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Proposal Evaluation Form

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

Evaluation Summary Report

Call: ERASMUS-EDU-2024-CBHE

Type of action: ERASMUS-LS

Proposal number: 101178033

Proposal acronym: RIUDICC

Duration (months): 24

Proposal title: International Network of Universities for Inclusive Development and Scientific and Cultural Exchange

Activity: ERASMUS-EDU-2024-CBHE-STRAND-1

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total eligible costs	%	Grant Requested	%
1	UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID	ES	47,686	13.82%	47,686	13.82%
2	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA	IT	29,306	8.49%	29,306	8.49%
3	UNIVERSIDAD DEL AZUAY	EC	35,284	10.23%	35,284	10.23%
4	UNIVERSIDAD POLITECNICA SALESIANA	EC	38,270	11.09%	38,270	11.09%
5	UNIVERSIDAD DE CIENCIAS Y ARTES DE CHIAPAS	MX	32,684	9.47%	32,684	9.47%
6	Universidad Politécnica de Chiapas	MX	32,684	9.47%	32,684	9.47%
7	UNIVERSIDAD SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA	GT	32,492	9.42%	32,492	9.42%
8	UNIVERSIDAD DEL VALLE DE GUATEMALA	GT	32,492	9.42%	32,492	9.42%
9	UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE SANTO DOMINGO	DO	31,636	9.17%	31,636	9.17%
10	Universidad del Caribe	DO	32,503	9.42%	32,503	9.42%
	Total:		345,037		345,037	

Abstract:

The RIUDICC project is proposed as a solution with the overarching goal of providing international opportunities to students facing social and economic vulnerabilities, thereby equipping them with the necessary skills to assume leadership roles in their communities and contribute to solving social problems.

The RIUDICC project aims to tackle the issue of educational and cultural inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean, a region marked by profound socioeconomic disparities. The central challenge is the limited access to international education and training opportunities for vulnerable students, exacerbated by financial barriers and a lack of adequate support programs. Furthermore, the project seeks to bridge the gap in cultural exchange and the recognition of ethnic diversity, confronting limited Western perspectives and fostering interculturality.

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 60.00 (Threshold: 60)

Criterion 1 - Relevance

Score: **23.00** (Threshold: 15 / 30.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see Call document).

The proposal tackles a relevant subject on intercultural dialogue, internationalization and mobility appropriate for the Capacity Building for Higher Education activities. Although relevance to the programme is demonstrated, the rationale is mostly generic and not well developed. The proposal suitably addresses the overarching priority of 'Governance, peace, security and human development' by enhancing the internationalisation of the involved Latin American and the Caribbean universities in vulnerable environments. The proposal offers activities adequately aligned with Strand 1 specificities around newcomers and institutions less experienced in European projects. Although the general demands in the regions involved are properly described, no needs analysis as such is developed at the level of countries, institutions and individuals. The relevance to the target groups is explained fairly, but it lacks detail. The needs of participants with fewer opportunities are satisfactorily addressed through focusing on students of diverse ethnic, socioeconomic and vulnerable backgrounds.

The proposal is clearly relevant to promotion of European values, especially equality, dignity, freedom and non-discrimination. It includes adequately defined objectives, overall suitable for attaining the expected results as formulated in the application. But the indicators are underexplored and do not offer a well-developed understanding of what would be achieved. Contribution to regional development strategies is adequately explored and the project is relevant for the modernisation and internationalisation strategy of the target institutions and the overall development policy and objectives for Higher Education in the regions involved.

This proposal adequately foresees enhancing the complementarity and cooperation links already established in previous/ongoing initiatives (though not related to the topics tackled in this application) involving some of the current partners. Regional related initiatives and the synergy between the activities are underexplored.

The contribution of the European partners and their participation in other alliances is an added value to the project through emphasizing complementarity between leading research universities and others specialised in Science and Technology. Albeit it is not explicitly mentioned if similar results could be achieved without European funding, the need for financial support in general is clearly expressed in the proposal.

Criterion 2.1 - Quality - Project design and implementation

Score: **15.00** (Threshold: 15 / 30.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see Call document).

The proposed activities are not clear and coherent with the indicated objectives. The project proposes a set of complementary activities which are not fully fleshed out. The features of the planned activities are barely described and little justified. It is not clear how the activities would fully achieve the objectives and the attainability of the expected results is uncertain.

The methodology is adequately developed proposing approaches and interlinked phases with fair complementarity. The rationale of the overall approach is not easy to follow, as links between the specific objectives, the work packages and the 'methodological stages' are not fully explored. The methodology includes vague indicators to track project performance. The Logical Framework Matrix is adequately developed, but it lacks clarity and detail on how some of the very broad and general objectives would be achieved.

The workplan is suitably presented in a useful graphic with the interactions between work packages. However, the rationale for determining the work packages and their contents is not fully explained. Many of the deliverables are unclear, appear written as a general question rather than a concrete output, and are not fully feasible. Based on the numerous activities/results foreseen, the project duration and the grant requested, the full execution of the workplan is not fully feasible.

The budget is sufficiently cost-efficient and commensurate with the planned activities and intended outcomes in terms of the amounts per work package. However, the person months are overestimated as they include unfeasible number of months. Even though there are just a few mobilities foreseen, the corresponding costs take more than half of the total budget which is not fully justified. Funding is distributed among partners in an equitable way, and a high share of the grant is planned to be allocated to target institutions, which is very positive.

Quality control measures are underdeveloped with limited detail on internal and external quality controls. The main methods for quality assurance are not fully described as they are planned to be prepared within the first work package. The proposal shows a fair understanding of the risks that might arise and lists mitigating actions which are satisfactory, but not robust.

The project does not include a clear description on eco-friendly approaches to project travel, student mobility, use of technology and reducing waste.

Criterion 2.2 - Quality - Partnership and cooperation arrangements

Score: **12.00** (Threshold: 10 / 20.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see Call document).

The management systems in place are satisfactory with several governance bodies included but with limited details on how they would operate. The proposal of establishing distinct micro-observatories adds a novel approach to monitoring areas of work.

The proposal includes a relevant collection of medium-experienced institutions and their professionals with some less experienced/newcomer partners with relevant expertise. However, the application lacks their institutional profiles, and this hinders a full appraisal of their complementarity. Some of the partners' individual expertise is not detailed. Several target institutions have 'one-person teams', which is limited and could jeopardise the project implementation. The proposal includes a sufficient justification relevant for Strand 1 on newcomer institutions as well as working with individuals with less opportunities through work with vulnerable groups. However, there are some inconsistencies - although the proposal presents all target institutions as newcomers, a few of them do have some previous participation in Erasmus+ projects. The rationale for selecting all partners is not well developed.

The tasks are spread evenly and there is clear participation and leadership from third country and newcomer partners. All Latin American institutions are foreseen to be actively involved in the implementation of the action by leading or co-leading work packages, which is useful in terms of capacity building. Yet, limited background information or profile of the coordinating institution is found in the application, as to evaluate its experience in this key role. There is clear opportunity for collaboration and exchange of knowledge between various types of institutions through co-leading work packages and participation in all work packages.

The description of collaboration processes is sufficiently covered with adequate indications on how the cooperation would work in practice. There is limited information on how the potential disputes would be resolved.

Contribution from the partners is described in a significant and pertinent manner. The proposal provides some relevant information to ensure all partners are equally committed and involved in the process. However, the aforementioned shortcoming regarding the one-person teams responsible for leading or co-leading a work package raises doubts on the effective level of involvement in the project of their corresponding universities.

Criterion 3 - Impact

Score: **10.00** (Threshold: 10 / 20.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see the Call document).

Exploitation within the third-country partner institutions is underdeveloped since the outputs are not detailed. Exploitation is not clearly distinguished from other aspects of Impact. A brief information on a relevant Laboratory is included but not fully developed. The level of wider exploitation of the project results is insufficiently described. There is limited information on how the exploitation would be tracked.

The project incorporates a satisfactorily designed approach to dissemination and communication to make sure they reach their relevant audiences. The dissemination plan suitably identifies some target audiences and different appropriate communication channels and tools to reach them, with particular emphasis on a web platform to be created.

The proposal information does not appropriately outline likely tangible impact on wider stakeholders. The impact is sufficiently considered for different stakeholder groups but lacks detail. Pathways for achieving the outlined impact are not fully outlined. Albeit the proposal includes well-intended generic aspirations and legitimate ambitions, no sound and well-organised strategy to effectively produce the expected impacts is shown in the bid. The proposal shows limited potential for significant impact on the institutions and local level. Impact on wider society and the economic sector is insufficiently described. The project lacks clear measures and indicators to track impact.

The proposal lists several adequate strategies for sustainability, especially the Laboratory and the micro-observatory. Some aspects could be seen as possibly contributing to the future sustainability of the project but there is no explicit commitment of the partners for operationally or financially sustaining the project results /products over time. A brief reference to the intention of attracting new financial resources beyond the end of the project implementation is properly made but the overall regional level sustainability is underexplored.

Scope of the proposal

Status: **Yes**

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)

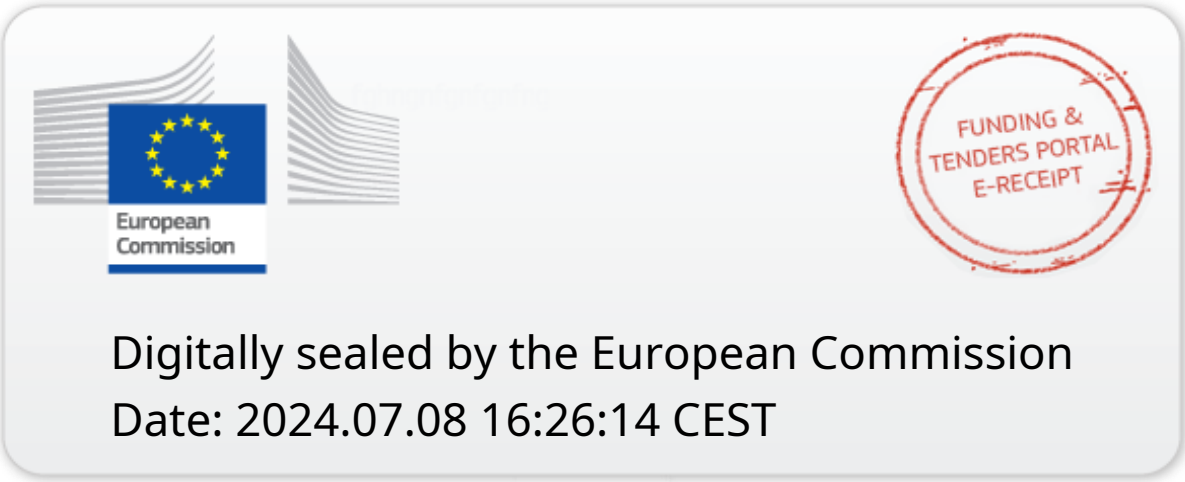
Not provided

Feedback EU Delegation Consultation

In addition, and in line with the provisions of the Programme Guide, the Evaluation Committee has also consulted the EU Delegations in the third countries not associated to the Erasmus+ programme. On the basis of the information provided by the EU Delegation(s), the Evaluation Committee confirms that the project can be implemented as foreseen in the proposal.

Comments on the budget

Not provided



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