

## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CEI)

### European Labour Authority (ELA)

#### Establishment of a pool of higher education institutions for the co-development and delivery of an advanced certified diploma course in EU Labour mobility

#### 1. Background

- (1) The European Labour Authority (ELA), hereinafter the Authority, established by Regulation (EU) 2019/1149<sup>1</sup>, aims to ensure fair, simple, and effective enforcement of Union labour mobility and social security coordination rules.
- (2) In order to strengthen professional training in the field of labour mobility for public officials from the Member States of the European Union and the contracting parties of the European Economic Area ('EEA'), the Authority seeks to identify higher education institutions (hereinafter 'HEIs') across the European Union ('EU') and the EEA countries with whom to establish a strategic collaboration in developing and delivering an advanced certified diploma course in EU labour mobility (hereinafter 'the course'). The course is intended to be delivered in line with the Authority's mission to assist Member States and the European Commission in their effective application and enforcement of Union law related to cross-border labour mobility and social security coordination.
- (3) HEIs participating in this collaboration will have the opportunity to work closely with the Authority. This partnership enables HEIs to engage with the Authority's staff members, including the network of National Liaison Officers<sup>2</sup>, thereby facilitating connections with a range of national authorities from across the EU/EEA. Such collaboration has the potential to enhance the HEI's institutional networks, combining existing knowledge and capacities, and enhancing networking in key scientific areas.
- (4) Each edition of the course will be delivered in one of the official languages of the host Member State or EEA country, combining both EU-level content on labour mobility and national practice reflecting the relevant national legal frameworks, institutional arrangements, and enforcement experience. The course will be accessible only to public officials from the Member States of the European Union and the EEA countries.
- (5) The intention is for the course to lead to a micro-credential officially recognised throughout the EU at ISCED level 7. The course should combine legal, policy, and operational dimensions of labour mobility at Union law level and national frameworks.
- (6) The establishment of the strategic collaboration between the Authority and the HEI, does not entail the provision of service to the Authority. The strategic collaboration entails each institution covering its own costs.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 establishing a European Labour Authority, amending Regulations (EC) No 883/2004, (EU) No 492/2011, and (EU) 2016/589 and repealing Decision (EU) 2016/344, OJ L 186, 11.7.2019, pp. 21.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Article 32 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1149, a National Liaison Officer (NLO) is a seconded national expert appointed by each Member State to work at the seat of the European Labour Authority. The NLO supports the Authority's tasks by facilitating cooperation and information exchange, coordinating and supporting inspections, and acting as the primary national contact point for matters involving their Member State. In doing so, the NLO may request and receive all relevant national information, subject to national law, confidentiality, and data-protection rules.

- (7) Following the evaluation of proposals, the Authority will establish a list of all HEIs that have met or exceeded the minimum quality threshold set out in this call. Only proposals reaching this minimum score will be considered eligible for selection.
- (8) The Authority will select, for each academic year, the highest-ranked HEIs that have not yet hosted a course. In principle, the first two highest-ranked HEIs will be invited to organise the courses in the first year. In subsequent years, the next two HEIs on the list will be invited, and so forth.
- (9) This sequential selection mechanism ensures that, over time, all HEIs that meet the required standards will have the opportunity to host a course, while safeguarding the quality and consistency of delivery across academic years.
- (10) The Authority reserves the right to adjust the annual number of courses and the sequence of selected HEIs depending on operational needs, the availability of selected institutions, and the overall number of eligible proposals.
- (11) The first official course is expected to take place in the academic year 2026/2027 or at the latest in the following academic year, subject to the signature of a partnership agreement with the Authority.
- (12) With the partnership agreement, the Authority will define its level of engagement. In particular, the Authority intends to (i) provide or propose experts delivering the modules of the course, (ii) guarantee interpretation services when considered appropriate for the delivery of the course, (iii) gather a sufficient number of public officials of the Member States of the Union and the EEA countries that will attend the course.
- (13) HEIs participating in this collaboration are encouraged to continue providing the course in their curricula even after the expiry of the yearly strategic collaboration.

## **2. Objective of the call**

- (14) This call aims to identify eligible HEIs who are interested in this strategic collaboration and who have the capacity of providing high-level certified academic and practical training in collaboration with the Authority. Selected HEIs will be included in a pool of eligible partners from which the Authority may subsequently select host institutions for future course editions.

## **3. Scope of the strategic collaboration**

- (15) Selected HEIs will collaborate with the Authority to:
  - (a) Jointly design the course curriculum and certification requirements leading to micro-credential of 2 ECTS at ISCED level 7 (40 contact hours onsite and 10 self-study hours);
  - (b) Enrol a minimum of 20 – 25 participants per course amongst officials of the national public administration of the Member States of the European Union and EEA countries;
  - (c) Ensure that the course is delivered in one of the official languages of the Union or EEA, with a structure that:
    - (i) Combines EU-level modules (common core on EU labour mobility law, including freedom of movement, posting of workers, social aspects of road

- transport and social security coordination rules, as well as enforcement cross-border cooperation tools and procedures); and
- (ii) National modules grounded in the EU Member State/EEA country's legal and institutional context, illustrating practical application of EU rules in the legal framework of the Member States where the HEI is providing the course;
- (d) Host the course in one of the following modalities:
- (i) as a programme delivered one to two days per week over several weeks or months; or
  - (ii) any other format, to be further elaborated in the methodology part of the proposal, in line with appropriate modalities recognised.
- (e) Offer the use of its premises free of charge.
- (f) Propose a diversified pool of trainers and experts, including also national experts, ensuring gender balance to the extent possible, to be consulted with the Authority;
- (g) Include trainers or experts that:
- (i) have at least 5 years work experience in at least one of the following fields:
    - EU or cross-border labour mobility,
    - free movement of workers,
    - posting of workers,
    - social aspects of road transport,
    - EU social security coordination,
    - labour inspection,
    - enforcement cooperation,
  - (ii) are selected from current or former staff of relevant institutions such as national labour inspectorates, national social security institutions, ministries, police, judiciary, social partners, universities or agencies and institutions of the Union;
- (h) Support the assessment and certification of participants, including a structured continuous assessment (e.g. presentation, written exam, final exam, etc.);
- (i) Consider possible means of engaging with alumni after the course (e.g. by encouraging the development of an alumni network, refresher workshops, etc) to reinforce learning outcomes and maintain professional contacts formed during the training.
- (j) Ensure that the course is developed and delivered with no profit margin applied. To this end, HEIs can apply, at maximum, an all-inclusive registration fee, that shall be capped<sup>3</sup> per registered participant, and it shall include, inter alia, (i) the venue; (ii) the administrative costs of the organisation and management of the course; (iii) the administrative costs of the delivery of the certification; (iv) any course material, etc.

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<sup>3</sup> The registration fee is the fundamental administrative charge assessed for the enrolment of students as members of the university. The registration fee should not exceed the maximum amount reimbursable by ELA of EUR 100 per person, or equivalent in a different national currency where the higher education institution is established based on the ECB exchange rate on the day of submitting the application to this call. Additional categories of fees are not included within this definition.

No additional costs can be charged above the cap of EUR 100 per registered participant.

#### **4. Funding arrangements**

- (16) The establishment of the strategic collaboration between the Authority and the HEI, does not entail the provision of service to the Authority. The strategic collaboration entails each institution covering its own costs<sup>4</sup>.
- (17) The HEI shall ensure that the course is developed and delivered with no profit margin applied (see paragraph 15(j) above).

#### **5. Eligibility criteria**

- (18) Eligible applicants must meet the following cumulative criteria:
- (a) Be a HEI legally established in a Member State of the Union or in a country of the EEA.
  - (b) Hold the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education <sup>5</sup>(ECHE).
  - (c) Be authorised to award degrees or diplomas at ISCED level 7.
  - (d) Demonstrate academic expertise in at least one of the following areas:
    - (i) EU labour mobility law including freedom of movement, posting of workers, social aspects of road transport;
    - (ii) EU social security coordination;
    - (iii) Labour inspection and enforcement cooperation;
  - (e) Be able to deliver the course in at least one of the official languages of the European Union or of the EEA country while integrating EU and national perspectives.
  - (f) Be able to offer a course starting in the academic year 2026/2027 or 2027/2028.

#### **6. Selection criteria**

- (19) The Authority will assess and rank eligible proposals according to the selection criteria pertaining to organisational capacity, the appropriateness of the selected methodology, and the quality assurance measures implemented. Applications are given scores for every criterion, aggregating to a maximum total score of 100 points.
- (20) The Authority intends to consider applications reaching at least 60 points out of 100.
- A. Organisational capacity (30 points)*
- (21) This criterion assesses the institution's capacity to design and deliver a course on EU labour mobility. Key factors include evidence of successful past programmes, qualified personnel, staff expertise, and the ability to teach in one of the official languages of the Union or of the EEA countries, all indicating readiness to provide high-quality instruction.

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<sup>4</sup> HEI are entitled to charge a maximum of EUR 100 per registered participant

<sup>5</sup> <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/erasmus-charter-for-higher-education>

*B. Methodology* (50 points)

- (22) This criterion emphasises the quality of the proposed methodology, including the approach to co-design the course, the mode of delivery, and engagement with national institutions in the field of EU labour mobility as well as the preparation of a tentative course agenda outlining key sessions, expected learning outcomes, final assessment, and the planned balance between Union-level and national modules.

*C. Quality assurance* (20 points)

- (23) This criterion examines the quality of the HEI's existing postgraduate programmes and teaching facilities. Proposals must describe the quality assurance processes that are in place to uphold the highest educational standards. Additionally, institutions should outline provisions for business continuity, including the existence of back-up system to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of courses. This includes strategies for covering the absence of the relevant project coordinator and selected experts.

## **7. Procedure**

- (24) The Authority will establish a list of selected HEIs, valid for five years.
- (25) During this period, the Authority may invite shortlisted HEIs to participate in a joint design and deliver of the course based on its organisational capacity and securing geographical balance. The participation will be subject to the signature of a partnership agreement.

## **8. Application and deadline**

- (26) Interested HEI must submit their expression of interest via the [EU Survey platform](#) by 20 May 2026, 11.00 AM CET.
- (27) Each institution may submit only one application.
- (28) Applications must include all the following supporting documents:
- (a) Completion of the template Annex 1 (up to seven pages in addition to the draft agenda of the course) to demonstrate the ability to address the needs defined at Section 3 of this call for expression of interest and meet the criteria indicated at sections 5 and 6 of this call for expression of interest;
  - (b) An overview of the course's alignment with professional development frameworks for officials in the EU labour mobility;
  - (c) CVs of one course coordinator and four proposed experts as per paragraph 15(g) of Section 3 above.
- (29) Incomplete or late applications will not be considered further for the purpose of the inclusion in the list of HEIs.

## **9. Timeline**

- The procedure for this call for expressions of interest will follow the indicative timeline set out below. The dates are provided for planning purposes only and may be adjusted by the Authority as necessary.
- Deadline for applications: 20 May 2026

- Evaluation and establishment of the list of HEI: May - June 2026
- Notification of results: July - August 2026
- First course delivery (expected): Q4 2026 or 2027

## 10. Data protection

- (30) Personal data of contact persons representing applicant HEI, as well as of proposed course coordinators and experts included in the submitted applications, will be processed under the responsibility of the data controller of the Authority in accordance with the specific rules laid down in this guide<sup>6</sup>. If personal data are processed by authorised staff of the Authority involved in the evaluation of the applications, this must be done in accordance with the written instructions received from the data controller. For more information on how we process your data, please visit the privacy policy sections of the Authority's website<sup>7</sup>.

## 11. General terms and conditions

- (31) Inclusion in the ranking list or in any list of eligible HEIs resulting from this call does not constitute a commitment by the Authority to enter into a partnership agreement with the HEI concerned. The Authority will only sign partnership agreements with the HEIs selected for a given academic year, in accordance with the selection mechanism described in this call.
- (32) Participation in this call does not give rise to any entitlement to reimbursement. All costs incurred by HEIs in preparing and submitting their application, as well as in any subsequent clarifications or presentations, shall be borne entirely by the applicants and will not be refunded by the Authority under any circumstances.

## 12. Contact

- (33) Contacts during the CEI procedure:
- i. Contacts between the Authority and interested parties are prohibited throughout the procedure save in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions only:
    - a. Upon request, the Authority may provide additional information solely for the purpose of clarifying the procedure.
    - b. Any request for additional information must be made in writing only, through the email address below.
    - c. The Authority is not bound to reply to requests for additional information received less than six working days before the time-limit for submission of interest.
  - ii. For any inquiry, please contact ELA at: [capacity@ela.europa.eu](mailto:capacity@ela.europa.eu)

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<sup>6</sup> See at: <https://www.ela.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-04/Your-data-protected-on-rights-at-ELA.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> [Privacy policy | European Labour Authority \(europa.eu\)](#)