



UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO

PROGRAMME "MESSAGGERI DELLA CONOSCENZA" Action Plan Cohesion (PAC)

€ 5.300.000 for years 2012/2014

The "Messengers of knowledge" (hereinafter referred to as the Program) promotes **supplementary teaching** for the benefit of students of 1st cycle, 2nd cycle and single-cycle started in the "Convergence Regions" (including Sicily). The Programme aims at providing students with teaching and research methods which are typical of other education systems, as well as frontier cultural and scientific contents developed by international Centers of Excellence.

I. HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM (D.D. 21/09/2012 n. 567)

- a) identify the Departments of the Universities of Convergence Regions in which the initiative will be implemented;
- b) select educational projects presented by experts and scholars affiliated to foreign universities and acknowledged research centers;
- c) enter into operational agreements for the implementation of educational projects;
- d) monitor the implementation of the program and evaluate the impact of the intervention on students and university departments participating to the initiative.

II. WHAT TO DO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CALL

A) The University Departments must declare **exclusively through the internet their willingness to participate** in the program by **registering to page:**
<https://messaggeri.cineca.it/strutture>
by November 9, 2012

B) Teachers, of any nationality, affiliated with non-Italian universities or research centers (with a proven track record of teaching and research), may propose **1 or MORE educational projects** to enable 1st cycle, 2nd cycle and single-cycle degree students to deal with innovative teaching methods and/or scientific content.

The teacher can specify **up to a maximum of 3 Universities of Convergence Regions** in which the educational project is deemed to have a better chance of success

The project/s should be submitted by the **teacher** using the appropriate computerized procedure available at <https://messaggeri.cineca.it> by the deadline of **November 9, 2012** and **must contain the following information:**

- **teaching methods and contents of the project**, with respect, in particular, to the content of individual educational interventions, and to the efforts dedicated to the supervision of students, as well as to the teaching methods that will be used (including how they can positively, directly or indirectly, affect the approach to the study, research and student work);
- **education or research activity** on which it is intended students' practice – even in groups – focusing in particular on any topics that are of relevance or applicability to the area in which the Department operates;
- **procedures, selection criteria and the number of students** who will have the opportunity to spend a period of study at the foreign institution to which the teacher is affiliated;



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- **activities in which these students will be engaged** during the period of residence abroad, specifying:
 - the training and university resources which will be accessible to them;
 - the teachers with whom they will have contact;
 - the opportunities for sharing experience with other students or researchers working at the foreign host institution;
- **proposals and suggestions - in relation to the dissemination and multiplication of experience** - to be conducted by students returning from study abroad;
- **submission of a cost plan** as per Article 6 of the DD 21/09/2012 n. 567, with respect to the type of eligible expenses.

III. ELIGIBLE COSTS

For the implementation of the educational project:

- **€ 200.00 gross**, plus coverage of taxes and social security costs for the administration, for each hour of teaching, laboratory or tutorial, up to a maximum of **€ 12,000**;

- **up to a maximum of € 7,500** for travel expenses, accommodation and meals of scholars and experts responsible for implementing the project;

- **up to a maximum of € 10,000** - including travel, accommodation and meals expenses for each study period abroad - for a total amount **not exceeding € 20,000 per educational project**;

- **up to a maximum of € 3,000** for the dissemination and popularization costs related to each student coming back from the period of stay abroad, for a total amount **not exceeding € 6,000 for each educational project**;

- **Contribution to the costs of management and organization supported by the hosting facility equal to 20% of the total costs incurred up to a maximum of € 8,000.**

After signing the agreement, the Ministry will transfer the University an amount of resources equal to 80% of the amount granted for the execution of the educational project, as well as the remuneration of the scholars and experts in charge of teaching activities .

IV. PROJECTS SHOULD CONSIST OF THREE PHASES:

1) **Teaching activities** which might also be seminars at the hosting Department targeted to-groups of 25-30 students selected mainly among those enrolled in the third year of an undergraduate program.

The activity must include a part for the exposition of teacher's professional experience and another devoted to analysis or applied study to be carried out in groups, and related to issues of practical relevance to students and, where relevant, adapted to the characteristics of the region of the hosting Department. The educational activity, of a total duration ranging from a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 45 hours, is divided into frontal teaching and laboratory or practice activities. The project must specify the timescale for the overall initiative, which will be started and completed in the period between 1 March 2013 and 31 July 2014, as well as the period of teaching activities to be carried out at the hosting Department.



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2) **Period of study abroad:** the educational project should make it possible for a small number of students among those who participated in the educational activities hosted by the Department, to spend a period of study at the University or the foreign research Center to whom the teacher is affiliated. The selection of students who will spend a period of study abroad is carried out at the end of the lecture series, according to the procedures and criteria to be specified in the project. The period of study abroad is regulated by a specific agreement between the hosting organization and the department to which the student is enrolled, indicating the length of the study period abroad, a minimum of two months and a maximum of six months, the program of activities during the period of study abroad, the contact persons responsible within the foreign hosting institution.

3) **Dissemination of experience.** Students undertaking a period of study abroad are required to organize, on their return, appropriate activities planned with the assistance/guidance of the department teaching contact, to share the methods and content of the experience and thus become, in turn, catalysts and promoters of a higher demand for quality in teaching and research.

V. ELEMENTS OF PROJECT EVALUATION

A selection Board, appointed by MIUR (Italian Ministry for Education and Research), will evaluate project proposals based on the following elements:

a) **curriculum and academic qualifications of the teacher, quality of the content offered by the teaching and international recognition of the foreign institution at which the teacher works;**

b) **the ability of the teacher to transmit and disseminate the contents of the teaching subjects.** Any teaching materials, audio-video files or recognition of educational ability attached to the proposal might also be evaluated;

c) **the Teacher motivation**, which may be found in the quality and innovativeness of the teaching and group work plan;

d) the possibility of **reconciling the educational project proposed with the availability of the Department** to host education initiatives.

PROJECTS SELECTION by December 15, 2012.

The Ministry, after approval of the merit list of educational projects, proposes to the selected Departments to host one or more of the selected educational projects.

In case of non-matching between the selected project and the Department, the following projects in the list may be used.

VI. STIPULATION OF IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENTS

The Ministry stipulates, with universities that have approved the acceptance of the educational project (hereinafter: hosting institution), an **agreement** specifying:

a) the **educational project** to be implemented, specifying the content, organization, duration, start date and end date;

b) **the name of the Lecturer** responsible of the educational project with whom the hosting institution will enter into a contract for supplementary teaching. If the educational project envisages the involvement of several teachers, the hosting institution will enter into a contract with each of them specifying tasks and responsibilities of each one;

c) the name of the **scientific-educational contact** and of the **administrative contact indicated by the Department;**

d) **the resources allocated** for the implementation of the project;



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e) the procedures for reporting and monitoring of expenditure and activities.

The said agreement must be accompanied by a **letter of commitment of the foreign institution** to which the Lecturer in charge of the educational project is affiliated; through this letter the institution which manifests the interest to host the number of students indicated in the selected educational project.

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