



Catalonia working with Europe

Supporting the active participation of Catalan institutions and citizens in European cooperation

#CATALONIA WORKING WITH EUROPE COMMENT#

THE NEVER ENDING COMEDY

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Innovation is abundantly cascaded from certain Erasmus+ National Agencies these days, in the wake of recent chaotic application assessment activities.

Unfortunately this kind of innovation is not very useful. In fact it seems as the Erasmus+ comedy in never ending - and calls for sustained critique from serious European professionals.

In the last few days the following and most peculiar “strategies” are officially launched by one of the agencies most criticized - you are invited to make a qualified guess...

Well, the first step of those “strategies” was to cut approved Erasmus+ projects by almost 100.000 euro.

Now the next step is to announce that the projects will start officially on the 1st of September!

Third step is to announce that the contracts are expected to be signed in December and the first payment made in January...

Realistically the projects cannot start until the 1st of February 2015 - 5 months later than planned.

So, now the project lost 100.000 euro and 5 months out of 24.

But the National Agency is very innovative. It encourages the projects to start now early November - without project contracts, without partner contracts and with financial resources.

And more innovation.

The Agency offers professional guidance to the poor coordinators, deeply confused by this scenario: the coordinator can simply pay all the costs incurred from now on and until the first payment (hopefully) arrives in February - and hopefully based on a signed contract with the Agency, arriving say early January.

In other words: the coordinators - such as schools, adult educations or whatever - are expected to pre-finance travel costs, accommodation costs, staff costs and possible exceptional costs for ALL partners for at least 3 months.

And with no legal documents at all: no project contracts, no partner contracts, nothing.

Of course, most coordinators will be thrilled by the challenge of pre-paying 25-30.000 euro - with no legal documents signed and with zero resources.

In some countries Erasmus+ 2014 is the never ending comedy.

If applicants or coordinators behaved like this, they would be severely punished by the National Agency or by the EACEA, or simply not taken into consideration.

What are the reactions from the DGEAC in Brussels?