

JEAN MONNET CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

WHAT IS A JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE?

A Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence is a focal point of competence and knowledge on European Union subjects.

A Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence gathers the expertise and competences of high-level experts and aims at developing synergies between the various disciplines and resources in European studies, as well as at creating joint transnational activities and structural links with academic institutions in other countries. It also ensures openness to civil society.

Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence have a major role in reaching out to students from faculties not normally dealing with European Union issues as well as to policy makers, civil servants, organised civil society and the general public at large.

WHICH ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED UNDER THIS ACTION?

A Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence must develop a strategic three-year annual plan including a wide range of activities, such as:

- organising and coordinating human and documentary resources related to European Union studies;
- leading research activities in specific European Union subjects (research function);
- developing content and tools on EU subjects to update and complement the current courses and curricula (teaching function);
- enhancing the debate and exchange of experiences about the EU, where possible in partnership with local stakeholders and/or EU Representations Offices in Member States and EU Delegations in third countries (think-tank function);
- systematic publication of the results of research activities.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN A JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE?

Higher education institutions planning to establish a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence are expected to reflect on its strategic development. They should provide guidance and a vision for the best experts available among the teaching and research staff for creating synergies allowing high-level collaborative work on specific EU subjects. They should support and promote the initiatives of the Centre and assist their development.

Higher education institutions are obliged to maintain the activities of a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence during the entire duration of the project including replacing the academic coordinator if the need arises. If the institution is obliged to replace the original academic coordinator, a written request for approval has to be sent to the Executive Agency.

A Centre of Excellence may involve the co-operation of several institutions/organisations established in the same city or region. In any case, it must be a clearly labelled institute or structure specialised in European Union studies and must be hosted by a higher education institution.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA USED TO ASSESS A JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE?

Here below are listed the formal criteria that a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence must respect in order to be eligible for an Erasmus+ grant:



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Who can apply?	A higher education institution (HEI) established in any country of the world. HEIs established in Programme Countries must hold a valid Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). An ECHE is not required for participating HEIs in Partner Countries. Individuals cannot apply directly for a grant.
Duration of project	Three years.
Where to apply?	To the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, located in Brussels.
When to apply?	Applicants have to submit their grant application by 23 February at 12:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting on 1 September of the same year.
How to apply?	Please see Part C of this Guide for details on how to apply.
Other criteria	Only one Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence can be supported in any given higher education institution.

Applicant organisations will be assessed against **exclusion and selection criteria**. For more information please consult Part C of this Guide.

AWARD CRITERIA

Projects will be assessed against the following criteria:

Relevance of the project (Maximum 25 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The relevance of the proposal to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the objectives and priorities of the Action (see sections "What are the aims of Jean Monnet" and "What is a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence"); - the needs and objectives of the participating organisations and of the academics involved. ▪ The extent to which the proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is suitable for fostering the development of new teaching, research or debating activities; - demonstrates evidence of academic added value; - promotes and gives greater visibility to European studies/issues both within the institution hosting the Jean Monnet activities and outside. ▪ The relevance of the proposal to priority target groups of the Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - institutions established in countries not covered by the Jean Monnet Action; - institutions or academics not yet in receipt of Jean Monnet funding.
Quality of the project design and implementation (Maximum 25 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The clarity, completeness and quality of the work programme, including appropriate phases for preparation, implementation, evaluation, follow-up and dissemination; ▪ The consistency between project objectives, activities and budget proposed; ▪ The quality and feasibility of the methodology proposed.
Quality of the project team (Maximum 25 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The pertinence of the profile and expertise of key academic staff involved - both in the academic and non-academic domains -with the activities carried out in the project.

<p>Impact and dissemination (Maximum 25 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The quality of measures for evaluating the outcomes of the teaching activities; ▪ The potential impact of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on the institution(s) participating in the Jean Monnet Action; - on the students and learners benefiting from the Jean Monnet Action; - on other organisations and individuals involved at local, regional, national and/or European levels. ▪ The appropriateness and quality of measures aimed at disseminating the outcomes of the activities within and outside the institution hosting the Jean Monnet Action; ▪ If relevant, the extent to which the proposal describes how the materials, documents and media produced will be made freely available and promoted through open licences, and does not contain disproportionate limitations.
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To be considered for funding, proposals must score at least 60 points. Furthermore, they must score at least 13 points in each of the categories of award criteria mentioned above.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT A JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE?

DISSEMINATION AND IMPACT

Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence are required to disseminate and exploit the results of the organised teaching and research activities beyond the stakeholders directly involved. This will considerably increase the impact and contribute to a systemic change.

To increase their impact they should include in their dissemination activities the creation and offer of open educational resources (OER) and involve open education activities to respond to technological progress. This will foster more flexible and creative ways of learning and reach out to a considerably increasing number of students, professionals, policy makers and other interested groups.

Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence will be asked to update their respective section of the Erasmus+ specific online tool where all the information about the Jean Monnet Activities will be hosted. They will be strongly encouraged to use the relevant existing platforms and tools (i.e. the Jean Monnet directory, the Jean Monnet virtual community). These functions, as part of the general IT tool for Erasmus+, will ensure that the wider public is informed about the institutions and their Jean Monnet courses. Grant holders will be asked to regularly update the tool with the results of their work.

Centres of Excellence are encouraged to:

- participate in dissemination and information events at European and national level;
- organise events (lectures, seminars, workshops, etc.) with policy makers at local, regional and national level as well as with organised civil society and schools;
- disseminate the results of their activities via the organisation of seminars or lectures geared and adapted to the general public and civil society representatives;
- network with other Centres of Excellence, Jean Monnet Chairs, coordinators of Modules and supported Institutions;
- apply open educational resources (OER), publish the summaries, content and schedule of their activities as well as the expected outcomes.