



CALL FOR PROPOSALS **ECA STRATEGIC PROJECTS 2022**

1. BACKGROUND

At the meeting held on the 4th of February 2022, the ECA Board agreed to open a **call for ECA strategic projects proposals** to be funded by ECA.

In the pursuit of the purposes, ECA is allocating funds for supporting the development of projects by its members with the aim of contributing to the strategy of the association and to promote the goals related to higher education quality assurance.

2. WHO CAN APPLY, WHEN AND HOW

This invitation is addressed to **ECA members and observers**.

Applications, following the template in Annex 1, should be submitted to the ECA secretariat: secretariat@ecahe.eu before **15th of May 2022**.

Successful applicants will be informed about the funding in **June 2022**.

Members can apply once every two years. **Nevertheless, members are encouraged to collaborate with other agencies as interagency collaboration is highly encouraged.**

Projects granted should have a maximum duration of **two years**. The agencies involved in a two-years project could apply for a new one, not earlier than three years after the project was granted.

3. WHAT TYPE OF PROPOSALS CAN BE SUBMITTED

The topic of the project proposal should be aligned with at least one of the ECA Topics of Strategic Interest.

ECA Topics of Strategic Interest:

1) Internationalisation and transnational higher education

- Joint programmes (e.g., implementation of European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes)
- Implications of QA for European Universities
- Enhancing internationalisation

2) Life-long learning and QA

- Best practices
- Creating synergies
- Redefinition of student's life cycle



3) Innovation in Higher Education: Lessons learned in the time of covid crises

- Change and innovation in teaching and learning
- New balances in quality assessment

4. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The proposals will be evaluated against the following **criteria**:

- **Relevance**: justification of the need, which should be in line with the ECA topics of strategic interest.
- **Feasibility**: justification that the project objectives can be achieved within the proposed time frames and with the resources available.
- **Technical quality of the proposal**: strategic analysis and background data, project methodology and coherency in the design, the management team, budget, and cost-effectiveness.
- **Expected impact and benefits**: the expected impact on the QA system and the benefits to the higher education system.
- **Qualifications and experiences of the management team** in the project.
- **Appropriateness of budget** requirements.

The proposals will be evaluated against the above criteria by an **assessment committee (AC) made up of representatives of two ECA members** who will be nominated and appointed by the Board. The AC will propose the projects for funding to the Board, together with the evaluation of each project. The Board will discuss the proposal of the AC and decide on granting the proposals.

4. FUNDING AND CONDITIONS

Available funding in 2022 is **up to 30.000 €**. Under the presented budget ECA will fund one or more proposals.

After finishing the project, a final report about the results of the project should be submitted to ECA Board.

Any publication or presentation of results of the project must be approved by the ECA Board in advance. Permission to present or publish project results will not be given until the final report has been submitted to the ECA Board. A formal review of the final report will be conducted within 30 days of submission. The ECA Board reserves the right to refuse dissemination of research results if the applicant(s) does not adhere to the approved project proposal. A prompt attempt to negotiate a resolution to any disagreement will be conducted.