



*A TRADITION OF INNOVATION*

**INTERNATIONAL CREDIT MOBILITY:**

**A CRITICAL ANALYSIS**

**SESSION 06.09**

**EAIE SEVILLE - 14TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

## Chair

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## Speakers/facilitators

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### Coimbra Group and its AEM Working Group

#### Structure of session:

- Interactive as far as possible, bringing in our own experience reflected in the Coimbra Group position paper for the midterm review of Erasmus+ (<http://www.coimbra-group.eu/publications/policy-papers>)
- Q&A for audience and conclusions on each point



## COIMBRA GROUP: MISSION (OV)

The Coimbra Group is an alliance of long-established European multidisciplinary research intensive universities of high international standard.

The Coimbra Group has been committed since 1985 to promoting and intensifying internationalization, academic collaboration, excellence in learning and research, and service to society, through close ties based on strong mutual trust.

It is a priority of the network to shape European higher education and research policy through direct communication with European institutions, decision makers and other stakeholders.

# COIMBRA GROUP: BRIEF FACTS AND FIGURES (OV)



**CG member universities**

- **39 Universities from 23 European countries**
- **1.358M students**
- **235,000 staff** (teaching, research, admin.)
- **36,000 students annually in Erasmus mobility (KA103) to/from the CG (16% of the total number of Erasmus students in Europe)**
- **Multi-billion € total annual research budget**



## COIMBRA GROUP: AEM WORKING GROUP (OV)

### Academic Exchange and Mobility (AEM) Working Group

- Knowledge sharing for IRO staff: best practices
- Mobility expertise
- Student Exchange Network (intra-group mobility)
- Continuing Professional Development for academics at CG Universities

November 2016 Seminar on KA107 (ICM) at University of Padova with 5 NAs

*Have you had any practical experience with ICM?*

*With which regions/countries?*

*Has it been continuation of Erasmus Mundus or other previous experience, or new links under the new programme?*

### 1. Overall programme structure

*What in your opinion is the major positive contribution of ICM in its current structure to your institution's international strategy?*

*What in your opinion is the main drawback of the current structure of the programme as a strategic instrument for your institution's international strategy?*



### Coimbra Group position

#### *Positive aspects:*

- ✓ Meets demand for world-wide mobility
- ✓ Offers mobility for students, academic and administrative staff
- ✓ Individual financial support sufficient
- ✓ Instrument for development cooperation
- ✓ Uses well-known instruments for programme institutions

### Coimbra Group position

#### *Drawbacks:*

- ✓ lack of integration of EMA2 best practice
- ✓ exclusion of degree-seeking students and post-doctoral mobility (e.g. credit mobility with countries with little doctoral education)
- ✓ exchanges organized on a bilateral rather than consortium basis
- ✓ yearly (2-year) contracts lower the capacity building potential
- ✓ inconsistent with strategic planning, continuity and longer-term impact
- ✓ projects by country rather than region

### 2. Application process

*What is your experience of the application process for ICM funding in its current form?*

### Coimbra Group position

#### *Drawbacks:*

- ✓ Yearly applications (heavy workload/lack of continuity)
- ✓ Questions on application form very general
- ✓ Much repetition
- ✓ High competition for some regions in some programme countries leading to lack of guarantee of continuity
- ✓ Decentralised evaluation of applications

### 3. Implementation

*What has been your/your institution's experience of the implementation of your ICM mobility projects?*

*Student mobility*

### Coimbra Group position

#### Positive student experience at individual level

- ✓ Initial lack of flexibility for changes in mobility flows (numbers, type of mobility)
- ✓ No access to OLS language support for participants
- ✓ Credit mobility inappropriate on occasion: doctoral cycle...
- ✓ Difficult for programme HEIs to monitor processes in partner HEI (calls for applications, selection processes, recognition post-mobility...)
- ✓ Insufficient training / information on KA107 in Partner Countries (esp. where no ENO exists)

### 4. Implementation

*What has been your experience of the implementation of your ICM mobility projects?*

*Staff mobility*

Coimbra Group position: best practice

- ✓ Using staff mobility to enhance student mobility
- ✓ Specific staff training weeks
- ✓ Using KA2 to complement KA107 actions
- X Initial lack of flexibility for changes in mobility flows (numbers, type of mobility)
- X Tax regulations for incoming/outgoing staff (see Italy), affecting payments of unit costs
- X Recognition of activities



### 5. Implementation

*What has been your experience of the implementation of your ICM mobility projects?*

*Programme management*

Coimbra Group position: best practice

- ✓ Combination of academic and administrative coordination processes
- ✓ Good promotion campaigns
- ✓ Regional specialization
- X Lack of continuity
- X Difficulty in monitoring partner practices
- X Repetition (and contradiction) in partner training

*In the light of your experience, what are the main improvements/changes which you would propose for ICM in the next edition of Erasmus+ 2021-27?*

### Coimbra Group position

- ✓ Longer term projects to ensure continuity and stability in international strategies
- ✓ Stronger training for partner institutions, including possibility of obtaining an ECHE
- ✓ Inclusion of degree-seeking mobility, especially at doctoral level
- ✓ Restructured application form and process
- ✓ Increased flexibility in use of funds (types of mobility, host institutions, within “envelopes”...)
- ✓ Access to OLS for participants
- ✓ Possibility of multilateral (international) consortia for mobility

Thanks!

Evaluation



***COIMBRA GROUP, A TRADITION OF INNOVATION***

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