



life • learning • opportunity

Some Differences and Similarities between EU and UK funding

| Category | EU | UK |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Project size | Ranges from small (20 000 Euros) to very big 10M Euros | Variable according to funder. |
| Location | Executive Agency in Brussels, e.g, EACEA National Agency in UK, e.g, ECOTEC or British Council | Variable (in UK) according to funder. Local, regional and national. |
| Where the ideas come from | Guided by priorities by Council of Ministers in which need across Europe is identified (social, environmental, educational). Either developing an innovation that can work in all countries or same as UK | Guided by needs of community and government priorities such as “From Inclusion to Excellence”, Little Report etc Identify a need within the community (VI community or college) and build a rich picture for a project proposal. Generally, researching a need so that good practice or resources can be shared or developing materials for use across the sector |
| Research and background | Formulating the project idea with EU priorities in mind. Research and background must have EU focus, unless there is a priority country outside EU | Build a rich picture with no regard for potential funding source |
| What about Partners? | Find partners – essential for EU according to the rules for operating a project. The minimum requirement is 1 EU partner for a Mobility Project, 2 or 3 EU partners for a multilateral project. Some scientific projects can have up to 300 partners | Partners not necessary for a project and will depend on funding source |

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| Preparatory visits | Funding available for a limited number of preparatory visits | No funding is available for creating partnerships, meetings etc |
| Making the application using the correct documentation | The applicant must wait until documentation for the funding stream is available and complete form in the manner requested; the rules are strict; bids fail because the rules are not followed completely. | Match rich picture to a funding opportunity as and when it arises. Match “costing of project” to scale of opportunity |
| Finances – estimating costs | Projects are costed according to specified categories eg staff costs, equipment, overheads (max of 7%), dissemination, business plan etc. Costs covering type of staff (country-by-country), subsistence allowance are present by the Council of Ministers. Coordinating organisation makes the reasoned estimates of project costs with an understanding of costs in partner organisations in allotting amount of work, e.g., a partner with low staff coast may desire more work to increase a share of the budget, otherwise no involvement from partners. | Guidelines and permissible costs will vary from project to project – may be staffing only, capital equipment only, etc. Costs are integral to the project proposal |
| Application | For EU projects are moving towards discrete stages of application Stage 1: Project summary (differentiation made) Stage 2: Main Project with Finances Stage 3: Applicant suitability | |
| Waiting game | Can be up to 9 months – normally 6 months Expect a query about Budget even if the project is accepted where further reasoning is required for items or complete sections | Shorter timescale – can be as quick as one month, more than 3 months would be unusual. |
| Feedback from funder | Given numerical scores which are communicated to the bidder with reasons for scores. In theory, the grant is given if the project scores above the threshold in all the categories Recently there seems to be a moderation process if too many projects score above the thresholds. It seems that the total score is raised until the correct target of projects is reached. This is unofficial | Some sort of feedback generally given but usually informal. |

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| Contract with funder | <p>Contracts will be received from sponsor – essential for start of a project.</p> <p>After contract with funder has been received, money can be drawn and negotiation between partners begins. Payments are staged</p> | <p>Contract comes from sponsor</p> <p>Project can begin when contract arrives</p> <p>Payments are likely to be staged</p> |
| Contract with the partner | <p>Contracts with partners drawn up by lead organisation – these are legally binding. An advice service is provided for constructing contracts; 4 models are currently available, modified where applicable but the organisation can design a bespoke partner contract.</p> | |
| Starting the project | <p>Generally the organisation that composes the project, coordinates the project – expertise can be bought in by sub-contraction.</p> | <p>A project officer will be found with appropriate skills either within the organisation or by using consultants outside. Very specialist knowledge and experience may be needed.</p> |
| Running the project | <p>Partner meetings – typically one in each partner country and 3 per year Progress reports generally required by funder.</p> | <p>Meetings with team and stakeholders. Progress reports generally required by funder.</p> |