MODEL GRANT AGREEMENT
LUMP SUM GRANTS

(LUMP SUM MGA —KEY ACTION 2)

- Options *[in green square brackets]*: the applicable option must be chosen, not chosen options should be deleted.
- For fields in [grey in square brackets]: fill in the appropriate data/information.
- Text in green are internal instructions and should be deleted.
- This template applies to the following Erasmus+ actions:
    - Key Action 2:
        - Cooperation partnerships
        - Small-scale partnerships

GRANT AGREEMENT FOR THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME[1]

Project [insert number] — [insert title – if applicable]

PREAMBLE

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

on the one part,

the **National Agency** ('NA'), ('granting authority'),

[full official name of the NA]

[official legal form]

[official registration No]

[official address in full]

[functional mailbox of the NA]

[VAT number],

represented for the purposes of signature of this Agreement by [forename and surname, function]

and

on the other part,

the '**the coordinator**':

[**full official name**], OID [number], established in [legal official address in full],

[official legal form] [if applicable]

[1] Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013.

[official registration No] [if applicable]

[email address]

[VAT number], [if applicable]

[Option for HE - ECHE:

Erasmus Code : [e.g. B BRUXEL01]: <insert code>]*/*

represented for the purpose of signature of this Agreement by [forename and surname, function]

and the beneficiaries as identified in Annex 1, if they sign their 'accession form' (see Annex 3 and Article 40):

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

The parties referred to above have agreed to enter into the Agreement.

By signing the Agreement and the accession forms, the beneficiaries accept the grant and agree to implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

The Agreement is composed of:

Terms and Conditions

Annex 1 Description of the action, list of other beneficiaries and estimated budget for the action

Annex 2 Specific rules

Annex 3 Accession form for beneficiaries

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GRANT AGREEMENT FOR THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME 1
TERMS AND CONDITIONS 4
DATA SHEET 10
CHAPTER 1 GENERAL 14
ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT 14
ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS 14
CHAPTER 2 ACTION 15
ARTICLE 3 — ACTION 15
ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE 15
CHAPTER 3 GRANT 15
ARTICLE 5 — GRANT 15
5.1 Form of grant 15
5.2 Maximum grant amount 15
5.3 Funding rate 15
5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding 15
5.5 Budget flexibility 15
ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS 16
6.1 General and specific eligibility conditions 16
6.2 Ineligible contributions 16
6.3 Consequences of non-compliance 16
CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION 16
SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPATING ENTITIES 16
ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES 16
ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES 18
ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION 18
9.1 Associated partners 18
9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action 19
9.3 Subcontractors 19
9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties 19
ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPATING ENTITIES WITH SPECIAL STATUS 19
10.1 Non-EU participating entities 19
SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION 20
ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION 20

11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action 20
11.2 Consequences of non-compliance 20
ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS 20
12.1 Conflict of interests 20
12.2 Consequences of non-compliance 20
ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY 21
13.1 Sensitive information 21
13.2 Classified information 21
13.3 Consequences of non-compliance 22
ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES 22
14.1 Ethics 22
14.2 Values 22
14.3 Consequences of non-compliance 22
ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION 22
15.1 Data processing by the granting authority 22
15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries 22
15.3 Consequences of non-compliance 23
ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE 23
16.1 Background and access rights to background 23
16.2 Ownership of results 24
16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes 24
16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background 25
16.5 Consequences of non-compliance 25
ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY 25
17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action 25
17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement 25
17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer 26
17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules 26
17.5 Consequences of non-compliance 27
ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION 27
18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action 27
18.2 Consequences of non-compliance 27
SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION 27
ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS 27
19.1 Information requests 27

19.2 Data updates in the Erasmus+ reporting and management tool 27
19.3 Information about events and circumstances which impact the action 27
19.4 Consequences of non-compliance 28
ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING 28
20.1 Keeping records and supporting documents 28
20.2 Consequences of non-compliance 28
ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING 28
21.1 Continuous reporting 28
21.2 Periodic reporting 28
21.3 Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros 29
21.4 Reporting language 29
21.5 Consequences of non-compliance 29
ARTICLE 22 .....PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE 30
22.1 Payments and payment arrangements 30
22.2 Recoveries 30
22.3 Amounts due 30
22.4 Enforced recovery 33
22.5 Consequences of non-compliance 34
ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES 35
23.1 Prefinancing guarantee 35
23.2 Consequences of non-compliance 35
ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES 35
ARTICLE 25 .....— CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS 35
25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits 35
25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities 37
25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding 37
25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations 37
25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of findings 38
25.6 Consequences of non-compliance 39
ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS 39
CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE 39
SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION 39
ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS 39
27.1 Conditions 39

27.2 Procedure 39
27.3 Effects 39
ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION 40
28.1 Conditions 40
28.2 Procedure 40
28.3 Effects 40
SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION 40
ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION 40
29.1 Conditions 40
29.2 Procedure 41
ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION 41
30.1 Conditions 41
30.2 Procedure 41
ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION 42
31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension 42
31.2 Granting Authority-initiated GA suspension 42
ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION 43
32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination 43
32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination 44
32.3 Granting Authority-initiated GA or beneficiary termination 45
SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS 48
ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES 48
33.1 Liability of the granting authority 48
33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries 48
ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES 49
SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE 49
ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE 49
CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS 49
ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES 49
36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management 49
36.2 Date of communication 50
ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT 50
ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES 50
ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS 50
39.1 Conditions 50
39.2 Procedure 50

ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES....51
40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble....51
40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries....51
ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT....51
ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY....51
ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES....52
43.1 Applicable law....52
43.2 Dispute settlement....52
ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE....52
1. SUBCONTRACTING (Article 9.3)....54
2. Data protection (— Article 15)....54
2.1 REPORTING ON COMPLIANCE WITH DATA PROTECTION OBLIGATIONS....54
3. Intellectual property rights (IPR) — Background and results — Access rights and rights of use (— Article 16)....54
3.1 LIST OF BACKGROUND....54
3.2 EDUCATION MATERIALS....54
4. Communication, dissemination and visibility (— Article 17.4)....54
4.1 ERASMUS+ PROJECT RESULTS PLATFORM....55
5. Specific rules for carrying out the action (— Article 18)....55
5.1 EU RESTRICTIVE MEASURES....55
6. Reporting (— Article 21)....55
6.1 ERASMUS+ REPORTING AND MANAGEMENT TOOL....55
6.2 PERIODIC REPORT AND PROGRESS REPORT....55
6.3 FINAL REPORT....55
6.4 ASSESSMENT OF THE FINAL REPORT....56
7. Amount due (— Article 22.3)....56
8. Checks, reviews, audits and investigations (— Article 25)....56
8.1 DESK CHECK....57
8.2 ON-THE-SPOT CHECKS....57
8.3 SYSTEMS CHECK....57
9. Grant reduction (— Article 28)....57
10. Communication between the parties (— Article 36)....58
11. Inclusion support for participants with fewer opportunities....59
12. Protection and safety of participants....59
13. Monitoring and evaluation of accreditations....59
14. Beneficiaries located in third countries not associated to the Programme....59

15. Youthpass certificate 59
16. Any additional provisions required by the national law 60

DATA SHEET

1. General data

Project summary – if applicable see Annex 1

Project number: [project number generated by PMM]

Project title: [full title if applicable]

Call: [call ID, e.g. PROGRAMME-CALLABREVIATION-YEAR]

Type of action: [e.g. Cooperation Partnership/Small-scale partnership]

Granting authority: National Agency

Project start date: [dd/mm/yyyy]

Project end date: [dd/mm/yyyy]

Project duration: [number of months/days, e.g. 36 months]

Consortium agreement: *[Option 1:* Yes*] [Option 2:* No*]*

2. Participating entities

List of participating entities: see Annex 1

3. Grant

Maximum grant amount awarded: EUR [insert amount]

Grant form: Lump Sum for *[Option 1: small-scale partnerships] [Option 2: cooperation partnerships]*

Grant mode: Action grant

Budget categories/activity types: Lump sum contributions

Budget flexibility: No

4. Reporting, payments and recoveries

4.1 Continuous reporting (art 21)

Deliverables: *[Option if no progress report(s)*: No] *[Option if progress report(s):* Yes]

4.2 Periodic reporting and payments

Reporting and payment schedule (art 21, 22)**:**

Reporting					Payments	
Reporting periods			Type	Deadline[2]	Type	Deadline (time to pay)
RP No	Date From	Date to				

[2] The recommended deadline is 60 days. The NA can adapt this deadline but not below 30 days.

					Pre-financing	[*one pre-financing in one instalment*] 30 days, either from the entry into force of the Agreement or from the receipt of the prefinancing guarantee, whichever is the latest] [*one pre-financing in two instalments* – First instalment: 30 days, either from the entry into force of the Agreement or from the receipt of the pre-financing guarantee, whichever is the latest Second instalment - By [NA insert date]]
[1] *optional if second pre-financing*[3]	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	Periodic report	[60] days after end of reporting period	Second pre-financing,	60 days from receiving the periodic report
[2] *optional if third pre-financing*	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	Periodic report	[60] days after end of reporting period	Third pre-financing,	60 days from receiving the periodic report
[3] *optional if progress report*	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	Progress report	[60] days after end of reporting period	Not applicable	Not applicable
[4]	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	Final report	[60] days after end of reporting period	Final payment	60 days from receiving final report

Prefinancing payments and guarantees:

Option 1 – one pre-financing [with one or more instalment(s)]

Pre-financing payment		**Pre-financing guarantee**
Type	**Amount**	**Guarantee amount***
Pre-financing	[amount] *[80% of the grant amount]* *[Option if two instalments*: 1st instalment [amount] *[between 40 and 60 the grant amount]* 2nd instalment [amount] [*Between 20 and 40% of the grant amount]*	/[amount] N/A *[if no guarantee requested]*

[3] Mandatory to proceed with at least two pre-financing if the duration of the project is more than 24 months.

* The amount of the financial guarantee must be the same as the amount of the pre-financing payment.

Option 2 [two] [three], etc. pre-financings

Pre-financing payment		Pre-financing guarantee
Type	**Amount**	**Guarantee amount***
Pre-financing 1	[amount] *[40% of the grant amount]*	/[amount] N/A*[if no guarantee requested]*
Pre-financing 2	[amount] *[max 40 %. of the grant amount]*	/[amount N/A *[if no guarantee requested]]*
Pre-financing 3	[amount] *[NA to adapt the amount based on PF1 and PF2 – total of PF max 80%.]*	

* The amount of the financial guarantee must be the same as the amount of the pre-financing payment.

Reporting and payment modalities (art 21, 22)**:**

No-profit rule: n/a

Late payment interest: ECB + 3.5%

Denomination of the bank account holder:

Bank account for payments:

[IBAN_account_number_and_SWIFT/BIC,_e.g._IT75Y0538703601000000198049; GEBABEBB]

Conversion into euros: n/a

Reporting language: All request for payments and reporting must be submitted in *[NA to specify the admissible languages]*

4.3 Certificates (art 24)

n/a

4.4 Recoveries (art 22)

First-line liability for recoveries:

Beneficiary termination: Beneficiary concerned

Final payment: Coordinator

After final payment: Beneficiary concerned

Joint and several liability for enforced recoveries (in case of non-payment):

[OPTION 1 by default: Limited joint and several liability of other beneficiaries — up to the maximum grant amount of the beneficiary*)] [OPTION 2 if selected for the grant:* Unconditional joint and several liability of other beneficiaries — up to the maximum grant amount for the action*] [OPTION 3 if selected for the grant:* Individual financial responsibility: Each beneficiary is liable only for its own debts*]*

5. Consequences of non-compliance, applicable law & dispute settlement forum

Applicable law (art 43)**:**

EU beneficiaries: Standard applicable law regime: EU law + national law of the Member State of the granting authority.

Non-EU beneficiaries: Special applicable law regime: EU law + national law of the country of the granting authority + general principles governing the law of international organisations and the general rules of international law.

Dispute settlement forum (art 43)**:**

Standard dispute settlement forum:

EU beneficiaries: competent national courts of the Member State of the granting authority.

Non-EU beneficiaries: Courts of Brussels, Belgium (unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements).

6. Other

Specific rules (Annex 2): Yes

- Data protection
- Additional provisions on pre-existing rights and the use of results (including intellectual and industrial property rights
- Communication, Dissemination and Visibility
- Specific rules for carrying out the action
- Reporting
- Amount due
- Checks, reviews, audits and investigations
- Grant reduction
- Communication between the parties
- Inclusion support for participants with fewer opportunities
- Protection and safety of participants
- *[Option for HE –* Monitoring and evaluation of accreditations]
- Beneficiaries located in the third countries not associated to the programme
- *[Option for youth –* Youthpass certificate]
- Any additional provisions required by the national law

Standard time-limits after project end:

Confidentiality: 5 years after final payment

Record-keeping: 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000) years after final payment

Reviews: up to 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000) years after final payment

Audits: up to 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000) years after final payment

Extension of findings from other grants to this grant: up to 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000) years after the final payment

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement sets out the rights and obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded for the implementation of the action set out in Chapter 2.

ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following definitions apply:

Action — The project which is being funded in the context of this Agreement.

Grant — The grant awarded in the context of this Agreement.

Participating entities — Entities participating in the action as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties.

Participants in Erasmus+ project activities — Erasmus+ participants are those individuals who are fully involved in a project and who may receive part of the European Union grant intended to cover their costs of participation (notably travel and subsistence).

Beneficiaries (BEN) — The signatories of this Agreement (either directly or through an accession form).

Associated partners (AP) — Entities which participate in the action, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.

Purchases — Contracts for goods, works or services needed to carry out the action (e.g. equipment, consumables and supplies) but which are not part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

Subcontracting — Contracts for goods, works or services that are part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

In-kind contributions — In-kind contributions within the meaning of Article 2(36) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties.

Fraud — Fraud within the meaning of Article 3 of EU Directive 2017/1371[4] and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995[5], as well as any other wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.

Irregularities — Any type of breach (regulatory or contractual) which could impact the EU financial interests, including irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation 2988/95.

[4] Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

[5] OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

Grave professional misconduct — Any type of unacceptable or improper behaviour in exercising one's profession, especially by employees, including grave professional misconduct within the meaning of Article 138(1)(c) of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509[6].

Applicable EU, international and national law — Any legal acts or other (binding or non-binding) rules and guidance in the area concerned.

CHAPTER 2 ACTION

ARTICLE 3 — ACTION

The grant is awarded for the action set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 1) as described in Annex 1.

ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE

The duration and the starting date of the action are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 1).

CHAPTER 3 GRANT

ARTICLE 5 — GRANT

5.1 Form of grant

The grant is an action grant[7] which takes the form of a lump sum grant.

5.2 Maximum grant amount

The maximum grant amount is set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) and in the estimated budget (Annex 1).

5.3 Funding rate

Not applicable

5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding

The estimated budget for the action (lump sum breakdown) is set out in Annex 1.

It contains the estimated eligible contributions for the action (lump sum contributions), broken down by beneficiary and work package and activities.

5.5 Budget flexibility

Changes to the estimated budget for each work package/activity always require an amendment (see Article 39).

---

[6] 'Professional misconduct' includes in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

[7] For the definition, see Article 180(2)(a) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: 'action grant' means an EU grant to finance "an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective". See Article 125 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

Amendments for transfers between *work packages/activities* are possible only if:

- the work packages concerned are not already completed (and declared in a financial statement) and
- the transfers are justified by the technical implementation of the action.

ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

6.1 General and specific eligibility conditions

Lump sum contributions are eligible ('eligible contributions'), if:

(a) they are set out in Annex 1 and

(b) the work packages or the activities, as applicable are completed and the work is properly implemented by the beneficiaries and/or the results are achieved, in accordance with Annex 1 and during the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of work/results relating to the submission of the final report, which may be achieved afterwards; see Article 21)

They will be calculated on the basis of the amounts set out in Annex 1.

6.2 Ineligible contributions

'Ineligible contributions' are:

(a) lump sum contributions that do not comply with the conditions set out above (see Article 6.1

(b) lump sum contributions for activities already funded under other EU grants (or grants awarded by an EU Member State, non-EU country or other body implementing the EU budget).

6.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary declares lump sum contributions that are ineligible, they will be rejected (see Article 27).

This may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPATING ENTITIES

ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries, as signatories of the Agreement, are fully responsible towards the granting authority for implementing it and for complying with all its obligations.

They must implement the Agreement to their best abilities, in good faith and in accordance with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

They must have the appropriate resources to implement the action and implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with Article 11. If they rely on affiliated entities or other participating entities (see Articles 8 and 9), they retain sole responsibility towards the granting authority and the other beneficiaries.

They are jointly responsible for the *technical* implementation of the action. If one of the beneficiaries

fails to implement their part of the action, the other beneficiaries must ensure that this part is implemented by someone else (without being entitled to an increase of the maximum grant amount and subject to an amendment; see Article 39). The *financial* responsibility of each beneficiary in case of recoveries is governed by Article 22.

The beneficiaries (and their action) must remain eligible under the EU programme funding the grant for the entire duration of the action. Lump sum contributions will be eligible only as long as the beneficiary and the action are eligible.

The **internal roles and responsibilities** of the beneficiaries are divided as follows:

(a) Each beneficiary must:

(i) keep information stored in the Erasmus+ reporting and management tool to date (see Article 19)

(ii) inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) immediately of any events or circumstances likely to affect significantly or delay the implementation of the action (see Article 19)

(iii) submit to the coordinator in good time:

- the prefinancing guarantees (if required; see Article 23)
- the contribution to the deliverables and technical reports (see Article 21)
- any other documents or information required by the granting authority under the Agreement

(b) The coordinator must:

(i) monitor that the action is implemented properly (see Article 11)

(ii) act as the intermediary for all communications between the consortium and the granting authority, unless the Agreement or granting authority specifies otherwise, and in particular:

- submit the pre-financing guarantees to the granting authority (if any)
- request and review any documents or information required and verify their quality and completeness before passing them on to the granting authority
- submit the deliverables and reports to the granting authority
- inform the granting authority about the payments made to the other beneficiaries (report on the distribution of payments; if required, see Articles 22 and 32)

(iii) distribute the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries without unjustified delay (see Article 22).

The coordinator may not delegate or subcontract the above-mentioned tasks to any other beneficiary or third party (including affiliated entities).

However, coordinators which are public bodies may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(ii) last

indent and (iii) above to entities with 'authorisation to administer' which they have created or which are controlled by them. In this case, the coordinator retains sole responsibility for the payments and for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Moreover, coordinators which are 'sole beneficiaries'[8] may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(i) to (iii) above to one of their members. The coordinator retains sole responsibility for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must have **internal arrangements** regarding their operation and coordination, to ensure that the action is implemented properly.

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 1), these arrangements must be set out in a written **consortium agreement** between the beneficiaries, covering for instance:

- the internal organisation of the consortium
- the management of access to Erasmus+ reporting and management tool
- different distribution keys for the payments and financial responsibilities in case of recoveries (if any)
- additional rules on rights and obligations related to background and results (see Article 16)
- settlement of internal disputes
- liability, indemnification and confidentiality arrangements between the beneficiaries.

The internal arrangements must not contain any provision contrary to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES

Not applicable.

ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION

9.1 Associated partners

If any, the 'associated partners' are indicated in Annex 1.

Associated partners must implement the action tasks attributed to them in Annex 1 in accordance with Article 11. They may not charge contributions to the action (no lump sum contributions) and the costs for their tasks are not eligible.

The tasks must be set out in Annex 1.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interests), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (recordkeeping) also apply to the associated partners.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF,

[8] For the definition, see Article 187(2) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: "Where several entities satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant and together form one entity, that entity may be treated as the **sole beneficiary**, including where it is specifically established for the purpose of implementing the action financed by the grant."

Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the associated partners.

9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action

Other third parties may give in-kind contributions to the action (i.e. personnel, equipment, other goods, works and services, etc. which are free-of-charge), if necessary for the implementation.

Third parties giving in-kind contributions do not implement any action tasks. They may not charge contributions to the action (no lump sum contributions) and the costs for the in-kind contributions are not eligible (may not be included in the estimated budget in Annex 1).

The third parties and their in-kind contributions should be set out in Annex 1.

9.3 Subcontractors

Subcontractors may participate in the action, if necessary for the implementation.

Subcontractors must implement their action tasks in accordance with Article 11. The beneficiaries' costs for subcontracting are considered entirely covered by the lump sum contributions for implementing the work packages (irrespective of the actual subcontracting costs incurred, if any).

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (recordkeeping) also apply to the subcontractors.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the subcontractors.

Specific security rules are set out in Annex 2.

9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties[9]

If the action includes providing financial support to third parties (e.g. grants, prizes or similar forms of support), the beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the third parties receiving the support (recipients).

If the beneficiaries have to give support to participants in project activities, the beneficiaries shall provide such support in accordance with the conditions specified in Annex 2.

The beneficiaries must also ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the recipients.

ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPATING ENTITIES WITH SPECIAL STATUS

10.1 Non-EU participating entities

Participating entities which are established in a non-EU country (if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles,

[9] Third parties under Erasmus+ are to be understood as individuals who are fully involved in a project and who may receive part of the European Union grant intended to cover their costs of participation (notably travel and subsistence).

environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)

- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use qualified external auditors which are independent and comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC[10]

- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for checks, reviews, audits and investigations (including on-the-spot checks, visits and inspections) by the bodies mentioned in that Article (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.).

Special rules on dispute settlement apply (see Data Sheet, Point 5).

SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION

11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action

The beneficiaries must implement the action as described in Annex 1 and in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement, the call conditions and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law.

11.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

12.1 Conflict of interests

The beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Agreement could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest ('conflict of interests').

They must formally notify the granting authority without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The granting authority may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

12.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the beneficiary may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

[10] Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

13.1 Sensitive information

The parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as sensitive in writing ('sensitive information') — during the implementation of the action and for at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

If a beneficiary requests, the granting authority may agree to keep such information confidential for a longer period.

Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use sensitive information only to implement the Agreement.

The beneficiaries may disclose sensitive information to their personnel or other participating entities involved in the action only if they:

(a) need to know it in order to implement the Agreement and

(b) are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The granting authority may disclose sensitive information to its staff and to other EU institutions and bodies.

It may moreover disclose sensitive information to third parties, if:

(a) this is necessary to implement the Agreement or safeguard the EU financial interests and

(b) the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:

(a) the disclosing party agrees to release the other party

(b) the information becomes publicly available, without breaching any confidentiality obligation

(c) the disclosure of the sensitive information is required by EU, international or national law.

Specific confidentiality rules (if any) are set out in Annex 2.

13.2 Classified information

The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/444[11] and its implementing rules).

Deliverables which contain classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving classified information may be subcontracted only after explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

Classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participating entities involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting

[11] Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444/EC of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

authority.

Specific security rules (if any) are set out in Annex 2.

13.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES

14.1 Ethics

The action must be carried out in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.

14.2 Values

The beneficiaries must commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

14.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION

15.1 Data processing by the granting authority

Any personal data under the Agreement will be processed under the responsibility of the data controller identified in the privacy statement in accordance with the applicable data protection legislation, in particular Regulation (EU) 2018/1725[12] and related national data protection acts and for the purposes set out in the Privacy Statement available at https://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-esc-personal-data.

15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must process personal data under the Agreement in compliance with the applicable EU, international and national law on data protection (in particular, Regulation 2016/679[13] and

[12] 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.

[13] Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC ('GDPR') (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

Regulation 2018/1725[14]). The beneficiaries act as processors in this processing activity.
They must ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subjects
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data.

The beneficiaries may grant their personnel access to personal data only if it is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement. The beneficiaries must ensure that the personnel is under a confidentiality obligation.
The beneficiaries must inform the persons whose data are transferred to the granting authority and provide them with the Privacy Statement available at https://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-esc-personal-data.

15.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE

16.1 Background and access rights to background

The beneficiaries must give each other and the other participating entities access to the background identified as needed for implementing the action, subject to any specific rules in Annex 2.

'Background' means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights — that is:

(a) held by the beneficiaries before they acceded to the Agreement and

(b) needed to implement the action or exploit the results.

If background is subject to rights of a third party, the beneficiary concerned must ensure that it is able to comply with its obligations under the Agreement.

[14] 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

16.2 Ownership of results

The granting authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced under the action.

'Results' means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes

The granting authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the action and materials and documents received from the beneficiaries (notably summaries for publication, deliverables, as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes — during the action or afterwards.

The right to use the beneficiaries' materials, documents and information is granted in the form of a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence, which includes the following rights:

(a) **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)

(b) **distribution to the public** (in particular, publication as hard copies and in electronic or digital format, publication on the internet, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file, broadcasting by any channel, public display or presentation, communicating through press information services, or inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes)

(c) **editing or redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, inserting other elements (e.g. meta-data, legends, other graphic, visual, audio or text elements), extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts, use in a compilation)

(d) **translation**

(e) **storage** in paper, electronic or other form

(f) **archiving**, in line with applicable document-management rules

(g) the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties the modes of use set out in Points (b), (c), (d) and (f), if needed for the information, communication and publicity activity of the granting authority and

(h) **processing**, analysing, aggregating the materials, documents and information received and **producing derivative works**.

The rights of use are granted for the whole duration of the industrial or intellectual property rights concerned.

If materials or documents are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

Where applicable, the granting authority will insert the following information:

> "© - [year] - [name of the copyright owner]. All rights reserved. Licensed to the [name of granting authority] under conditions."

16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background

Specific rules regarding intellectual property rights, results and background (if any) are set out in Annex 2.

16.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY

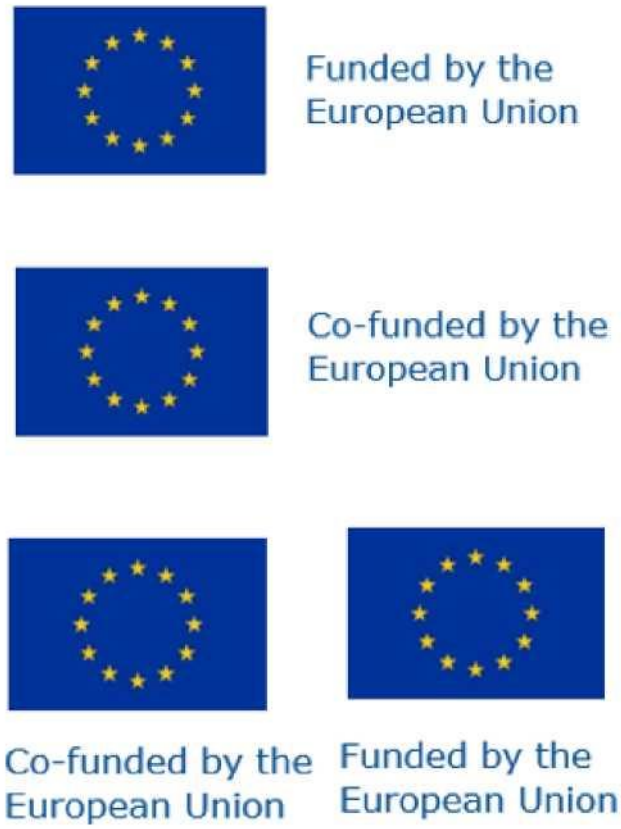
17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the beneficiaries must promote the action and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex 1 and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the beneficiaries must inform the granting authority.

17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by the grant must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):



The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text. Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the beneficiaries may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the action must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

> "Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them. "

17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules

Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules (if any) are set out in Annex 2.

17.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action

Specific rules for implementing the action are set out in Annex 2.

18.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS

19.1 Information requests

The beneficiaries must provide — during the action or afterwards and in accordance with Article 7 — any information requested in order to verify eligibility of the lump sum contributions declared, proper implementation of the action and compliance with the other obligations under the Agreement.

The information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

19.2 Data updates in the Erasmus+ reporting and management tool

The beneficiaries must keep — at all times, during the action— their information stored in the Erasmus+ reporting and management tool up to date, in particular, their name, address, legal representatives, legal form and organisation type.

19.3 Information about events and circumstances which impact the action

The beneficiaries must immediately inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) of any of the following:

(a) **events** which are likely to affect or delay the implementation of the action or affect the EU's financial interests, in particular:

  (i) changes in their legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour signed before grant signature)

(b) **circumstances** affecting:

  (i) the decision to award the grant or

  (ii) compliance with requirements under the Agreement.

19.4 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING

20.1 Keeping records and supporting documents

The beneficiaries must — at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6) — keep records and other supporting documents to prove the proper implementation of the action (proper implementation of the work and/or achievement of the results as described in Annex 1) in line with the accepted standards in the respective field (if any); beneficiaries do not need to keep specific records on the actual costs incurred.

The records and supporting documents must be made available upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

If there are on-going checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims under the Agreement (including the extension of findings; see Article 25), the beneficiaries must keep these records and other supporting documentation until the end of these procedures.

The beneficiaries must keep the original documents. Digital and digitalised documents are considered originals if they are authorised by the applicable national law. The granting authority may accept non-original documents if they offer a comparable level of assurance.

20.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, lump sum contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING

21.1 Continuous reporting

Where applicable, the coordinator must submit a progress report in accordance with the timing set out in the Data sheet (see Point 4.2) and conditions set in Annex 2.

21.2 Periodic reporting

In addition, the beneficiaries must provide reports to request payments, in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2):

- for additional pre-financing (if any): a **periodic report**
- for final payment: a **final report**.

The periodic reports include a technical and financial part.

The technical part includes an overview of the action implementation. It must be prepared using the template available in the Erasmus+ reporting and management tool.

The financial part of the additional pre-financing periodic report includes a statement on the use of the previous pre-financing payment.

The financial part of the periodic report includes a statement on the use of the previous pre-financing payment.

The financial part of the final report includes the financial statement (consolidated statement of the consortium).

The financial statement must contain the lump sum contributions indicated in Annex 1, for the work packages (KA220) or activities (KA210) that were completed during the reporting period.

For the last reporting period, the beneficiaries may exceptionally also declare partial lump sum contributions for work packages that were not completed (e.g. due to force majeure or technical impossibility).

Lump sum contributions which are not declared in a financial statement will not be taken into account by the granting authority.

By signing the declaration on honour attached to the periodic report (in the Erasmus+ reporting and management tool), the coordinator confirms (on behalf of the consortium) that:

- the information provided is complete, reliable and true
- the lump sum contributions declared are eligible (in particular, that the work packages or activities have been completed, that the work has been properly implemented and/or the results were achieved in accordance with Annex 1; see Article 6)
- the proper implementation and/or achievement can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documents (see Article 20) that will be produced upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Article 25).

In case of recoveries (see Article 22), beneficiaries will be held responsible also for the lump sum contributions declared for their affiliated entities (if any).

21.3 Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros

The financial statements must be drafted in euro.

21.4 Reporting language

The reporting must be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

21.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a report submitted does not comply with this Article, the granting authority may suspend the payment deadline (see Article 29) and apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

If the coordinator breaches its reporting obligations, the granting authority may terminate the grant or the coordinator's participation (see Article 32) or apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 22 PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE

22.1 Payments and payment arrangements

Payments will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

They will be made in euro to the bank account indicated by the coordinator (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) and must be distributed without unjustified delay (restrictions may apply to distribution of the initial prefinancing payment; see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

Payments to this bank account will discharge the granting authority from its payment obligation.

The cost of payment transfers will be borne as follows:

- the granting authority bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the beneficiary bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the party causing a repetition of a transfer bears all costs of the repeated transfer.

Payments by the granting authority will be considered to have been carried out on the date when they are debited to its account.

22.2 Recoveries

Recoveries will be made, if — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — it turns out that the granting authority has paid too much and needs to recover the amounts undue.

The general liability regime for recoveries (first-line liability) is as follows: At final payment, the coordinator will be fully liable for recoveries, even if it has not been the final recipient of the undue amounts. At beneficiary termination or after final payment, recoveries will be made directly against the beneficiaries concerned.

In case of enforced recoveries (see Article 22.4):

- the beneficiaries will be jointly and severally liable for repaying debts of another beneficiary under the Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)

22.3 Amounts due

22.3.1 Prefinancing payments

The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float.

It remains the property of the EU until the final payment.

For **initial prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

For **additional prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are also set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2). However, if the statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment shows that less than 70% was used, the amount set out in the Data Sheet will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount used.

Pre-financing payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

22.3.2 Amount due at beneficiary termination — Recovery

In case of beneficiary termination, the granting authority will determine the provisional amount due for the beneficiary concerned. Payments (if any) will be made with the final payment.

The **amount due** will be calculated based on the total accepted EU contribution.

Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary, on the basis of the beneficiary's lump sum contributions for the work packages which were approved in the periodic and final reports.

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary.

The **balance** is then calculated by deducting the payments received (if any; see report on the distribution of payments in Article 32), from the total accepted EU contribution:

{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary

minus

{pre-financing payments received (if any)}}.

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount due, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered and ask this amount to be paid to the coordinator (**confirmation letter**).

22.3.3 Interim payments

Not applicable

22.3.4 Final payment — Final grant amount — Revenues and Profit — Recovery

The final payment (payment of the balance) reimburses the remaining eligible lump sum contributions claimed for the implemented work packages/activities (if any).

The final payment will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the final report and the work packages/activities declared. Their approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of their content.

Work packages/activities (or parts of them) that have not been delivered or cannot be approved will be rejected (see Article 27).

The **final grant amount for the action** will be calculated based on the total accepted EU contribution.

Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the action for all reporting periods, by calculating the lump sum contributions for the approved work packages.

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution'.

The **balance** (final payment) is then calculated by deducting the total amount of prefinancing payments already made, from the final grant amount:

{final grant amount

minus

{prefinancing payments made (if any)}}.

If the balance is **positive**, it will be **paid** to the coordinator.

The final payment (or part of it) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the final grant amount, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and date for payment.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

22.3.5 Audit implementation after final payment — Revised final grant amount — Recovery

If — after the final payment (in particular, after checks, reviews, audits or investigations; see Article 25) — the granting authority rejects lump sum contributions (see Article 27) or reduces the grant (see Article 28), it will calculate the **revised final grant amount** for the beneficiary concerned.

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The **revised final grant amount** for the beneficiary concerned will be calculated based on the revised total accepted EU contribution:

Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'revised accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary for all reporting periods, by calculating the revised lump sum contributions for the approved work packages.

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting 'revised total accepted EU contribution' is the beneficiary revised final grant amount.

If the revised final grant amount is lower than the beneficiary's final grant amount, it will be **recovered** by deducting the revised final grant amount from the final grant amount:

{ final grant amount for the beneficiary

minus

revised final grant amount for the beneficiary}.

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and the date for payment.

Recoveries against affiliated entities (if any) will be handled through their beneficiaries.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

22.4 Enforced recovery

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the amount due will be recovered:

(a) by offsetting the amount — without the coordinator or beneficiary's consent — against any amounts owed to the coordinator or beneficiary by the granting authority.

In exceptional circumstances, to safeguard the EU financial interests, the amount may be offset before the payment date specified in the debit note.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, debts may also be offset against amounts owed by other Commission services or executive agencies.

(b) by drawing on the financial guarantee(s) (if any)

(c) by holding other beneficiaries jointly and severally liable (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)

(d) by taking legal action (see Article 43).

The amount to be recovered will be increased by **late-payment interest** at the rate set out in Article 22.5, from the day following the payment date in the debit note, up to and including the date the full payment is received.

Partial payments will be first credited against expenses, charges and late-payment interest and then against the principal.

Bank charges incurred in the recovery process will be borne by the beneficiary, unless Directive 2015/2366[15] applies.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency, enforced recovery by offsetting or enforceable decision will be done by the services of the European Commission (see also Article 43).

22.5 Consequences of non-compliance

22.5.1 If the granting authority does not pay within the payment deadlines (see above), the beneficiaries are entitled to **late-payment interest** at the reference rate applied by the European Central Bank (ECB) for its main refinancing operations in euros, plus the percentage specified in the Data Sheet (Point 4.2). The ECB reference rate to be used is the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment deadline expires, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

If the late-payment interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it will be paid to the coordinator only on request submitted within two months of receiving the late payment.

Late-payment interest is not due if all beneficiaries are EU Member States (including regional and local government authorities or other public bodies acting on behalf of a Member State for the purpose of this Agreement).

[15] Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC (OJ L 337, 23.12.2015, p. 35).

If payments or the payment deadline are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30), payment will not be considered as late.

Late-payment interest covers the period running from the day following the due date for payment (see above), up to and including the date of payment.

Late-payment interest is not considered for the purposes of calculating the final grant amount.

22.5.2 If the coordinator breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 29) and the grant or the coordinator may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES

23.1 Prefinancing guarantee

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2), the beneficiaries must provide (one or more) pre-financing guarantee(s) in accordance with the timing and the amounts set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit a financial guarantee to the granting authority together with the application for a pre-financing payment.

The guarantees must fulfil the following conditions:

(a) be provided by a bank or approved financial institution established in the EU or — if requested by the coordinator and accepted by the granting authority — by a third party or a bank or financial institution established outside the EU offering equivalent security

(b) the guarantor stands as first-call guarantor and does not require the granting authority to first have recourse against the principal debtor (i.e. the beneficiary concerned) and

(c) remain explicitly in force until the final payment and, if the final payment takes the form of a recovery, until five months after the debit note is notified to a beneficiary.

They will be released within the following month.

23.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If the beneficiaries breach their obligation to provide the pre-financing guarantee, the pre-financing will not be paid.

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES

Not applicable.

ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS

25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits

25.1.1 Internal checks

The granting authority may — during the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation

of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing lump sum contributions, deliverables and reports.

25.1.2 Project reviews

The granting authority may carry out reviews on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement (general project reviews or specific issues reviews).

Such project reviews may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent, outside experts. If it uses outside experts, the coordinator or beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted. The granting authority may request beneficiaries to provide such information to it directly. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may be requested to participate in meetings, including with the outside experts.

For **on-the-spot** visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises relevant for the implementation of the project (including to the outside experts) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the review findings, a **project review report** will be drawn up.

The granting authority will formally notify the project review report to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations.

Project reviews (including project review reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

25.1.3 Audits

The granting authority may carry out audits on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Such audits may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

The granting authority may use its own audit service, delegate audits to a centralised service or use external audit firms. If it uses an external firm, the beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data) to verify compliance with the Agreement. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in

accordance with Article 13.

For **on-the-spot** visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings, a **draft audit report** will be drawn up.

The auditors will formally notify the draft audit report to the beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations (contradictory audit procedure).

The **final audit report** will take into account observations by the beneficiary concerned and will be formally notified to them.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities

Where the granting authority is not the European Commission, the latter has the same rights of checks, reviews and audits as the granting authority.

25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding

The beneficiaries must give the European Commission access to their statutory records for the periodic assessment of simplified forms of funding which are used in EU programmes.

25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations

The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations — during the action or afterwards:

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013[16] and No 2185/96[17]
- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939
- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If requested by these bodies, the beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data, including in electronic format) and allow access to sites and premises for on-the-spot visits or inspections — as provided for under these Regulations.

To this end, the beneficiary concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (Point 6) and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

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[16] Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1).

[17] Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2).

25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of findings

25.5.1 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations in this grant

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations carried out in the context of this grant may lead to rejections (see Article 27), grant reduction (see Article 28) or other measures described in Chapter 5.

Rejections or grant reductions after the final payment will lead to a revised final grant amount (see Article 22).

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations during the action implementation may lead to a request for amendment (see Article 39), to change the description of the action set out in Annex 1.

Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations in any EU grant may also lead to consequences in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions ('extension to other grants').

Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations in any EU grant may also lead to consequences in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions ('extension to other grants').

Moreover, findings arising from an OLAF or EPPO investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.

25.5.2 Extension from other grants

Findings of checks, reviews, audits or investigations in other grants may be extended to this grant, if:

(a) the beneficiary concerned is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant and

(b) those findings are formally notified to the beneficiary concerned — together with the list of grants affected by the findings — within the time-limit for audits set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned of the intention to extend the findings and the list of grants affected.

If the extension concerns **rejections of costs or contributions**: the notification will include:

(a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings

(b) the request to submit revised financial statements for all grants affected

(c) the correction rate for extrapolation, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors, to calculate the amounts to be rejected, if the beneficiary concerned:

(i) considers that the submission of revised financial statements is not possible or practicable or

(ii) does not submit revised financial statements.

If the extension concerns **grant reductions**: the notification will include:

(a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings and

(b) the **correction rate for extrapolation**, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors and the principle of proportionality.

The beneficiary concerned has **60 days** from receiving notification to submit observations, revised financial statements or to propose a duly substantiated **alternative correction method/rate.**

On the basis of this, the granting authority will analyse the impact and decide on the implementation (i.e. start rejection or grant reduction procedures, either on the basis of the revised financial statements or the announced/alternative method/rate or a mix of those; see Articles 27 and 28).

25.6 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, lump sum contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS

Not applicable.

CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION

ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

27.1 Conditions

The granting authority will — at, beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — reject any lump sum contributions which are ineligible (see Article 6), in particular following checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

The rejection may also be based on the extension of findings from other grants to this grant (see Article 25).

Ineligible lump sum contributions will be rejected.

27.2 Procedure

If the rejection does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the rejection, the amounts and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the rejection (payment review procedure).

If the rejection leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

27.3 Effects

If the granting authority rejects lump sum contributions, it will deduct them from the contributions

declared and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION

28.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — reduce the grant for a beneficiary, if:

(a) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:

(i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or

(ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or

(b) extension of findings: the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings; see Article 25.5).

The amount of the reduction will be calculated for each beneficiary concerned and proportionate to the seriousness and the duration of the errors, irregularities or fraud or breach of obligations, by applying an individual reduction rate to their accepted EU contribution.

28.2 Procedure

If the grant reduction does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the reduction, the amount to be reduced and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the reduction (payment review procedure).

If the grant reduction leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

28.3 Effects

If the granting authority reduces the grant, it will deduct the reduction and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION

ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION

29.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend the payment deadline if a payment cannot be processed because:

(a) the required report (see Article 21) has not been submitted or is not complete or additional information is needed

(b) there are doubts about the amount to be paid (e.g. ongoing extension of findings procedure, queries about eligibility, need for a grant reduction, etc.) and additional checks, reviews, audits or investigations are necessary, or

(c) there are other issues affecting the EU financial interests.

29.2 Procedure

The granting authority will formally notify the coordinator of the suspension and the reasons why.

The suspension will **take effect** the day the notification is sent.

If the conditions for suspending the payment deadline are no longer met, the suspension will be **lifted** — and the remaining time to pay (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) will resume.

If the suspension exceeds two months, the coordinator may request the granting authority to confirm if the suspension will continue.

If the payment deadline has been suspended due to the non-compliance of the report and the revised report is not submitted (or was submitted but is also rejected), the granting authority may also terminate the grant or the participation of the coordinator (see Article 32).

ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION

30.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend payments, in whole or in part for one or more beneficiaries, if:

(a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:

(i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or

(ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or

(b) extension of findings: a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings; see Article 25.5).

If payments are suspended for one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will make partial payment(s) for the part(s) not suspended. If suspension concerns the final payment, the payment (or recovery) of the remaining amount after suspension is lifted will be considered to be the payment that closes the action.

30.2 Procedure

Before suspending payments, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend payments and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

At the end of the suspension procedure, the granting authority will also inform the coordinator.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent.

If the conditions for resuming payments are met, the suspension will be **lifted**. The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned (and the coordinator) and set the suspension end date.

During the suspension, no pre-financing will be paid to the beneficiaries concerned.

ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION

31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension

31.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the suspension of the grant or any part of it, if exceptional circumstances — in particular *force majeure* (see Article 35) — make implementation impossible or excessively difficult.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the suspension takes effect; this date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request and
- the expected date of resumption.

The suspension will **take effect** on the day specified in the amendment.

Once circumstances allow for implementation to resume, the coordinator must immediately request another **amendment** of the Agreement to set the suspension end date, the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the amendment. This date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request.

During the suspension, no pre-financing will be paid. Moreover, no work may be done. Ongoing work packages must be interrupted and no new work packages may be started.

31.2 Granting Authority-initiated GA suspension

31.2.1 Conditions

The granting authority may suspend the grant or any part of it, if:

(a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of

having committed:

(i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or

(ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or

(b) extension of findings: a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings; see Article 25.5).

31.2.2 Procedure

Before suspending the grant, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator

- formally notifying the intention to suspend the grant and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification).

Once the conditions for resuming implementation of the action are met, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator a **lifting of suspension letter**, in which it will set the suspension end date and invite the coordinator to request an amendment of the Agreement to set the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the lifting of suspension letter. This date may be before the date on which the letter is sent.

During the suspension, no pre-financing will be paid. Moreover, no work may be done. Ongoing work packages must be interrupted and no new work packages may be started.

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to suspension by the granting authority (see Article 33).

Grant suspension does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant or a beneficiary (see Article 32) or reduce the grant (see Article 28).

ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION

32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination

32.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the termination of the grant.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the consortium ends work on the action ('end of work date') and
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no reasons are given or if the granting authority considers the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the grant terminated improperly.

32.1.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **final report** (for the open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the lump sum contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Partial lump sum contributions for work packages that were not completed (e.g. due to technical reasons) may exceptionally be taken into account.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only lump sum contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Improper termination may lead to a grant reduction (see Article 28).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination

32.2.1 Conditions and procedure

The coordinator may request the termination of the participation of one or more beneficiaries, on request of the beneficiary concerned or on behalf of the other beneficiaries.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the opinion of the beneficiary concerned (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing)
- the date the beneficiary ends work on the action ('end of work date')
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

If the termination concerns the coordinator and is done without its agreement, the amendment request must be submitted by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the consortium).

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no information is given or if the granting authority considers that the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the beneficiary to have been terminated improperly.

32.2.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

(i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned

(ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work

(iii) a second **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with other amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the reports submitted and taking into account the contributions for completed and approved work packages/activities.

Lump sum contributions for ongoing/not yet completed work packages will have to be included in the periodic report for the next reporting periods when those work packages have been completed.

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the second request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the second request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

Improper termination may lead to a reduction of the grant (see Article 31) or grant termination (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

32.3 Granting Authority-initiated GA or beneficiary termination

32.3.1 Conditions

The granting authority may terminate the grant or the participation of one or more beneficiaries, if:

(a) one or more beneficiaries do not accede to the Agreement (see Article 40)

(b) a change to the action or the legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation

of a beneficiary is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the action or calls into question the decision to award the grant (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour)

(c) following termination of one or more beneficiaries, the necessary changes to the Agreement (and their impact on the action) would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants

(d) implementation of the action has become impossible or the changes necessary for its continuation would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants

(e) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is subject to bankruptcy proceedings or similar (including insolvency, winding-up, administration by a liquidator or court, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities, etc.)

(f) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is in breach of social security or tax obligations

(g) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has been found guilty of grave professional misconduct

(h) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed fraud, corruption, or is involved in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism- related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking

(i) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) was created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin (or created another entity with this purpose)

(j) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:

(i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or

(ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.)

(k) extension of findings: a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings; see Article 25.5)

(l) despite a specific request by the granting authority, a beneficiary does not request — through the coordinator — an amendment to the Agreement to end the participation of one of its associated partners that is in one of the situations under points (d), (f), (e), (g), (h), (i) or (j) and to reallocate its tasks,

32.3.2 Procedure

Before terminating the grant or participation of one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will send **a pre-information letter** to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to terminate and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the termination and the date it will take effect (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

For beneficiary terminations, the granting authority will — at the end of the procedure — also inform the coordinator.

The termination will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification; 'termination date').

32.3.3 Effects

(a) for **GA termination:**

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **final report** (for the last open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the lump sum contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Partial lump sum contributions for work packages that were not completed (e.g. due to technical reasons) may exceptionally be taken into account.

If the grant is terminated for breach of the obligation to submit reports, the coordinator may not submit any report after termination.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only lump sum contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Termination does not affect the granting authority's right to reduce the grant (see Article 28) or to impose administrative sanctions (see Article 34).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to termination by the granting authority (see Article 33).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

(b) for **beneficiary termination:**

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

(i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned

(ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work

(iii) a **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with any amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the reports submitted (i.e. beneficiary's lump sum contributions for completed and approved work packages) and taking into account the contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22).

Lump sum contributions for ongoing/not yet completed work packages/activities will have to be included in the periodic report for the next reporting periods when those work packages/activities have been completed.

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES

33.1 Liability of the granting authority

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the beneficiaries or to third parties as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement, including for gross negligence.

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the beneficiaries or other participating entities involved in the action, as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement.

33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must compensate the granting authority for any damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement, provided that it was caused by gross negligence or wilful act.

The liability does not extend to indirect or consequential losses or similar damage (such as loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts), provided such damage was not caused by wilful act or by a breach of confidentiality.

ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES

Nothing in this Agreement may be construed as preventing the adoption of administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion from EU award procedures and/or financial penalties) or other public law measures, in addition or as an alternative to the contractual measures provided under this Agreement (see, for instance, Articles 135 to 145 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and Articles 4 and 7 of Regulation 2988/95[18]).

SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE

ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE

A party prevented by force majeure from fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement cannot be considered in breach of them.

'Force majeure' means any situation or event that:

- prevents either party from fulfilling their obligations under the Agreement,
- was unforeseeable, exceptional situation and beyond the parties' control,
- was not due to error or negligence on their part (or on the part of other participating entities involved in the action), and
- proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising all due diligence.

Any situation constituting force majeure must be formally notified to the other party without delay, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.

The parties must immediately take all the necessary steps to limit any damage due to force majeure and do their best to resume implementation of the action as soon as possible.

CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES

36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management

Communication under the Agreement (information, requests, submissions, 'formal notifications', etc.) must:

- be made in writing
- clearly identify the Agreement (project number and title if any) and
- using the forms and templates when provided.

Except for formal notifications, the parties should recourse to communications using electronic means.
Formal notifications must be made by registered post with proof of delivery ('formal notification on

[18] Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

paper').

However, formal notifications may be sent electronically if the applicable national law in the Member State concerned allows it, notably with proof of delivery.

36.2 Date of communication

Communications are considered to have been made when they are sent by the sending party (i.e. on the date and time they are sent).

Formal notifications on paper sent by registered post with proof of delivery are considered to have been made on either:

- the delivery date registered by the postal service or
- the deadline for collection at the post office.

ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The provisions in the Data Sheet take precedence over the rest of the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.

Annex 2 takes precedence over the Terms and Conditions; the Terms and Conditions take precedence over the Annexes other than Annex 2.

ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES

In accordance with Regulation No 1182/71[19], periods expressed in days, months or years are calculated from the moment the triggering event occurs.

The day during which that event occurs is not considered as falling within the period.

'Days' means calendar days, not working days.

ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS

39.1 Conditions

The Agreement may be amended, unless the amendment entails changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

Amendments may be requested by any of the parties.

39.2 Procedure

The party requesting an amendment must submit a request for amendment.

The coordinator submits and receives requests for amendment on behalf of the beneficiaries (see Annex 3). If a change of coordinator is requested without its agreement, the submission must be done by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the other beneficiaries).

[19] Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of the Council of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time-limits (OJ L 124, 8/6/1971, p. 1).

The request for amendment must include:

- the reasons why
- the appropriate supporting documents and
- for a change of coordinator without its agreement: the opinion of the coordinator (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing).

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the party receiving the request agrees, it must sign the amendment in the tool within 45 days of receiving notification (or any additional information the granting authority has requested). If it does not agree, it must formally notify its disagreement within the same deadline. The deadline may be extended, if necessary for the assessment of the request. If no notification is received within the deadline, the request is considered to have been rejected.

An amendment **enters into force** on the day of the signature of the receiving party.

An amendment **takes effect** on the date of entry into force or other date specified in the amendment.

ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES

40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble

The beneficiaries which are not coordinator must accede to the grant by signing the accession form (see Annex 3).

They will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of its entry into force (see Article 44).

40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries

In justified cases, the beneficiaries may request the addition of a new beneficiary.

For this purpose, the coordinator must submit a request for amendment in accordance with Article 39. It must include an accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary.

New beneficiaries will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of their accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT

Not applicable

ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY

The beneficiaries may not assign any of their claims for payment against the granting authority to any third party, except if expressly approved in writing by the granting authority on the basis of a reasoned, written request by the coordinator (on behalf of the beneficiary concerned).

If the granting authority has not accepted the assignment or if the terms of it are not observed, the assignment will have no effect on it.

In no circumstances will an assignment release the beneficiaries from their obligations towards the

granting authority.

ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

43.1 Applicable law

For the EU beneficiaries, the Agreement is governed by the applicable EU law, supplemented if necessary by the national law of the Member State of the granting authority.

For the non-EU beneficiaries, the Agreement is governed by the applicable EU law, supplemented if necessary by the national law of the country of the granting authority and by the general principles governing the law of international organisations and the general rules of international law.

43.2 Dispute settlement

If a dispute concerns the interpretation, application or validity of the Agreement, the parties must bring action before the competent national courts of the Member State of the granting authority.

For non-EU beneficiaries (if any), such disputes must be brought before the courts of Brussels, Belgium — unless an international association agreement to the EU programme provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements under Article 272 TFEU.

If a dispute concerns administrative sanctions, offsetting or an enforceable decision under Article 299 TFEU (see Articles 22 and 34), the beneficiaries must bring action before the General Court — or, on appeal, the Court of Justice — under Article 263 TFEU.

ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Agreement will enter into force on the day of the last signature, which is of the granting authority.

SIGNATURES

For the coordinator	For the granting authority
[forename/surname/function]	[forename/surname]
[signature]	[signature]
Done at [place] on [date]	Done at [place] on [date]

ANNEX 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION AND ESTIMATED BUDGET

ANNEX 2 - SPECIFIC RULES

1. SUBCONTRACTING (ARTICLE 9.3)

Subcontracting of services is allowed as long as it does not cover core activities on which the achievement of the objectives of the action directly depends.

2. DATA PROTECTION (— ARTICLE 15)

2.1 REPORTING ON COMPLIANCE WITH DATA PROTECTION OBLIGATIONS

The beneficiaries will report in the final report on the measures put in place for ensuring compliance of its data processing operations with Regulation 2018/1725, in line with the obligations established in the Article 15 at least on the following topics: security of processing, confidentiality of the processing, assistance to the data controller, data retention, contribution to audits, including inspections, establishment of personal data records of all categories of processing activities carried out on behalf of the controller.

3. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE (— ARTICLE 16)

3.1 LIST OF BACKGROUND

The beneficiaries must, where industrial and intellectual property rights (including rights of third parties) exist prior to the Agreement, establish a list of these pre-existing industrial and intellectual property rights, specifying the rights owners.

The coordinator must — before starting the action — submit this list to the granting authority.

3.2 EDUCATION MATERIALS

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[21]. The beneficiaries must ensure that the website address used is valid and up to date. If the website hosting is discontinued the beneficiaries must remove the website from the Organisation Registration System to avoid the risk that the domain is taken over by another party and redirected to other websites.

4. COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY (— ARTICLE 17.4)

The beneficiaries acknowledge the support received under the Erasmus+ programme in all communication and promotional materials, including on websites and social media.

[21] 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 guidelines on visual identity for the beneficiary and other third parties are available at: https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/managing-your-project/communicating-and-raising-eu-visibility_en

4.1 ERASMUS+ PROJECT RESULTS PLATFORM

The coordinator must make the project results available to the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform (http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects)

5. SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION (— ARTICLE 18)

5.1 EU RESTRICTIVE MEASURES

The beneficiaries must ensure that the EU grant does not benefit any affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties that are subject to restrictive measures adopted under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union or Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

6. REPORTING (— ARTICLE 21)

6.1 ERASMUS+ REPORTING AND MANAGEMENT TOOL

The coordinator must make use of the web-based reporting and management tool provided by the European Commission to record all information in relation to the activities undertaken under the project (including activities that were not directly supported with a grant from EU funds) and to complete and submit the periodic and progress report(s) (if available in the Erasmus+ reporting and management tool and for the cases specified in Article 21.2) and final report.

6.2 PERIODIC REPORT AND PROGRESS REPORT

The periodic and progress report include a technical part.

The technical part includes an overview of the action implementation. It must be prepared using the template available in the Erasmus+ reporting and management tool.

By signing the technical report, the beneficiaries confirm that the information provided is complete, reliable and true.

For the periodic report, in addition to the technical part, a financial statement must be provided.

6.3 FINAL REPORT

The final report includes also a technical part.

The technical part includes an overview of the action implementation and the results obtained. It must be prepared using the template available in the Erasmus+ reporting and management tool.

By signing the final report, the beneficiaries confirm that the information provided is complete,

reliable and true.

6.4 ASSESSMENT OF THE FINAL REPORT

The final report will be evaluated on the basis of quality criteria and scored on a total of maximum 100 points. The final report and project results will be assessed by the National Agency, using a common set of quality criteria focusing on:

- The extent to which the project was implemented in line with the approved grant application
- The quality of activities undertaken and their consistency with the project objectives
- The quality of the products and results produced
- The learning outcomes and impact on participants
- For Cooperation Partnerships, the extent to which the project proved to be innovative/complementary to other initiatives
- The extent to which the project proved to add value at EU level
- The extent to which the project implemented effective quality measures as well as measures for evaluating the project's outcomes
- The impact on the participating organisations
- The quality and scope of the dissemination activities undertaken
- The potential wider impact of the project on individuals and organisations beyond the beneficiaries

7. AMOUNT DUE (— ARTICLE 22.3)

The beneficiary must ensure that the activities of the project for which grant support was awarded are eligible in accordance with the rules set out in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide and with this Agreement.

The National Agency will consider ineligible any activity that is not compliant with the rules set out in this Agreement, as complemented by the rules set out in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide,.

The grant amounts corresponding to those activities (including as part of a work package) will be recovered in full.

8. CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS (— ARTICLE 25)

For the purposes of Article 25, the coordinator or the concerned beneficiaries must provide to the National Agency physical or electronic copies of the relevant supporting documents proving that the activities foreseen in the project effectively took place (e.g. minutes of meeting, courses material, project deliverables, etc.), unless the National Agency makes a request for originals to be delivered. The National Agency must return original supporting documents to the concerned beneficiary upon its analysis thereof. If the beneficiary is legally not authorised to send original documents, a copy of the supporting documents will be sent instead.

The project may be subject to further checks: desk check, on-the-spot check and system check. In this context, the beneficiary may be requested by the National Agency to provide additional supporting documents or evidence that are typically required for the type of check.

8.1 DESK CHECK

Desk check is an in-depth check of supporting documents at the National Agency's premises that may be conducted at or after the final report stage.

8.2 ON-THE-SPOT CHECKS

On-the-spot checks are performed by the National Agency at the premises of the beneficiary or at any other premises relevant for the execution of the project. During on-the-spot checks, the beneficiary must make original supporting documentation for all budget categories available for review by the National Agency, and must enable the National Agency access to the recording of project expenses in the beneficiary's accounts.

On-the-spot checks can take the following forms:

a) **On-the-spot check during project implementation**: this check is undertaken during the implementation of the project in order for the National Agency to directly verify the reality and eligibility of all project activities and participants;

b) **On-the-spot check after completion of the project**: this check is undertaken after the end of the project and usually after the verification of the final report.

8.3 SYSTEMS CHECK

The systems check is performed to establish the beneficiary's system for making its regular grant claims in the context of the Programme as well as its compliance with the commitments undertaken as a result of their accreditation. The systems check is performed to establish the beneficiary's compliance with the implementation standards committed to in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme. The beneficiary must enable the National Agency to verify the reality and eligibility of all project activities and participants by all documentary means, including video and photographic records of the activities undertaken, in order to rule out double funding or other irregularities.

9. GRANT REDUCTION (— ARTICLE 28)

Poor, partial or late implementation of the project may be established by the National Agency on the basis of the final report submitted by the beneficiary and from information received from participants taking part in the activities and on the basis of the project results.

The National Agency may consider information received from any other relevant source, proving that the beneficiary is in breach of obligation under the Agreement. Other sources of

information may include monitoring visits, periodic and progress reports, desk checks or on-the-spot checks undertaken by the National Agency.

[Option for cooperation partnerships:

In line with the scoring procedure of the final report to be found in Article 6.4 above, the National Agency may reduce the final grant amount as follow:

- 10% if the final report scores between 55 and 69 points;
- 40% if the final report scores between 40 and 54 points;
- 70% if the final report scores between 10 and 39 points;
- 100% if the final report scores between 0 and 9 points.

If the overall project scores above 70 points, but the score of one or more work packages is lower than 70, a grant reduction shall be applied only to those work packages, based on the same scale as above.

In case a planned work package is not carried out and it is not replaced in due time by another equivalent work package in terms of budget and activities, the National Agency shall reduce the grant by the amount allocated to that work package.*]*

[Option for small-scale partnerships:

In line with the scoring procedure of the final report to be found in Article 6.4 above, the National Agency will reduce the final grant amount as follow:

- 10% if the final report scores between 45 and 59 points;
- 30% if the final report scores between 30 and 44 points;
- 70% if the final report scores between 10 and 29 points;
- 100% if the final report scores between 0 and 9 points.

In case a planned project activity is not carried out and it is not replaced by another equivalent activity in terms of both its contribution to the objectives and its budget, the National Agency shall reduce the grant by the amount allocated to that activity.*]*

10. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES (— ARTICLE 36)

Formal notifications on paper addressed to the granting authority must be sent to the address of the National Agency as set out in the Preamble.

Formal notifications on paper addressed to the beneficiaries must be sent to their legal address, as set out in the Preamble.

11. INCLUSION SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES

The beneficiary is responsible for ensuring that adequate support is provided to participants with fewer opportunities involved in the project.

12. PROTECTION AND SAFETY OF PARTICIPANTS

The beneficiary has in place effective procedures and arrangements to provide for the safety and protection of the participants in their project.

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

Prior to any participation of minors in the project, the beneficiary must ensure full respect of applicable regulation on protection and safety of minors as defined by the applicable legislation in the sending and hosting countries, including but not limited to: parental or guardian consent, insurance arrangements, and age limits.

13. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF ACCREDITATIONS

[Option for HE: The National Agency and the Commission will monitor the correct implementation of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the beneficiary and of the respect of the commitments defined in its inter-institutional agreements.

In case the monitoring reveals weaknesses, the beneficiary must establish and implement an action plan within the timeframe specified by the National Agency or the Commission. In the absence of adequate and timely remedial actions by the beneficiary, the National Agency may recommend to the Commission to suspend or withdraw the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education in accordance with the provisions set in the Charter.]

14. BENEFICIARIES LOCATED IN THIRD COUNTRIES NOT ASSOCIATED TO THE PROGRAMME

[Option for cooperation partnerships projects involving one or more participating organisations located in a third country not associated to the Programme:

The organisations located in third countries not associated to the Programme commit to respect the same principles as the beneficiaries located in third countries associated to the Programme regarding the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, wherever applicable.*]*

15. YOUTHPASS CERTIFICATE

[Option for youth: The beneficiary must inform the participants involved in the project about their right to receive a Youthpass certificate.

The beneficiary will support the participants involved in the project in an assessment of non-formal learning experiences acquired by them and has the obligation to provide a Youthpass

certificate to each individual participant requiring it at the end of the activity.]

16. ANY ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS REQUIRED BY THE NATIONAL LAW

[The National Agency may include any additional compulsory legal provision required by the national law as long as they do not contradict the provisions of this grant agreement].

ANNEX 3 – ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

[**BEN legal name**], established in [legal official full address]

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Grant Agreement for the Call for Proposals [insert number**]** ('the Grant Agreement')

between [COO legal name] **and** the [insert name of the National Agency] ('granting authority'),

and mandates

the coordinator:

- to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf the project application for funding within the Erasmus+/ESC Programme to [Name of the National Agency where the application is going to be submitted] in [Name of the country]
- in case the project is granted by the National Agency, to sign in its name and on its behalf the grant agreement
- in case the grant agreement is signed to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any amendments to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out as from the date of the signature of the accession form **('accession date')**.

SIGNATURE
For the beneficiary
[function/forename/surname]
[signature - Qualified Electronic Signature "QES" or handwritten]
Done in [English] on [date]