

**GRANT AGREEMENT for a:**

**Project with multiple beneficiaries under the ERASMUS+ Programme<sup>1</sup>**

**AGREEMENT NUMBER – [EPLUS LINK Generated No.]**

This Agreement ('the Agreement') is concluded between the following parties:

on the one part,

[full official name of the NA]  
[official legal form]  
[official registration No]  
[official address in full]  
[VAT number],

The **National Agency** (hereinafter referred to as "the NA"), represented for the purposes of signature of this Agreement by [function, forename and surname], and acting under delegation by the European Commission, hereinafter referred to as "the Commission",

**and**

on the other part,

[full official name of the coordinator]  
[official legal form] *[if applicable]*  
[official registration No] *[if applicable]*  
[official address in full]  
[VAT number], *[if applicable]*

[PIC number],

hereinafter referred to as "the coordinator", represented for the purposes of signature of this Agreement by [function, forename and surname]

and the other beneficiaries as set out in Annex II, duly represented for the signature of the Agreement by the coordinator by virtue of the mandate[s] included in Annex V.

Unless otherwise specified, references to 'beneficiary' and 'beneficiaries' include the coordinator.

The parties referred to above

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+' the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC

HAVE AGREED

to the Special Conditions ( ‘the Special Conditions’) and the following Annexes:

- Annex I     General conditions (‘the General Conditions’)
- Annex II    Description of the Project; Estimated budget of the project; List of other beneficiaries
- Annex III   Financial and contractual rules
- Annex IV    Applicable rates
- Annex V     Mandate[s] provided to the coordinator by the other beneficiary[ies]

which form an integral part of the Agreement.

The provisions in the Special Conditions of the Agreement take precedence over its Annexes.

The provisions in Annex I ‘General Conditions’ take precedence over those in other Annexes. The provisions in Annex III take precedence over those in the other Annexes, except Annex I.

Within Annex II, the part on the Estimated budget takes precedence over the part on the Description of the project.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

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## **ARTICLE I.1 – SUBJECT MATTER OF THE AGREEMENT**

**I.1.1** The NA has decided to award a grant, under the terms and conditions set out in the Special Conditions, the General Conditions and the other Annexes to the Agreement, for the Project **[NA to insert the title of the Project in bold]** ("the Project") under the Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 2: Strategic Partnerships, as described in Annex II.

**I.1.2** By signing the Agreement, the beneficiaries accept the grant and agree to implement the Project, acting on their own responsibility.

**I.1.3** **[NA to select and complete in case of strategic partnerships involving HEI beneficiaries]**

The HEI beneficiaries shall comply with the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education and the Higher Education National Mobility Consortium accreditation.

## **ARTICLE I.2 – ENTRY INTO FORCE AND IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD OF THE AGREEMENT**

**I.2.1** The Agreement enters into force on the date on which the last party signs it.

**I.2.2** The Project runs for **[...]** months starting on [insert date: **[...]**] and finishing on [insert date: **[...]**].

## **ARTICLE I.3 – MAXIMUM AMOUNT AND FORM OF THE GRANT**

**I.3.1** The **maximum amount of the grant is EUR [...]**

**I.3.2** In accordance with the estimated budget specified in Annex II and with the eligible costs and the financial rules specified in Annex III, the grant takes the form of:

- (a) the reimbursement of eligible costs of the action ('reimbursement of eligible costs') which are:
  - (i) actually incurred
  - (ii) declared on the basis of unit costs

The following costs/contributions are not applicable:

- (iii) reimbursement of costs declared on the basis of lump sum
  - (iv) reimbursement of costs declared on the basis of flat-rate
  - (v) reimbursement of costs declared on the basis of the partner's usual cost accounting practices
- b) unit contribution
  - c) lump sum contribution
  - d) flat-rate contribution
  - e) financing not linked to costs

### **I.3.3 Budget transfers without amendment**

The beneficiary is allowed to transfer funds between the different budget categories resulting in a change of the estimated budget and the related activities described in Annex II, without requesting an amendment of the Agreement as specified in Article II.13, under the condition that the Project is implemented in accordance with the approved project application and overall objectives described in Annex II, and the following specific rules are respected:

- (a) The beneficiaries are allowed to transfer up to 20% of the funds allocated for each of the following budget categories: Project management and implementation, Transnational Project Meetings, Intellectual Outputs, Multiplier Events, Learning/teaching/training activities and Exceptional costs to any other budget category with the exception of the budget categories Project management and implementation and Exceptional costs.
- (b) Any budget transfer cannot result in an increase of more than 20% of the amount awarded to that budget category as specified in Annex II.
- (c) The beneficiaries are allowed to transfer funds allocated for any budget category to the budget category Special needs support, even if no funds are allocated for Special needs support as specified in Annex II. In such case the maximum increase of 20% of the budget category Special needs support does not apply.
- (d) By derogation to point (a) of the present Article, the beneficiaries are allowed to transfer funds allocated for any budget category except Special needs support to the budget category Exceptional costs covering financial guarantee or expensive travel costs, in so far as required by the NA in Article I.4.2 and even if no funds are allocated for Exceptional costs as specified in Annex II. In such case the maximum increase of 20% of the budget category Exceptional costs does not apply.

## **ARTICLE I.4 – REPORTING AND PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The following reporting and payment provisions<sup>2</sup> shall apply:

### ***I.4.1 Payments to be made***

The NA must make the following payments to the coordinator:

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<sup>2</sup> 1. Normal payment schedule for grant agreements of maximum two years included: normally one pre-financing payment of 80% and a balance payment of 20%; in the case of Key Action 1 in Higher Education, the balance payment will be normally replaced by a further pre-financing based on an interim report. However, in case of lack of sufficient payment appropriations, the NA may:

- a) reduce the first pre-financing to a percentage between 60 and 80% and apply a balance payment of 40-20% of the maximum grant amount, or
- b) split the first pre-financing into two payments without interim report, whereby the total of both payments amounts to 80% of the maximum grant amount, and a balance payment of 20% of the maximum grant amount.

2. Normal payment schedule for grant agreements of **more than two years**: one pre-financing of 40% upon signature of the agreement, one further pre-financing of 40% based on an interim report and a balance payment of 20% of the maximum grant amount.

- a first pre-financing payment;
- further pre-financing payment(s), on the basis of the request for further pre-financing payment referred to in Article I.4.3;
- one payment of the balance, on the basis of the request for payment of the balance referred to in Article I.4.4.

#### ***I.4.2 First pre-financing payment***

The aim of the pre-financing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float. The pre-financing remains the property of the NA until the payment of the balance.

If the NA requires a pre-financing guarantee: The first pre-financing payment is done when the NA receives financial guarantee that fulfils the following conditions:

- (a) it is provided by a bank or an approved financial institution or, if requested by the coordinator and accepted by the NA, by a third party;
- (b) the guarantor stands as first-call guarantor and does not require the NA to first have recourse against the principal debtor (i.e. the beneficiary concerned); and
- (c) it explicitly remains in force until the pre-financing is cleared against payment of the balance by the NA. If the payment of the balance takes the form of a recovery, the financial guarantee must remain in force until three months after the debit note is notified to the coordinator.

The NA must release the guarantee within the following month.]

#### ***[For projects - maximum 2 years duration]***

The NA must pay to the coordinator within 30 days following the entry into force of the Agreement [or, if applicable: following the receipt of a financial guarantee of EUR [...]] a pre-financing payment of EUR [...] corresponding to 80% of the maximum grant amount specified in Article I.3.1.

#### ***[For projects of more than two years]***

The NA must pay to the coordinator within 30 days following the entry into force of the Agreement [or, if applicable: following the receipt of a financial guarantee of EUR [...]] a first pre-financing payment of EUR [...] corresponding to 40% of the maximum grant amount specified in Article I.3.1.

#### ***I.4.3 Interim reports and further pre-financing payments***

#### ***[For projects of less than 2 years duration]***

Not applicable.

**[For projects of maximum 2 years duration]**

By 30.06.2020, the coordinator must complete a progress report on the implementation of the Project, covering the reporting period from the beginning of the implementation of the Project specified in Article I.2.2.

**[For projects of more than two years]**

By 30.06.2020, the coordinator must complete a progress report on the implementation of the Project, covering the reporting period from the beginning of the implementation of the Project specified in Article I.2.2.

By 30.06.2021 or once at least 70 % of the first pre-financing payment has been used to cover costs of the Project, the coordinator must complete an interim report on the implementation of the Project, covering the reporting period from [NA to insert date of the interim report] to [date to be specified by NA].

In so far as the interim report demonstrates that the coordinator has used at least 70 % of the amount of first pre-financing payment, the interim report must be considered as a request for a further pre-financing payment and must specify the amount requested up to EUR [...] corresponding to 40% of the total maximum amount specified in Article I.3.1.

Where the interim report shows that less than 70% of the first pre-financing payment paid has been used to cover costs of the Project, the coordinator must submit a further interim report by once at least 70 % of the amount of first pre-financing payment has been used, which must be considered as a request for a further pre-financing payment and must specify the amount requested up to EUR [...] corresponding to 40% of the maximum amount specified in Article I.3.1.

Without prejudice to Articles II.24.1 and II.24.2 and following approval of the report by the NA, the NA must pay to the coordinator the further pre-financing payment within 60 calendar days on receipt of the interim report..

#### ***1.4.4 Final report and request for payment of the balance***

Within 60 days after the end date of the Project specified in Article I.2.2, the coordinator must complete a final report on the implementation of the Project, and, when applicable, upload all project results in the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform as specified in article I.9.2. The report must contain the information needed to justify the contribution requested on the basis of unit contributions where the grant takes the form of the reimbursement of unit contribution or the eligible costs actually incurred in accordance with Annex III.

The final report is considered as the coordinator's request for payment of the balance of the grant.



The coordinator must certify that the information provided in the request for payment of the balance is full, reliable and true. It must also certify that the costs incurred can be considered eligible in accordance with the Agreement and that the request for payment is substantiated by adequate supporting documents that can be produced in the context of the checks or audits described in Article II.27.

#### ***1.4.5 Payment of the balance***

The payment of the balance reimburses or covers the remaining part of the eligible costs incurred by the beneficiaries for the implementation of the project.

The NA determines the amount due as the balance by deducting the total amount of pre-financing already made from the final amount of the grant determined in accordance with Article II.25.

If the total amount of earlier payments is greater than the final amount of the grant determined in accordance with Article II.25, the payment of the balance takes form of a recovery as provided for by Article II.26.

If the total amount of earlier payments is lower than the final amount of the grant determined in accordance with Article II.25, the NA must pay the balance within 60 calendar days from when it receives the documents referred to in Article I.4.4, except if Article II.24.1 or II.24.2 apply.

Payment is subject to the approval of the request for payment of the balance and of the accompanying documents. Their approval does not imply recognition of the compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of their content.

The amount to be paid may, however, be offset, without the coordinator's consent, against any other amount owed by the coordinator to the NA, up to the maximum contribution indicated for that coordinator, in the estimated budget in Annex II.

#### ***1.4.6 Notification of amounts due***

The NA must send a *formal notification* to the coordinator:

- (a) informing it of the amount due; and
- (b) specifying whether the notification concerns a further pre-financing payment or the payment of the balance.

For the payment of the balance, the NA must also specify the final amount of the grant determined in accordance with Article II.25.

#### ***1.4.7 Payments from the NA to the coordinator***

The NA must make payments to the coordinator.

Payments to the coordinator discharge the NA from its payment obligation.

#### ***1.4.8 Payments from the coordinator to the other beneficiaries***

The coordinator must make all payments to the other beneficiaries by bank transfer and keep appropriate evidence of the amounts transferred to each beneficiary for any checks and audits as referred to in Article II.27.

#### ***1.4.9 Language of requests for payments and reports***

All requests for payments and reports must be submitted in German or English.

#### ***1.4.10 Currency for requests for payments and conversion into euro***

Request for payment must be drafted in Euro.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in a currency other than the euro must convert costs incurred in another currency into euros at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union, determined over the corresponding reporting period (available at <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/exchange/eurofxref/html/index.en.html>).

If no daily euro exchange rate is published in the Official Journal of the European Union for the currency in question, conversion must be made at the average of the monthly accounting rates established by the Commission and published on its website ([http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts\\_grants/info\\_contracts/inforeuro/inforeuro\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/inforeuro/inforeuro_en.cfm)), determined over the corresponding reporting period.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in euros must convert costs incurred in another currency into euros in accordance with their usual accounting practices.

#### ***1.4.11 Currency for payments***

The NA must make payments in Euro.

#### ***1.4.12 Date of payment***

Payments by the NA are considered to have been carried out on the date when they are debited to its account unless the national law provides otherwise.

#### ***1.4.13 Costs of payment transfers***

Costs of the payment transfers are borne as follows:

- (a) the NA bears the costs of transfer charged by its bank;
- (b) the coordinator bears the costs of transfer charged by its bank;
- (c) the party causing a repetition of a transfer bears all costs of repeated transfers.

#### ***I.4.14 Interest on late payment***

If the NA does not pay within the time limit for payment, the beneficiaries are entitled to late-payment interest. The interest payable is determined according to the provisions laid down in the national law applicable to the Agreement or in the rules of the NA. In the absence of such provisions, the interest payable is determined according with the rate applied by the European Central Bank for its main refinancing operations in euros ('the reference rate'), plus three and a half points. The reference rate is the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the time limit for payment expires, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

If the NA suspends the time limit for payment as provided for in Article II.24.2 or if it suspends an actual payment as provided for in Article II.24.1, these actions may not be considered as cases of late payment.

Late-payment interest covers the period running from the day following the due date for payment, up to and including the date of actual payment as established in Article I.4.12. The NA does not consider payable interest when determining the final amount of grant within the meaning of Article II.25.

As an exception to the first subparagraph, if the calculated interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it must be paid to the coordinator only if the coordinator requests it within two months of receiving late payment.

### **ARTICLE I.5 – BANK ACCOUNT FOR PAYMENTS**

All payments must be made to the coordinator's bank account as indicated below:

Name of bank: [...]

Precise denomination of the account holder: [...]

Full account number (including bank codes): [...]

IBAN code: [...]

### **ARTICLE I.6 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA AND COMMUNICATION DETAILS OF THE PARTIES**

For the purpose of Article II.7, the data controller is:

Head of Unit B4  
Directorate B – Youth, Education & Erasmus+  
Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

### ***1.6.1 Communication details of the NA***

Any communication addressed to the NA must be sent by the coordinator to the following address:

[Name of the NA]  
[Post code, town and country]  
E-mail address: [insert functional mailbox NA]

### ***1.6.2 Communication details of the beneficiaries***

Any communication from the NA to the beneficiaries must be sent to the coordinator at the following address:

[Full name of the coordinator]  
[Function]  
[Name of the entity]  
[Full official address]  
E-mail address: [complete]

## **ARTICLE I.7 – PROTECTION AND SAFETY OF PARTICIPANTS**

The beneficiaries shall have in place effective procedures and arrangements to provide for the safety and protection of the participants in their Project.

The beneficiaries must ensure that insurance coverage is provided to participants involved in mobility activities.

## **ARTICLE I.8 – ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS ON USE OF THE RESULTS (INCLUDING INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS)**

In addition to the provision of Article II.9.3, if the beneficiaries produce educational materials under the scope of the Project, such materials must be made available through the Internet, free of charge and under open licenses<sup>3</sup>.

## **ARTICLE I.9 – USE OF IT TOOLS**

### ***1.9.1 Mobility Tool+***

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<sup>3</sup>Open licence – a way by which the owner of a work grants permission to others to use the resource. A license is associated to each resource. There are different open licences according to the extent of the permissions granted or the limitations imposed and the beneficiary is free to choose the specific license to apply to their work. An open licence must be associated to each resource produced. An open licence is not a transfer of copyrights or Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

The coordinator must make use of the web based Mobility Tool+ to record all information in relation to the activities undertaken under the Project, and to complete and submit the Progress Report, Interim report and Final report.

### ***1.9.2 Erasmus+ Project Results Platform***

The coordinator shall input the deliverables of the Project in the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform (<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/>), in accordance with the instructions provided therein.

The approval of the final report will be subject to the upload of the Project deliverables in the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform by the time of its submission.

## **ARTICLE I.10 – ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS ON SUBCONTRACTING**

By way of derogation to the provisions set out in Article II.11, the beneficiaries must not subcontract any activities funded from the budget category Intellectual outputs.

By way of derogation, the provisions set out in points (c) and (d) of Article II.11.1 are not applicable to any of the budget categories except Exceptional costs.]

## **ARTICLE I.11 – SPECIAL PROVISIONS ON THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECOVERIES**

The financial responsibility of each beneficiary other than the coordinator is limited to the amount received by the beneficiary concerned.

## **ARTICLE I.12 – ADDITIONAL PROVISION ON THE VISIBILITY OF UNION FUNDING**

Without prejudice to Article II.8, the beneficiaries shall acknowledge the support received under the Erasmus+ programme in all communication and promotional material, including on websites and social media. The guidelines for the beneficiaries and other third parties are available at [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about-eacea/visual-identity\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about-eacea/visual-identity_en)

## **ARTICLE I.13 - SUPPORT TO PARTICIPANTS**

***[In case Transnational learning/teaching/training activities are awarded:***

If, while implementing the Project, the beneficiaries have to give support to participants, the beneficiaries shall provide in accordance with the conditions specified in Annex II and Annex VI (if applicable). Under those conditions, the following information must be stated at least:

- (a) the maximum amount of financial support. This amount may not exceed EUR 60 000 for each participant;
- (b) the criteria for determining the exact amount of the support;
- (c) the activities for which the participant may receive support, on the basis of a fixed list;
- (d) the definition of the persons or categories of persons which may receive support;
- (e) the criteria for giving the support.]

The beneficiaries must:

- Either transfer the financial support for the budget categories travel/individual support/ linguistic support in full to the participants of Transnational learning/teaching/training activities, applying the rates for unit contributions as specified in Annex IV;
- Or provide the support for the budget categories travel/individual support/ linguistic support] to participants of Transnational learning/teaching/training activities in the form of provision of the required travel, subsistence and linguistic support services. In such case, the beneficiaries must ensure that the provision of travel, subsistence and linguistic support services will meet the necessary quality and safety standards.

The beneficiaries may combine the two options set out in the previous paragraph in so far as they ensure fair and equal treatment of all participants. In such case the conditions applicable to each option must be applied for the budget categories to which the respective option is.

#### **ARTICLE I.14 – PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT**

The beneficiaries must obtain the Parental/Guardian consent for participants of minor age prior to their participation in any mobility activity.

#### **ARTICLE I.15– SPECIFIC DEROGATIONS FROM ANNEX I GENERAL CONDITIONS**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, in Annex I General Conditions the term "the Commission" must be read as "the NA", the term "action" must be read as "project" and the term "unit cost" must be read as "unit contribution", except where otherwise provided.

For the purposes of this Agreement, in Annex I General Conditions the notion "financial statement" must be read as "the budgetary part of the report", except where otherwise provided.

In Article II.4.1, Article II.7.1, Article II.8.2, Article II.27.1, Article II.27.3, the first paragraph of Article II.27.4, first paragraph of Article II.27.8. and in the Article II.27.9 the reference to "the Commission" must be read as reference to "the NA and the Commission".

In Article II.12 the term "financial support" must be read as "support" and the term "third parties" must be read as "participants".

2. For the purposes of this Agreement, the following clauses of Annex I General Conditions are not applicable: Article II.2.2 (b) (ii), Article II.12.2, Article II.18.3, Article II.19.2, Article II.19.3, Article II.20.3, Article II.21, Article II.27.7.

For the purpose of this Agreement, the terms "*affiliated entities*", "*interim payment*", "*lump sum*", "*flat rate*" do not apply when mentioned in the General Conditions.

3. Article II.7.1 must be read as follows:

**"II.7.1 Processing of personal data by the NA and the Commission**

Any personal data included in the Agreement must be processed by the NA and the Commission in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725.<sup>4</sup>

Such data must be processed by the data controller identified in Article I.6 solely for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement or to protect the financial interests of the EU, including checks, audits and investigations in accordance with Article II.27.

The beneficiaries have the right to access, rectify or erase their own personal data and the right to restrict or, where applicable, the right to data portability or the right to object to data processing in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725. For this purpose, they must send any queries about the processing of their personal data to the data controller identified in Article I.6.

The beneficiaries may have recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

4. In Article II.9.3, the title and letter (a) of the first paragraph must be read as follows:

**"II.9.3 Rights of use of the results and of pre-existing rights by the NA and the Union**

The beneficiaries grant the NA and the Union the following rights to use the results of the project:

(a) for its own purposes and in particular to make available to persons working for the NA, Union institutions, agencies and bodies and to Member States' institutions, as well as to copy and reproduce in whole or in part and in an unlimited number of copies."

For the rest of this article, the references to the "Union" must be read as reference to "the NA and/or the Union".

5. The second paragraph of Article II.10.1 must be read as follows:

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<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC.

"The beneficiaries must ensure that the NA, the Commission, the European Court of Auditors and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) can exercise their rights under Article II.27 also towards the beneficiaries' contractors."

6. A new letter (l) is added to Article II.17.3.1 which reads:

"(l) if there is a complaint made by all other beneficiaries that the coordinator does not implement the Project as specified in Annex II or fails to comply with another substantial obligation incumbent on it under the terms of the Agreement."

7. Article II.18 must be read as follows:

**"II.18.1** The Agreement is governed by the German law.

**II.18.2** The competent court determined in accordance with the applicable national law has sole jurisdiction to hear any dispute between the NA and any beneficiary concerning the interpretation, application or validity of the Agreement, if such dispute cannot be settled amicably.

8. Article II.19.1 must be read as follows:

"The conditions for the eligibility of costs are defined in section I.1 and II.1 of Annex III."

9. Article II.20.1 must be read as follows:

"The conditions for declaring costs and contributions are defined in section I.2 and II.2 of Annex III."

10. Article II.20.2 must be read as follows:

"The conditions for records and other documentation to support the costs and contributions declared are defined in section I.2 and II.2 of Annex III."

11. The first paragraph of Article II.22 must be read as follows:

"Beneficiaries are allowed to adjust the estimated budget set out in Annex II by transfers between the different budget categories, if the *project* is implemented as described in Annex II. This adjustment does not require an amendment of the Agreement as provided for in Article II.13, if the conditions provided for in Article I.3.3 are met."

12. Article II.23(b) must be read as follows:

"(b) still fails to submit such a request within further 30 calendar days following a written reminder sent by the NA."

13. The first paragraph of Article II.24.1.3 must be read as follows:



"During the period of suspension of payments the coordinator is not entitled to submit any requests for payments and supporting documents referred to in Articles I.4.3 and I.4.4".

14. Article II.25.1(b) must be read as follows:

**" II.25.1 Step 1 — Application of the reimbursement rate to the eligible costs and addition of the financing not linked to costs, unit, flat-rate and lump sum contributions**

(b) If, as provided for in Article I.3.2(a) (ii) to (v), the grant takes the form of the reimbursement of eligible unit costs, lump sum costs or flat rate costs , the reimbursement rate specified in that Article is applied to the those eligible costs as approved by the Commission for the corresponding categories of costs, beneficiaries and affiliated entities;

15. The second paragraph of Article II.25.4 must be read as follows:

"The amount of the reduction will be proportionate to the degree to which the *project* has been implemented improperly or to the seriousness of the breach, as provided for in section IV of Annex III."

16. The third paragraph of Article II.26.3 must be read as follows:

"If payment has not been made by the date specified in the debit note, the NA will recover the amount due:

(a) by offsetting it, without the beneficiary's prior consent, against any amounts owed to the beneficiary by the NA ('offsetting');

In exceptional circumstances, to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the NA may offset before the due date.

An action may be brought against such offsetting before the competent court determined in Article II.18.2;

(b) by drawing on the financial guarantee where provided for in accordance with Article I.4.2 ('drawing on the financial guarantee');

(c) by holding the beneficiaries jointly and severally liable up to the maximum EU contribution indicated, for each beneficiary, in the estimated budget (Annex II as last amended);

(d) by taking legal action as provided for in Article II.18.2 or in the Special Conditions."

17. The third paragraph of Article II.27.2 must be read as follows:

The periods set out in the first and second subparagraphs are longer if a longer duration is required by national law, or if there are ongoing audits, appeals, litigation or pursuit of claims concerning the grant, including in the cases referred to in Article II.27.7. In

the latter cases, the beneficiaries must keep the documents until such audits, appeals, litigation or pursuit of claims have been closed.

18. Article II.27.3 must be read as follows:

"Where a check, audit or evaluation is initiated before the payment of the balance, the coordinator must provide any information, including information in electronic format, requested by the NA or by the Commission or by any other outside body authorised by the NA. Where appropriate, the NA or the Commission may request that a beneficiary provides such information directly.

Where a check or audit is initiated after payment of the balance, the information referred to in the previous subparagraph must be provided by the beneficiary concerned.

If the beneficiary concerned does not comply with the obligations set out in the first and second subparagraphs, the NA may consider:

- (a) any cost insufficiently substantiated by information provided by the beneficiary as ineligible;
- (b) any unit contribution insufficiently substantiated by information provided by the beneficiary as undue."

## SIGNATURES

For the coordinator  
[function/forename/surname]

[signature]  
Done at [place], [date]

For the NA  
[forename/surname]

[signature]  
Done at [place], [date]