

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

European Community — Canada

Programme for cooperation in higher education and training

Fifth call for proposals

DG EAC 09/00

(2000/C 58/05)

CONTEXT

On 27 November 1995, the Council adopted a Decision concerning the conclusion of a European Community — Canada programme for cooperation in higher education and training.

This fifth call for proposals refers to the major element of the programme which is the encouragement of joint projects undertaken by consortia of higher education institution training establishments and other relevant organisations on both sides of the Atlantic. The joint consortia programme will be administered on behalf of the European Community by the European Commission Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) and, on behalf of the Canadian Government, by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).

OBJECTIVES

The cooperation programme aims at adding a new European Community/Canadian dimension to student-centred cooperation and to bring balanced benefits to both the European Community and Canada.

The specific objectives are to:

- (a) promote closer understanding between the peoples of the European Community and Canada including broader knowledge of their languages, cultures and institutions;
- (b) improve the quality of human resource development in both the European Community and Canada;
- (c) improve the quality of transatlantic student mobility, including promotiny transparency, mutual recognition and thus portability of academics credits;
- (d) Encourage exchange of expertise in new developments in higher education and training, including training in new

technologies and the use of distance education, for the mutual enrichment of practice in the European Community and Canada;

- (e) form or enhance partnerships among higher education and training institutions, professional associations, public authorities, business and other associations as appropriate in both the European Community and Canada;
- (f) introduce a European Community and Canadian added-value dimension to transatlantic cooperation in higher education and training which complements existing forms of bilateral cooperation between Member States of the European Community and Canada as well as other programmes and initiatives.

SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMME

The objectives of the programme are to be achieved by promoting an innovative range of student-centred higher education and training cooperative activities between the different regions of the European Community and Canada through the encouragement of joint projects undertaken by European Community/Canadian consortia.

The programme is a small-scale initiative supporting in this fifth selection round approximately six original projects which can only or best be carried out through multilateral groupings. It is not intended to duplicate activities which are or can be carried out on a bilateral basis between the individual Member States of the European Community and Canada.

THE CONSORTIA PARTNERSHIPS

Each joint consortium must involve **at least three active partners on each side**. These must include at least **two** partner higher education or training institutions on each side in **different** Member States of the European Community and in **different** Provinces of Canada. Third and subsequent partners may be other education and training institutions or other relevant organisations (e.g. businesses, NGOs, publishers, government departments, chambers of commerce, research institutes) in the same or other Member States and Provinces.

Programme funding, however, is intended only for the academic/training institutions in each consortium. It is vital that all academic/training institutions participate fully in the consortium.

Previous experience as a partner in a European Community Education/Training Programme (e.g. Leonardo da Vinci, Socrates, Tempus) is an eligibility criterion for the European Community lead partner in an EC/Canada consortium. Details, including reference numbers, should be given regarding all such involvement(s).

THE COOPERATIVE PROJECTS

The focus of projects should be on innovative activities which meet a majority of the aforementioned Programme objectives.

Although all disciplinary fields including new subject areas and cross-disciplinary studies are eligible for consideration, proposals will wish to demonstrate their particular relevance to the transatlantic character of the Programme. Attention could for example be paid to:

- *Canadian/European Community relations*: economic integration, law and administration, federal and Community structures, social policy, regional policy, conflict resolution,
- *areas of contemporary policy relevance*,
- *pedagogically evolving areas* where the frontiers of knowledge are advancing including multi-disciplinary studies. This might include the production of new course materials or innovative delivery of such materials, e.g. through interactive media,
- *creating links between vocational education and training and industry*, including possible transatlantic placements.

This listing, however, is by no means exhaustive.

THE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

Consortia may seek programme support for one or more types of activity as an integrated element of the project. Consortia should thus aim to pursue a coherent strategy rather than engage in a range of diverse activities. A major element of each consortium (with rare and justified exceptions) will be student mobility.

Transatlantic cooperative activities eligible for support are:

- development of organisational frameworks for student mobility, including work placements, which will provide adequate language preparation and full academic recognition,

- structured exchanges of students, teachers, trainers and administrators in higher education institutions and training establishments, including work placements as appropriate,
- joint development of innovative curricula, teaching materials, methods and modules including those exploiting the new education technologies,
- short intensive programmes of a minimum of three/four weeks,
- teaching assignments forming an integral part of the curriculum in a partner institution,
- other innovative projects, including the use of new technologies and distance learning, which aim to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of transatlantic cooperation in higher education and training.

Consortia activities should be student-centred. This requirement is intended to emphasise that the joint consortia projects should be concerned with teaching and learning activities and **not** with faculty research cooperation between the partners.

It should also be remembered that this is a transatlantic cooperation programme and that the main focus of activities should therefore be on transatlantic rather than intra-European or intra Canadian interactions.

THE STUDENTS

Students should benefit from the project through the introduction of an appropriate international (European Community/Canada) perspective into their studies (for mobile and non-mobile students):

- for mobile students, this should include the development of a structured framework for transatlantic student exchanges between consortium partners;
- for non-mobile students, this may include providing some kind of 'virtual-mobility' through the use of the new educational technologies for students who do not have the opportunity to study abroad.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, there should be student mobility between each transatlantic partner institution during the life of the project, whether or not directly funded by the programme.

The objective of the student mobility component of the projects should be to develop structured opportunities designed to increase in the longer term the number of students studying abroad where full recognition is given by the home institution for studies successfully undertaken. Arrangements to be developed should aim at the full integration of students into the normal academic cultural milieu

of the host institution and community. The study period abroad may include, as appropriate, a supervised, practical work placement where this is recognised as fulfilling part of the degree requirement. The content of the study programme must be agreed in writing by the home and host institution and the individual student concerned before his/her departure. This should indicate the home institution's assurance that the study abroad, if successfully completed, will be recognised as replacing a comparable period of study in the home institution.

A main objective of this programme is to encourage and enable students to spend transatlantic study periods in a country or region in which they can experience a different academic, cultural and linguistic milieu from their home region. It is important, therefore, that measures to be taken by the partner institutions for the cultural and linguistic preparation of students be clearly addressed in the proposal. **All students should receive cultural preparation for their foreign stay and all students spending a study period in a country whose official language is not their own should receive preparation in the host country's language both before and after departure.**

In the realisation of the objectives of this programme, the Commission will ensure that the general policy of the Community of equal opportunities between men and women is fully respected.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Selection will be undertaken jointly by the European Commission Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) and, on behalf of the Canadian Government, by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), assisted by panels of independent experts. On the European side a first selection will be made based on the eligibility of the applicant. The selection/eligibility criteria are: proper legal status, financial viability, professional integrity and, technical capacity. Incomplete proposals will not be taken in consideration. While overall attention will be paid to obtaining a good geographical and topical spread, proposals from eligible applicants will be primarily judged on the following sets of joint award criteria: significance of the proposed project, quality of the proposed project and adequacy of resources, weighted equally.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Financial support will be awarded to successful consortia for up to a maximum of three years. Awards are intended to provide seed-funding for carrying out joint innovative projects which can be accomplished within three years or which can, once established, be continued without on-going Programme support.

Funding will be awarded to successful consortia via the lead partners on both sides. The European Commission (DG EAC)

will provide a total of EUR 600 000 to support the participation of the European Community institutions and students in these consortia. Canada will provide approximately CAD 1 200 000 for its participants. It is expected that six consortia will be supported.

For a three-year project, the maximum level of funding for each consortium is EUR 130 000 for the EC group which includes up to EUR 12 000 per consortium partner earmarked for transatlantic student mobility grants. The European Commission (DG EAC) grant will not exceed 50 % of the total project costs on the European side. The maximum funding for each Canadian group, including financial support for students, will be CAD 200 000. Student grants are intended as a contribution towards the financial support of students during a transatlantic study period abroad (travel, higher cost of living, health insurance).

The following expenditures are eligible: administrative costs that are directly related to the project, costs for EC-Canada travel (fares and per diem), intra EC travel (fares and per diem), costs for transatlantic student mobility (maximum of EUR 12 000 per European consortium partner, costs for ECTS-counselling (EUR 4 000), other costs directly related to the implementation and self-evaluation of the project and/or consolidation of results.

PROGRESS REPORTS

The projects will be carefully monitored by the European Community and Canadian funding bodies. Each year an annual financial statement and report, indicating how far the stated objectives have been achieved, must be sent to the funding bodies. In addition to this, the project leaders are expected to meet with the funding bodies as necessary in either Europe or Canada.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR EUROPEAN COMMUNITY APPLICANTS

The Common Guidelines and application forms are available:

— at the Europa Server Internet address, downloadable at

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg22/call.html> (DG EAC Programmes),

— at the main Commission Offices in the Member States,

— at the national agencies for Socrates/Erasmus and the National coordination Units for Leonardo (*one in each Member State*).

In both the EC and Canada, proposals should be sent by registered post or delivered by hand **at the latest by 31 May 2000.**