

Commission document

Tempus: Modernising higher education

Tempus (The Trans-European mobility scheme for university studies) supports the modernisation of higher education and creates an area of co-operation in countries surrounding the EU. Established in 1990 after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the scheme now covers 27 countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

Tempus finances two types of actions:

1. **Joint Projects** are based on multilateral partnerships between higher education institutions in the EU and the partner countries. They can develop, modernise and disseminate new curricula, teaching methods or materials, boost a quality assurance culture, and modernise the management and governance of higher education institutions.
2. **Structural Measures** contribute to the development and reform of higher education institutions and systems in partner countries, to enhance their quality and relevance, and increase their convergence with EU developments.

Partnerships are made up of consortia of organisations including higher education institutions, businesses, ministries, NGOs, and other organisations working in higher education; both from the EU and partner countries.

Launch of Tempus IV

The latest phase of the programme, Tempus IV, started in 2008 with a call for proposals lasting from January to April. The total budget for this call was around €51 million, with individual projects able to gain funding of between €0.5 and €1.5 million. New projects under this call start at the end of 2008.

Tempus is managed by the European Commission's education and culture, enlargement and aid departments. It is financed through three of the European Commission's external assistance instruments: the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (Western Balkans); the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East); and the Development and Cooperation Instrument (Central Asia).

The Erasmus Mundus 'External Co-operation Window' is a complimentary programme that funds higher education student and teaching staff mobility activities between European universities and universities from targeted third-countries.

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