Grant Holders Meeting Erasmus+ Capacity Building Higher Education 2024

7 February 2024 – online

Regional Workshop – Neighbourhood East

Rosalba Nardelli, Project Officer, EACEA Unit A4

ASCI Julide, Project Assistant, EACEA UnitA4

AGENDA 7 February 2024 – online time 09:30-11:00am (CET)

9:30-9:40 Introduction of the session – Rosalba Nardelli, EACEA – Slido questions Julide Asci
9:40-9:55 15’ Outline of the cooperation background in the region: overall and specific priorities and existing initiatives, European Commission Georgiana Plesu (DG EAC) and Corinne Deleu (DG NEAR)
9:55 - 10:00 5’ Q&A for the policy DGs
10:00 -10:15 15’ Introducing Statistics and data on the last call, types of projects selected and countries involvement within the Region - Rosalba Nardelli
10:15- 10:25 Projects selected per Strands – Julide Asci
10:30 - 10:40 Coffee Break **Slido**
10:40 -10:50 Impact, project management of the projects, main challenges and suggestions - Rosalba Nardelli
10’ Q&A from the participants

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Outline of the cooperation background in the region: overall and specific priorities and existing initiatives

European Commission
Georgiana Plesu (DG EAC) and Corinne Deleu (DG NEAR)

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Congratulations

Congratulations for becoming part of the Erasmus+ Programme within the second ‘graduates’ within the Multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027 of the European Union.

With 790 proposals submitted and only 162 proposals approved, you are one of five than made it through

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Results ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE Call for proposals

- **162** Grant Agreements preparation ongoing from the entire Call
- 90% already signed and in force
- Within the **Neighbourhood East Region, all Grant Agreements have already been signed and the majority are already in force**

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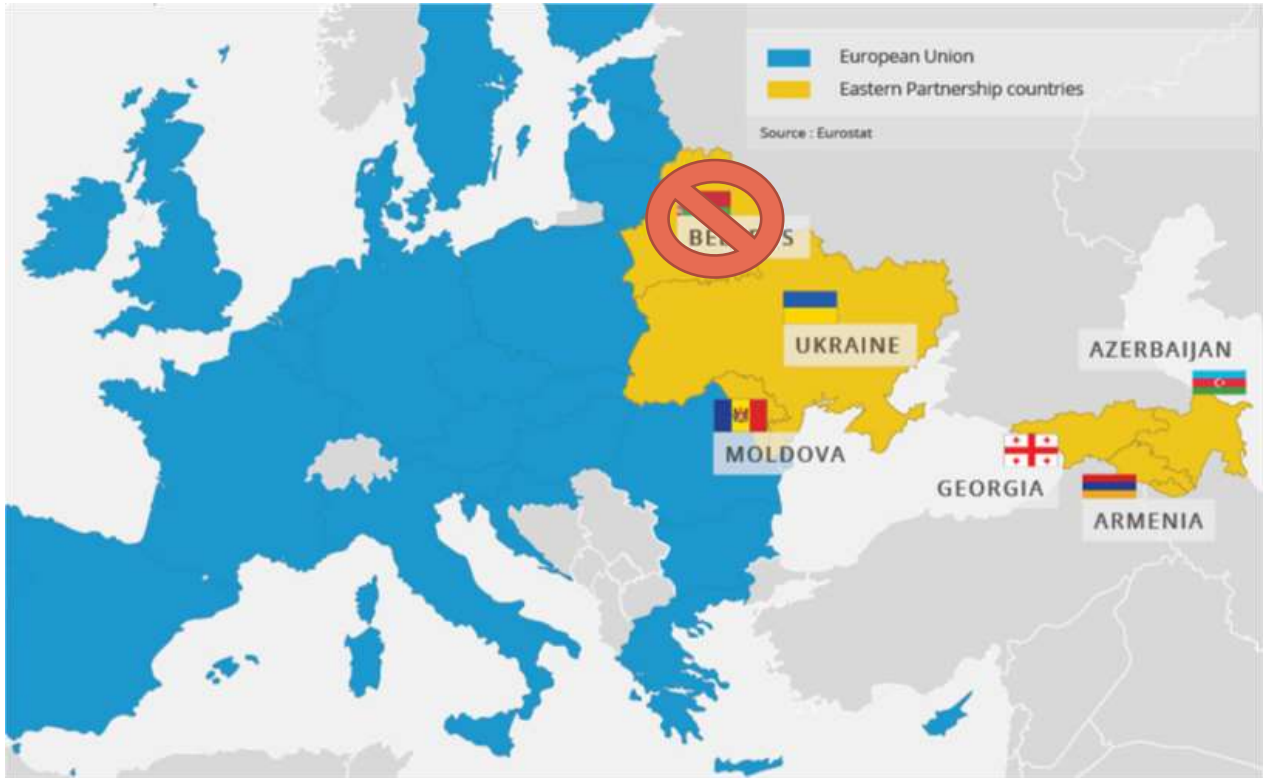
Neighbourhood East (Region 2) Countries covered



Neighbourhood East (Region 2): Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Territory of Ukraine as recognised by international law

Exception: organizations from Belarus (Region 2) are not eligible to participate in this action since the call 2022.

Source: [ErasmusplusProgramme-Guide2023-v3_en.pdf (europa.eu)]

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Region 2 – 169 Proposals received

- R2 Regional & National:
  - **138** Proposals
- Cross Regional involving R2:
  - **31** Proposals

REGION 2 – Neighbourhood East

STRAND	R2 Regional & national	R2 Cross Regional
ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE-STRAND-1	13	1
ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE-STRAND-2	105	29
ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE-STRAND-3	20	1
Total	138	31

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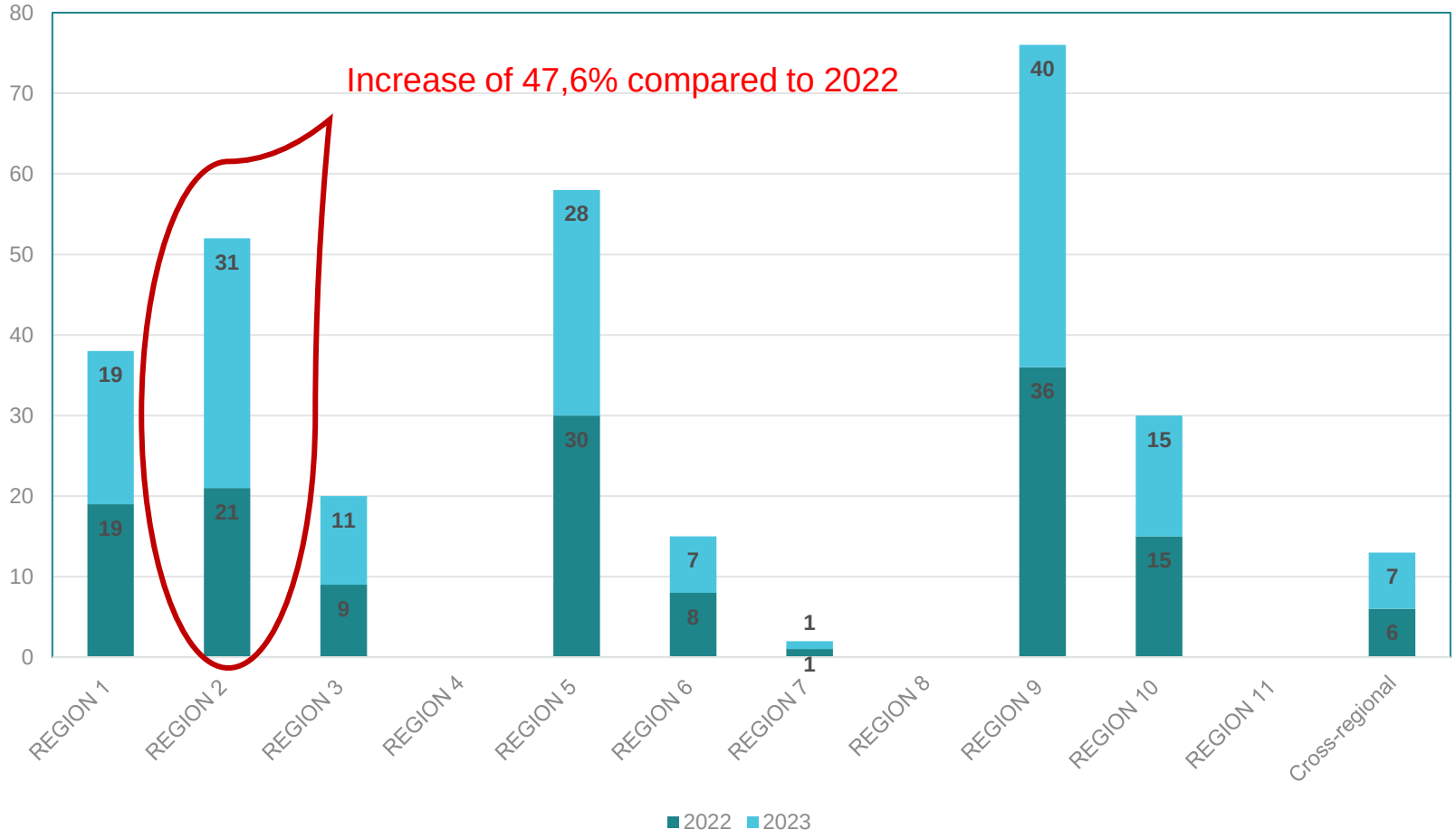
CBHE - Number of selected projects in R2



Western Balkans (Region 1)
Neighbourhood East (Region 2)
South-Mediterranean countries (Region 3)
Russian Federation (Region 4)
Asia (Region 5)
Central Asia (Region 6)
Middle East (Region 7)
Pacific (Region 8)
Sub-Saharan Africa (Region 9)
Latin America (Region 10)
Caribbean (Region 11)

Total budget 2022: 99,72 Mio €
Total budget 2023: 113 Mio €

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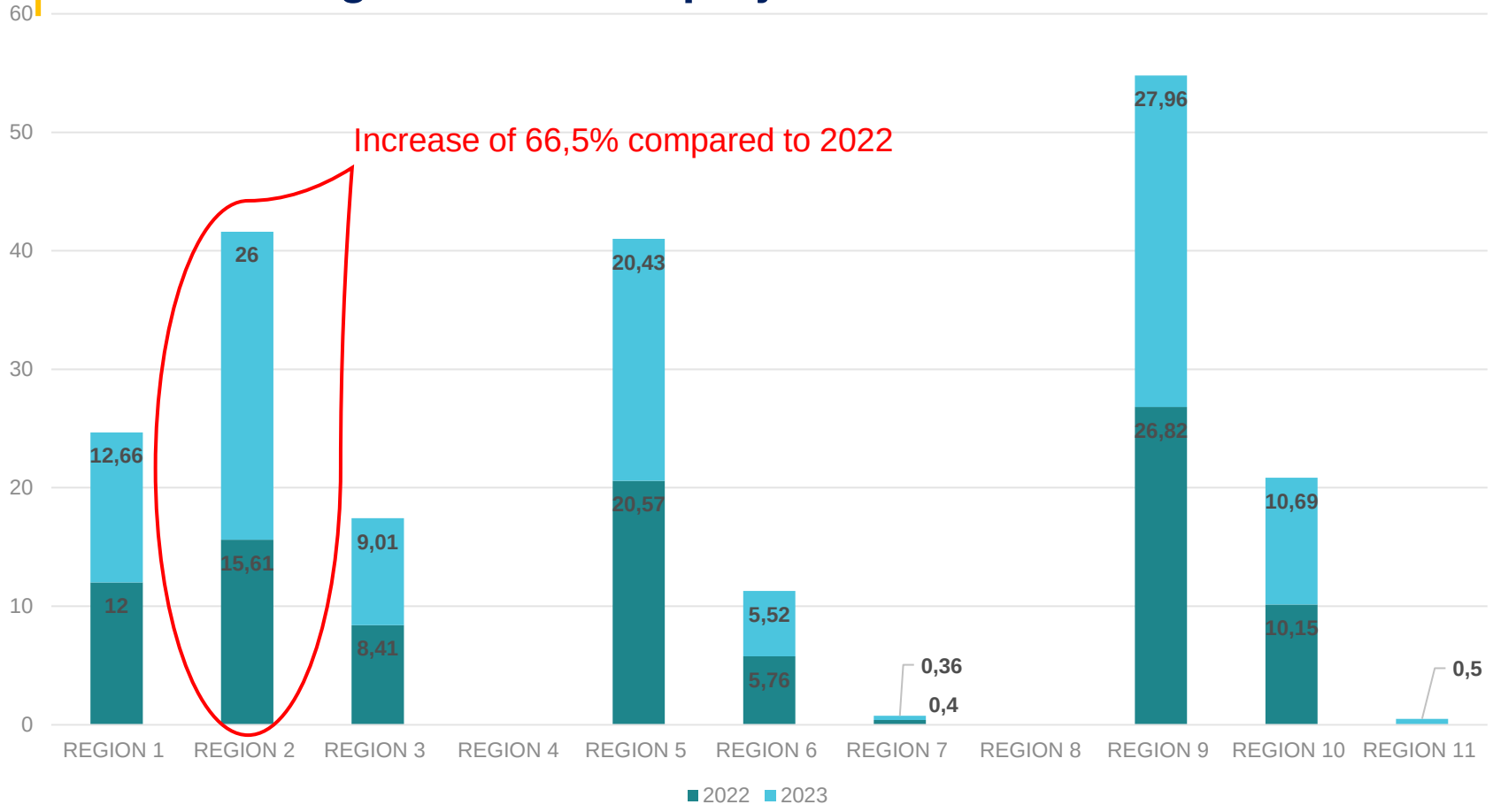
CBHE - Budget of selected projects in R2



- Western Balkans (Region 1)
- Neighbourhood East (Region 2)
- South-Mediterranean countries (Region 3)
- Russian Federation (Region 4)
- Asia (Region 5)
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- Caribbean (Region 11)

Total budget 2022: 99,72 Mio €

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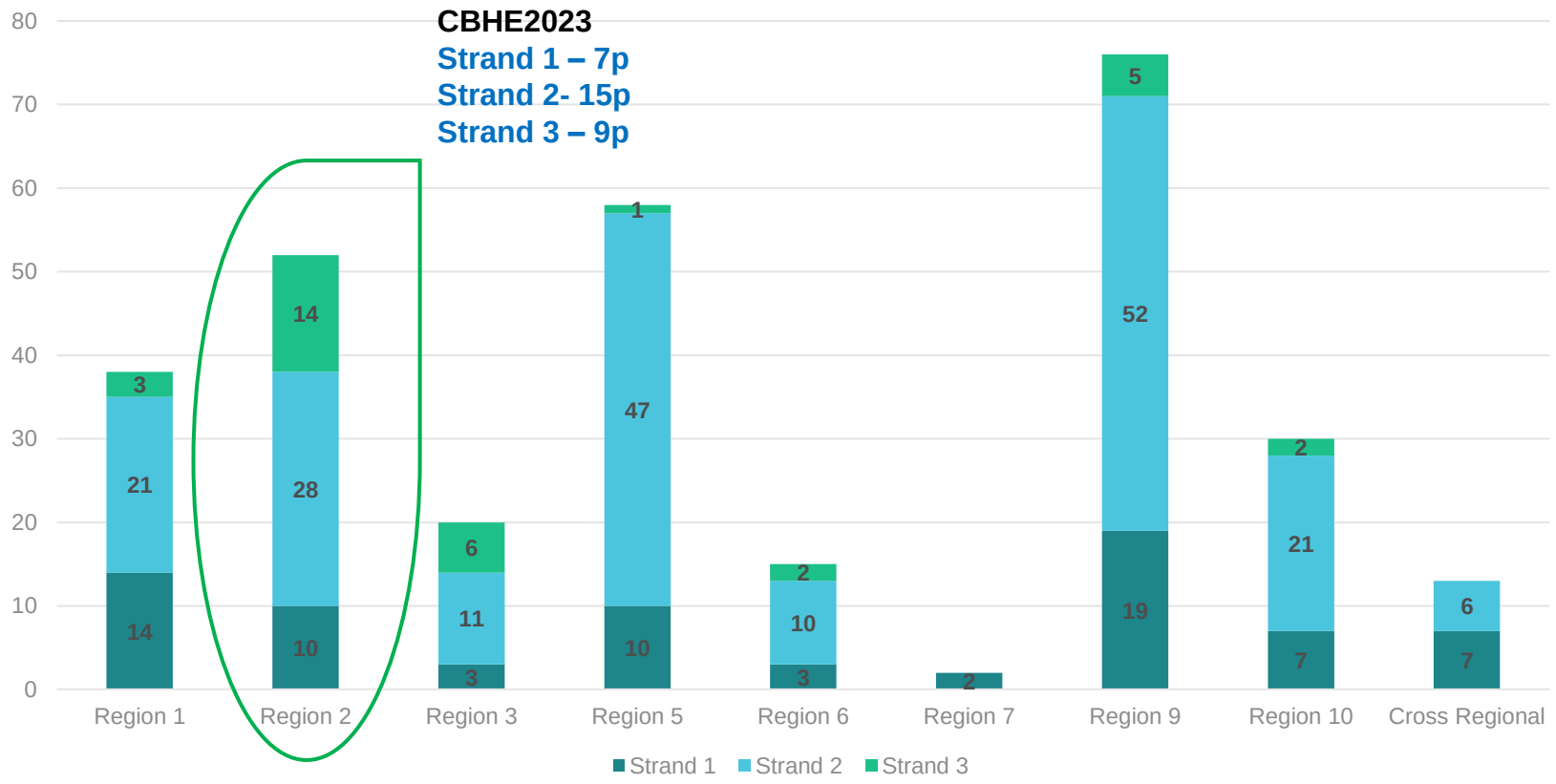
CBHE 2022/23 - Selected projects per region and Strand

Western Balkans (Region 1)
Neighbourhood East (Region 2)
South-Mediterranean countries (Region 3)
Asia (Region 5)
Central Asia (Region 6)
Middle East (Region 7)
Sub-Saharan Africa (Region 9)
Latin America (Region 10)



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Shared participation among Neighbourhood East Partner Countries in CBHE 2023

	Affiliated	Coordinator	Partner	Sum participation:
Armenia		3	8	8
Azerbaijan			3	3
Georgia		6	11	11
Moldova		3	6	6
Ukraine		6	19	19

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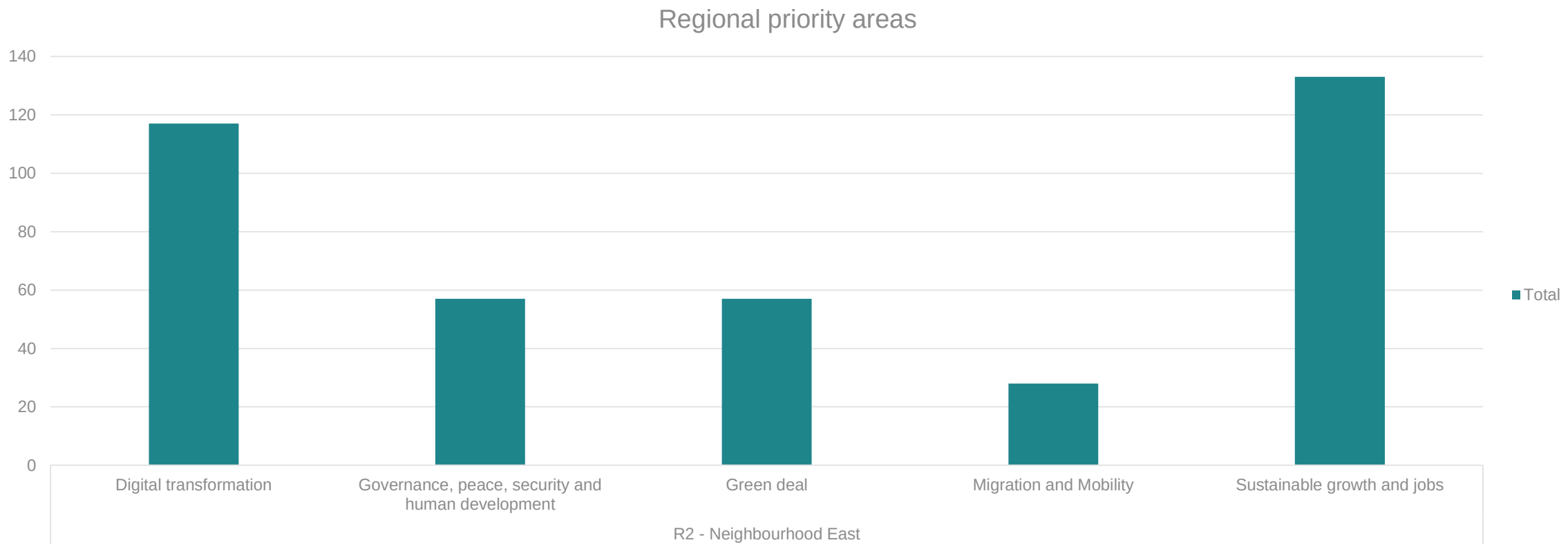
Regional priority areas addressed witin the Region 2 - based on participation



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In a nutshell, projects financed within the Region

Top 3 overarching priorities addressed by projects:

- **Sustainable growth and jobs: 12 projects**
- **Digital transformation: 7 projects**
- **Green Deal: 5 projects**

- Other overarching priorities:
  - Governance, peace, security and human development: 5 projects
  - Migration and Mobility: 2 projects

International Capacity Building – Selection 2023
Results Neighbourhood East

31 in total, of which:
17 National & **14** Regional projects

1. Projects with Ukraine: **19**
2. Projects with Georgia: **11**
3. Projects with Armenia: **8**
4. Projects with Moldova: **6**
5. Projects with Azerbaijan: **3**

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Selected Projects for Strand 1

1. **RiHEI**: Responsible and Impactful Universities as Sustainable Growth and Enterprise Catalysts in Georgia

2. **SIN-NEC**: Sustainability and Internationalization capacities to promote modernisation of Newcomers Higher Education in Neighbourhood East Countries

3. ~~**BIG-U**: Bridging the Internationalization Gap in Ukraine's HEIs~~

4. **LIFESTRAND**: Life Support Training and Dissemination for Higher Education Institutions and Community Representatives living in Military Risk Areas of Ukraine and Georgia

5. **HEAL**: Enhancement of special oral healthcare practice and lifelong learning among dental practitioners in Georgia

6. **BURN**: Boosting University Psychological Resilience and Wellbeing in (Post-) War Ukrainian Nation

7. **UA-Talent-UP**: Stepping-up Entrepreneurship, Creativity and Intercultural Competences for High Quality Teaching in Ukraine

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Selected Projects for Strand 2

1. **DIGITRANS**: Digital transformation of HEIs education process in Ukraine and Moldova for sustainable engagement with enterprises

2. **The Bridge**: Bridging the gap between university and industry: Master Curricular Supporting the Development of Green Jobs and Digital Skills in the Ukrainian Building Sector

3. **LISS24**: Learn - Innovate - Sell - Succeed

4. **RE-DIRECTION**: Redefining Higher Education on a digital context and mainstreaming a common inclusive and green structure based on EU best practices and policy recommendations

5. **3E-Partnership**: European Energy Efficiency towards Mutually Reinforcing Partnership with Georgia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine

6. **NEEDEDU4.0**: EnhaNcing MEchanical Engineering EDUcation in Moldova for Industry 4.0

7. **DigiFLEd**: Modernisation of university education programmes in foreign languages by integrating information technologies

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Selected Projects for Strand 2

8. **DeSIRe**: Development of Soft Skills at Higher Education Institutions of Armenia and Georgia in Compliance with the 21st Century Labour Market Requirements
9. **JoPScip**: Curriculum Development - Joint MA Program in Political Science
10. **PeaceEdu**: Curriculum Reform to Promote Education for Peace in Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova
11. **3D4U**: 3D Concepts for Fashion Education in Ukraine
12. **ServU**: Service-learning in Higher Education for Ukraine's Recovery
13. **NEXT**: Digital Transformations for Supporting Next-Generation Labour
14. **EU4UA**: Modernization of Legal Education for the support of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine
15. **TURBO**: The Universities' Reaction to Big Obstructions: Building resilient higher education to respond and manage societal crises

Selected Projects for Strand 3

1. **MICRO-GEAR**: Micro-credentials for Higher Education systems of Georgia and Armenia: South Caucasus lighthouse project
2. **KPI4HE**: Establishment of National framework of Key Performance Indicators for good governance and quality towards inclusive, digital and green oriented higher education in Armenia
3. **T4GREEN**: Transforming Teacher Education for Green and Digital Transition in Armenia and Moldova
4. **RE-GRAD**: Reforming Undergraduate Education for GReen and Sustainable Development in Armenia and MolDova
5. **BE-OPEN**: Advancing Open Science in Eastern Partnership Region
6. **Open4UA**: Open Science for Ukrainian Higher Education System
7. **UPGRADE**: Enhancing Graduates' Employability Tracking in Moldova
8. **DigiUni**: Digital University – Open Ukrainian Initiative
9. **BEAUCOUP**: Boosting Digital Excellence and Aptitude of Universities in the Countries of East Partnership

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10:30 - 10:40 Coffee Break

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Expected IMPACT:

- **Modernised** HEIs;
- Improved **access** to and quality of higher education;
- Increased participation of **HEIs located in remote areas**;
- **Governance** for efficient and effective policymaking;
- **Regional integration** and establishment of comparable recognition and quality assurance tools.

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Expected IMPACT:

- A stronger link and **cooperation with the private sector**, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship;
- **Alignment** of academic world with labour market;
- Increased students' sense of initiative and **entrepreneurship**;
- Increased level of **digital** competence for students and staff;
- Institutional **ownership** of the CBHE results thus ensuring sustainability;
- Increased capacity and professionalism to work at **international level**;
- Increased **quality** in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and follow-up of international projects.

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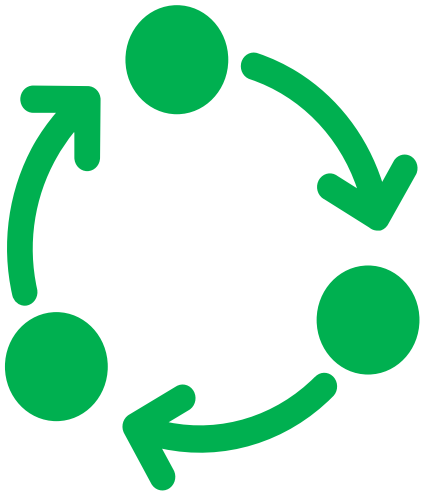
Sustainability

- **Demonstrate the Sustainability** of the **project** results.
- **Sustainability** is the capacity of the **project** to continue its existence and functioning **beyond** its end.
  - Up scale
  - Replicate
  - Transferability



Operational Management: Main challenges and suggestions

Introduction eGrants

- Great **challenge** both for the Agency and for the newly selected projects
- New tools & procedures: time for adaptation & learning
- New System: FTOP, SYGMA
- New roles: LEAR, LSIGN, PLSIGN, PCoCo
- Another actor: REA Validation Service

Advantages

- Simplification: harmonization, digitalization, lump sums, communication tool

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The basic pillars of the project management

Legal Framework

Grant Agreement

Erasmus+ Programme Guide

https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-04/ErasmusplusProgramme-Guide2023-v3_en.pdf

e-Grants System

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/display/OM/Online+Manual

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Project monitoring key steps

- **Monitor** that the action is implemented properly
- **Report** on the progress of the action (e.g. deliverables, milestones, outputs/outcomes, critical risks, indicators, etc; if any)
- **COMMUNICATION**, **DISSEMINATION** AND **VISIBILITY**
  - Communicating your project & Acknowledgement of EU funding
  - Dissemination & exploitation of project results
  - Communication with the granting authority

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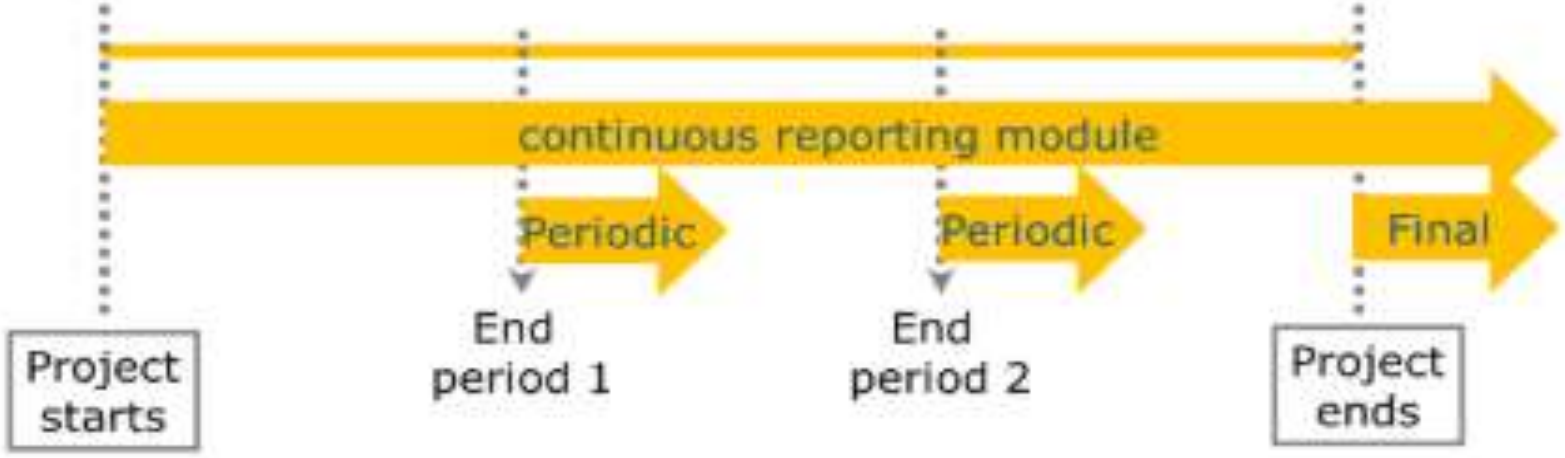
Project monitoring

- *Continuous reporting module*
- *Periodic reporting module*



Reporting

On behalf of the project consortium, the **project coordinator submits all reports, payment requests, proof of deliverables and other documents through the grant management service.** You can access the service through your profile in the Funding & tenders Portal.

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Continuous Reporting, Periodic Reporting and outputs

- **Continuous** Reporting Module (periodic uploading of results)
- **Periodic** Reporting Module (linked to payment)
- Communication
- Work Packages (WP)
- Deliverables (DEL) & other tabs
- Critical Risks

Continuous Reporting – From a legal viewpoint

During the project, you are expected to provide regular updates on the status of the project: the continuous reporting. The beneficiaries must continuously report on the progress of the action (Art.21.1)

The continuous reporting includes:

- progress in achieving **milestones**
- **deliverables**
- updates to the **publishable summary**
- response to **critical risks or Unforeseen Risks**
- programme-specific monitoring information

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Communication and Role of the Project Coordinator

- The coordinator must act as the **intermediary** for all communications between the consortium and the granting authority (Art.7)
- Request and review any documents or information required and verify their quality and completeness before passing them on to the granting authority. The information provided must be **accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested**, including electronic format (Art.19.1)
- Submit the deliverables and reports to the granting authority
- The **beneficiaries** must immediately inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) of any **events** which are likely to affect or delay the implementation of the action

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Work Packages

- The action grant takes the form of a lump sum grant for the completion of work packages (Art.5.1, 6.1, 6.2);
- Annex 2 contains the estimated eligible contributions for the action (lump sum contributions), broken down by participant and work package (Art.5.4);
- Amendments for transfers between work packages (Art 5.5) are possible <u>only if</u>
  - the work packages concerned are not already completed (and declared in a financial statement)
  - the transfers are justified by the technical implementation of the action

Amendments to the Grant Agreement Art.39

- In some cases, it might be necessary to amend your grant agreement, for example, if changes are needed for a successful project implementation. In these cases, the project coordinator submits a request through the Funding & tender portal's grant management service. Both the beneficiaries and the Agency sign the amendment electronically.
- In the Funding & tenders online manual, you will find an overview of when and how you can request an amendment.
- Amendments - Online Manual - Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)

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Useful links

- Online Manual
  - Continuous reporting on milestones & deliverables - Online Manual - Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)
  - Communication with the granting authority - Online Manual - Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)

- IT How To
  - Continuous Reporting - IT How To - Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)
  - Completing the Deliverables - IT How To - Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)
  - Completing the Milestones - IT How To - Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)
  - Completing the Critical Risks - IT How To - Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)
  - Notifications GMS - IT How To - Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)
  - How to access your messages - IT How To - Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)

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Thank you for your attention

Questions & suggestions?

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Thank you

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