FIRST+ programme for Finnish-Russian HE cooperation

Infowebinar for Applicants
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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

- Overview of the programme
- Application & project timetable
- Overview of the funded activities
- Quality assessment criteria
- Preview of the application
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