised training at the required professional level. They must have:

- Appropriate human resources, including professional qualified trainers and proven project management capacities; and

² Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland

³ Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey

⁴ Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community

- The logistical infrastructure necessary to complete the project, including the necessary financial controls.

In addition, associations or consortia must demonstrate that they have the appropriate organisational capacity or relevant experience to manage projects involving several partners.

6.5. Grant award criteria

If the application meets the eligibility and selection criteria, it will be evaluated in accordance with following award criteria:

(a) Organisation of master or post-graduate courses

- Relevance to priority needs for languages of the European Parliament and the EU institutions and bodies for which it provides interpretation services;
- Implementation of postgraduate conference interpreter training requirements, meeting generally accepted quality standards (European Master in Conference Interpretation or similar);
- Experience in the field and employability record of graduates (if available) for the EU Interpretation Services;
- Use of innovative technologies for training;
- Co-operation with other universities;
- Quality and efficiency of the project management (including appropriateness of the budget)

(b) Projects aimed at promoting excellence in conference interpreter training, cooperation among universities training conference interpreters and research into technical developments in the area of conference interpreting.

- Quality, innovativeness and usability of the proposed project;
- Potential impact on the area of conference interpreting that can be achieved through the development, dissemination, accessibility and use of the project results, including potential benefit to the European Parliament and the EU institutions and bodies for which it provides interpretation services;
- Contribution to the objectives and expected results of the grant programme, as described in this document;
- Quality and efficiency of the project management (including appropriateness of the budget).

6.6. Evaluation of proposals

Proposals will be evaluated by a committee composed of at least three officials from different European Parliament services. The recommendations of the committee, properly documented, will be submitted to the designated authorising officer for award decision.

6.7. Maximum level of support and payment schedule

European Parliament co-financing of this activity may not exceed 75% of the total accepted eligible costs. Applicants shall immediately inform the European Parliament of any multiple applications and multiple grants relating to the same or equivalent actions or to the same or equivalent work programmes (Article 191 of the Financial Regulation will apply in all cases). In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the EU budget. The Directorate-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences of the European Parliament and the Directorate-General for Interpretation of the European Commission cooperate in order to avoid double-financing of projects.

The action may start before the agreement is signed (e.g. aptitude test, preparation and promotion of the course), but costs incurred prior to the date of the submission of the grant application are not considered eligible.

7. EXPECTED RESULTS

The work programme addresses succession planning in order to maintain the necessary level of language coverage, in accordance with the needs of the European Parliament.

The support programme aims to promote the development of and support for centres of excellence providing training that meets the professional standards for conference interpreting and the current and foreseeable long-term language needs of the European Union institutions, and specifically those of the European Parliament.

The programme will contribute to the training of the number of conference interpreters required to ensure the proper functioning of the institutions. This programme addresses the need to deal with existing shortages for some languages and succession planning for future requirements of the institutions, to prepare for the future accession of candidate countries, and to maintain a high standard of interpreting in the languages of the main political partners of the European Union.

The results will be measured, inter alia, in terms of the rate/number of graduates from the supported programmes who take part in the accreditation tests and their rate of success in these tests or competitions. The contribution of supported actions and projects will be assessed as to the extent they meet the needs of the European Parliament.