



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

FIRST+ programme for Finnish-Russian HE cooperation

Infowebinar for Applicants
28.1.2020

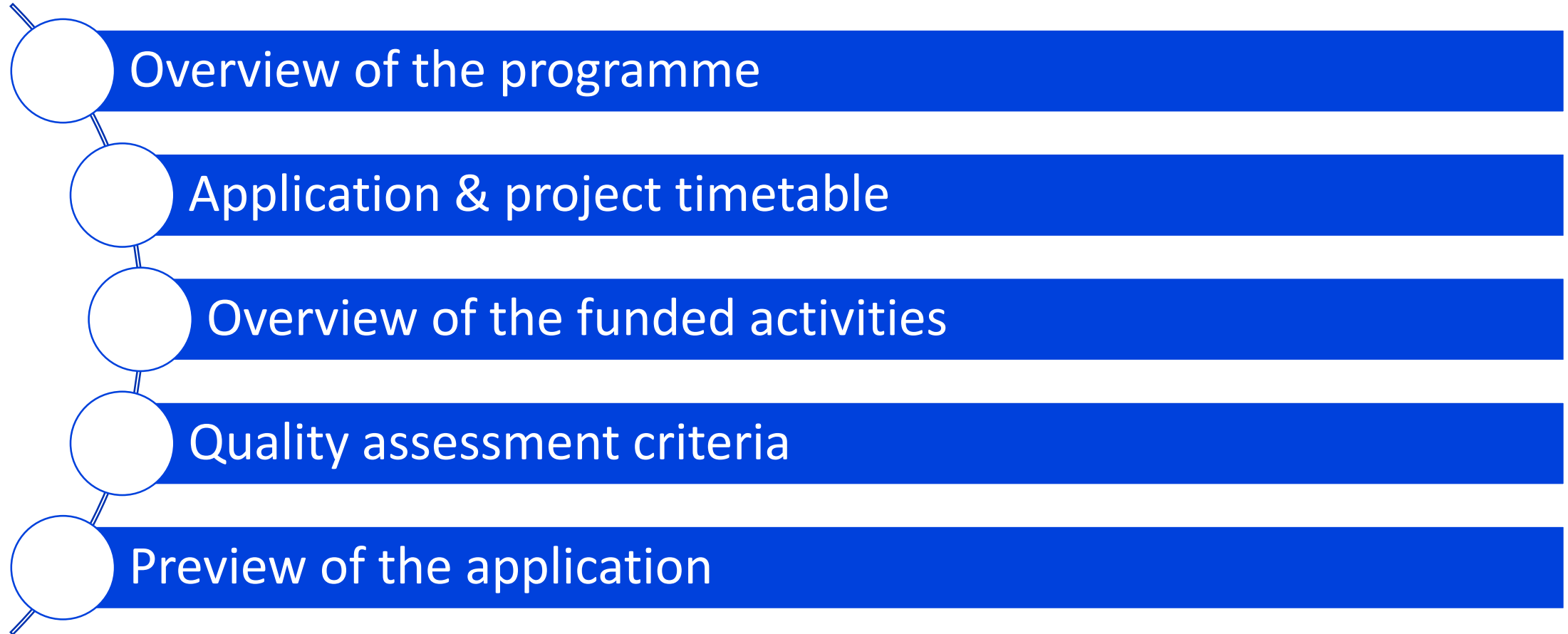
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Webinar recording

- At https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQ_k10xzRSA&feature=youtu.be
- The recording includes a demo of the application that is not included in the slides.

Contents of the webinar



FIRST+ 2020-2021



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 **2.3.2020**
- Electronic application process:
 - Network application in the electronic state aid system
 - Statements from Russian institutions through electronic webropol form
- Agreement period 1.6.2020 – 31.8.2021
- Light interim report + an opportunity to apply for additional funding in November 2020
- Final reporting 15.10.2021

Overview of the funded activities

- 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 who have the citizenship of the host country must have conducted their comprehensive school and/or general upper secondary education in the sending country.
- Level of Study: 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
- The maximum grants for long-term student mobility are:
 - CATEGORY 1: EUR 560 /month
 - CATEGORY 2: EUR 650 / month
- **Grant level will be based on an average number of 4 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! Participation in short-term language courses or cultural excursions is not a subject for support
- The maximum student grants for short-term mobility are:
 - CATEGORY 1: days 5-7 maximum 50 € / day, days 8-59 maximum 20 € / day.
 - CATEGORY 2: days 5-7 maximum 70€ / day, days 8-59 maximum 20€ / day.
- **The grant payment will be based on an average number of 14 days of a mobility period**
- The networks can decide on the final grant level

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 are:
 - 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

Intensive Courses - funding

- Three categories for funding: a) travel costs, b) accommodation and subsistence costs and c) organisational costs
 - Organisational costs can form maximum 20% of the total intensive course budget.
- The funding cannot be used for higher education institution's administrative expenses, entertainment/representation expenses, business gifts or salaries and fees.
- 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: <https://www.oph.fi/en/programmes/first-programme#anchor-how-to-apply>
- 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 <https://www.oph.fi/en/programmes/first-programme#anchor-how-to-apply>
- 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!



Thank you!

Questions, comments?

Contact first@oph.fi