



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

FIRST+ programme for Finnish-Russian HE cooperation

Infowebinar for Applicants
11.1.2019

Mari Pohjola, EDUFI



FIRST+ 2019-2020



Application documents

- Coordinating Finnish HEI -> submits application for the network to EDUFI
- Russian partner HEI -> submits FIRST+ Statement to EDUFI

Possible activities

- Long term Student Mobility (FI-RU, RU-FI)
- Short term Student Mobility (FI-RU)
- Teacher mobility (FI-RU, RU-FI)
- Intensive Courses (in Russia)

Timetable

- Deadline for applications and statements **4.3.2019**
- Agreement period 1.6.2019 – 31.8.2020
- Light interim report + an opportunity to apply for additional funding in November 2019
- Final reporting 15.10.2020
- Electronic application process:
 - Network application in the electronic state aid system
 - Statements from Russian institutions through electronic webropol form
 - Also reporting in the state aid system

Distance categories

- The level of an individual mobility grant (all types of mobility) will be determined according to two distance categories.
 - CATEGORY 1: North-Western Russia
 - CATEGORY 2: all the other parts of Russia

Student mobility, basic principles

- No tuition fees
- Recognition of studies as part of a student's degree
- Citizenship: possible to participate irrespective of nationality, however, no exchanges to own country.
 - Students with Russian/Finnish background/nationality -> must have completed comprehensive school/general upper secondary education in Finland/Russia
- Level of Study: mobility grants for BA, MA and PhD levels
- Fields of Study: students majoring in Russian language are not allowed to choose their major subject for their studies in a Russian host institution
- Practical training and Joint degree programmes possible

Long-term student mobility

- Both FI-RU and RU-FI
- Duration: 2-12 months
- Monthly grants, two CATEGORIES depending on distance
 - CATEGORY 1: EUR 560 /month
 - CATEGORY 2: EUR 650 / month
- **Grant level will be based on an average number of FOUR MONTHS of mobility period**
- The networks can decide on the individual grant level

Short-term Student Mobility

- Only FI-RU
- Duration 5-59 days
- Eg. short intensive study courses, summer courses, practical training
 - NB! Short term mobility for **individual** students (does not refer to common intensive study courses and group mobility)
 - NB! Participation in short-term language courses or cultural excursions is not a subject for support
- FIRST+- ohjelman tuki lyhytkestoiseen liikkuvuuteen on:
 - 1. kategoria: 5-7 päivää: 50€/pvä, 8-59 päivää: 20€/pvä
 - 2. kategoria: 5-7 päivää: 70€/pvä, 8-59 päivää: 20€/pvä
- **Haku/myöntövaiheessa laskentaperusteena 14 pvä keskimääräinen kesto**
- Korkeakoulu päättää lopullisen opiskelijalle maksettavan apurahan suuruuden

Teacher Mobility

- Both FI-RU and RU-FI
- Minimum duration of an exchange: 5 hours of teaching
- Teaching must be an integral part of the hosting institution's curriculum
- Teaching may be given at any degree level (BA, MA, PhD)
- The maximum grants for teacher exchange per day (two CATEGORIES)
 - CATEGORY 1: EUR 100 /day
 - CATEGORY 2: EUR 120 /day
- **The grant payment will be based on an average number of five (5) days of a mobility period**
- The networks can decide on the individual grant level

Intensive Courses

- Short study periods, jointly organized by at least one Finnish and one Russian HEI
- FIRST+ intensive course must take place in Russia
- Minimum duration: 1 week (5 working days + travel days)
- Participants: equally both from Finland and Russia
- Studies must be recognized as part of student's degree
- Funding covers organisational expenses, eg. participants' travel and subsistence costs (NB! Support cannot be used on salaries /fees)
- Three categories for funding: a) travel costs, b) accommodation and subsistence costs and c) organisational costs
- Level of Funding for one Intensive course: ca. EUR 10.000

FIRST+ Statement from the Russian Partners

- A commitment to the network's activities by the Russian partners
 - to specify each FIRST+ network in which the Russian HEI participates
 - to demonstrate the commitment and quality of the Russian HEI to the network activities
- FIRST+ Template: http://www.cimo.fi/ohjelmat/firstplus/hakijalle/firstplus_statement
- Only one FIRST+ statement / higher education institution
- The statement must be appropriately signed by a legal representative of the partner higher education institution
- The signed and scanned statement will be submitted electronically to first@oph.fi (no hard copies!)

Quality assessment criteria

- Relevance
- Quality of the cooperation, activity design and implementation
- Impact

Relevance

- The composition of the network is well justified, and the planned activities are relevant for the cooperation plans of the higher education institutions involved.
- There is added value of the planned cooperation activities compared to already existing cooperation.
- Higher education institutions involved have institutional commitment and interest in the network activities (e.g. through strategic priorities).
 - The FIRST+ statement submitted by the Russian partner institution(s) should be coherent and relevant and

Quality of the cooperation, activity design and implementation

- There is a balanced partnership and reciprocal student and teacher mobility in regards with the number of higher education institutions involved and the plans for implementing the mobilities are realistic.
- The description of the responsibilities, roles and tasks of the higher education institutions involved is clear and the planned communication channels are functional.
- The support services for marketing, preparation, implementation and follow-up of the applied mobility activities are in place.
- The mechanisms envisaged for the recognition of student learning outcomes (e.g. ECTS or other mechanisms) are in place.

Quality of the cooperation, activity design and implementation

- If applicable, the following criteria will be considered in the selection process of intensive programmes:
 - Course theme and contents: the added value for individual participants and higher education institutions.
 - Recognition of the studies completed on the course.
 - Careful planning and implementation of the course.
 - Evaluation of the intensive course and dissemination of the results and experiences.
 - The cost-effectiveness of the proposed activities.
 - In the case of previous experience: changes, development and justification for future funding.

Impact

- The expected results/outcomes are described in a concrete and realistic manner.
- The potential impact of the planned activities is described in terms of the participants and organisations both in Finland and Russia.

Overview of the application process

- Link to the application system on EDUFI web page at <http://www.cimo.fi/ohjelmat/firstplus/hakijalle>
- Insert your email to the indicated slot
- You will receive an email with a direct link to the application
 - Link can be shared to others as well
 - The application saves automatically and can be modified until the deadline
- When the application is ready, remember to send it!

The background features two large, overlapping, wavy shapes. The top shape is green and curves from the top right towards the bottom left. The bottom shape is blue and curves from the bottom left towards the top right. They overlap in the center, creating a white space.

Thank you!
Questions, comments?

Contact first@oph.fi