

Frequently Asked Questions

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Version 1

What should I do if participants (learners, students or staff) are due to go abroad as part of a project?

Although the [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office](#) has lifted some of the restrictions on travelling abroad, their advice is kept under constant review and is subject to change with little notice.

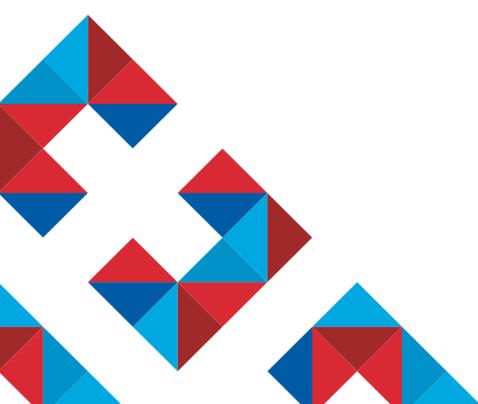
Given the circumstances we appreciate that it may be difficult to progress with your project at the moment. Please bear in mind before arranging travel, accommodation or any other activities that these costs may not be covered by your project contract, for example where the level of risk means it is unrealistic to deliver your project. Organisations may wish to consider 'blended' mobilities, with virtual elements supported by physical mobilities in the future.

It is important that you email the UK National Agency with any proposed changes and you will be advised as to whether they are possible and if there needs to be an amendment to your contract.

What should I do if I need to make changes to my project as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak?

There are many ways in which the Coronavirus outbreak has had an impact on projects. In many cases it may not be necessary to make an amendment to your contract, for example it is possible to delay mobility activities provided that the contract end date is respected.

It is important that you email the UK National Agency with any proposed changes and you will be advised as to whether there needs to be an amendment to your contract.



What should I do if I need to make changes to my contract as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak?

If the changes you wish to make to your project fall outside of the terms of your contract, or the UK National Agency (UK NA) deems that these changes require a contract amendment, please email the UK NA outlining the proposed changes, and you will be advised of the next steps.

In respect of my Erasmus+ or European Solidarity Corps contract, what is force majeure and how does it apply in the case of the Coronavirus outbreak?

If an organisation is unable to fulfil the terms of their contract or would like to make changes to their contract this is sometimes because of a situation beyond their control – force majeure.

The Coronavirus is deemed to be a force majeure, however any changes to an Erasmus+ or European Solidarity Corps contract will need to be approved by the UK NA. As stated above please email the UK National Agency outlining the proposed changes, and you will be advised of the next steps.

What if I have incurred additional costs as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak, for example if additional flights have been purchased?

If you have incurred additional costs as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak you must consult with your insurance provider in the first instance, to ascertain if it's possible to reclaim these costs through an existing policy. If you are unable to claim against your insurance, you may be able to claim the costs as part of your Erasmus+ or European Solidarity Corps grant.

Please note that it is not possible to exceed the total amount of funding you have been awarded in accordance with your contract, but it is possible to make other changes to your project. Please email the UK National Agency outlining the proposed changes, and you will be advised of the next steps.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak some of my Erasmus+ activities need to be delayed, is it possible to extend the project contract accordingly?

If you wish to extend your contract end date you must email the UK National Agency outlining the proposed changes, and you will be advised whether or not it is possible, and if so, of the next steps.

For UK organisations involved in a project which is coordinated by an organisation overseas, who should I contact regarding the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak?

Please seek advice and guidance from the organisation responsible for coordinating the project. The organisation coordinating the project has a contract for its delivery with the National Agency (NA) of the country in which they are based, and they should seek support from the relevant NA.

Who should be contacted for advice if, as a UK organisation, we are coordinating a centralised project, funded by the European Commission's Executive Agency?

As the contract for the delivery of the project is with the European Commission's Executive Agency, you must [contact them directly](#) to seek advice on any changes to your contract or on how to proceed in light of the Coronavirus outbreak.

I have a Key Action 2 Strategic Partnership project and despite the restrictions to travel we, and the other project partners, believe that it is possible to continue to progress our activities. Is this permissible?

In many cases it may be possible to find alternative solutions to delivering your project as originally planned. For example, you may be able to undertake meetings and organise events virtually, and where relevant continue to work remotely on the intended intellectual outputs.

It is important that you email the UK National Agency with any proposed changes to your project and you will be advised as to whether there needs to be an associated amendment to your contract.

I am a participant in a project and I am currently abroad on a placement. Is there any action I need to take given the restrictions on foreign travel and movement within countries?

It is important that you maintain contact with, and follow the advice provided by, the organisation coordinating the project – your sending organisation (as well as the host organisation and other partners where relevant).

I am a participant in a project and despite the restrictions on foreign travel and movement within countries, I am able to continue my placement remotely via virtual communication channels. Is this permissible?

In cases where the host organisation abroad has made it possible to continue your mobility placement through virtual learning or other virtual activities, it is important that you also have the approval of your UK sending organisation to do so.

Your UK sending organisation will be able to advise you about any alternative arrangements, including your grant where appropriate. It may be that in some cases it is not possible to continue placements virtually and unused funding may need to be reimbursed.

Can I claim costs of COVID tests?

The European Commission acknowledges that COVID testing has become more and more a prerequisite for physical mobility abroad and because of this, they are eligible for funding under the exceptional costs section and as part of the exceptional rules applying under the COVID-19 framework. The reimbursement rate is set at 100% of the eligible costs incurred.

As part of the COVID-19 framework, for KA1, KA2 and ESC projects, the European Commission has approved the transfer of up to 10% of funds from any budget category to exceptional costs. The circumstances where this applies, and the rules relating to the transfer, are set out in the Addenda issued to you by the UK National Agency (NA). The transfers should not exceed 10% of the overall last budget approved by the NA, unless agreed as an exception through the submission and approval of a change to the Grant Agreement. In all cases, it is not possible to request additional funding over and above the last budget approved by the NA.

All costs will be subject to approval by the NA on submission of the Final Report form, and must be recorded within Mobility Tool+. Grant Agreement requirements relating to supporting documentation for exceptional cost items must be respected.

Can I claim for the quarantine periods when travelling abroad for a physical mobility?

For KA1 Mobility Projects quarantine periods can be now considered as a prolongation of the mobility period eligible for funding under the individual support category, therefore the mobility can start upon arrival to the host country and cover the quarantine period. The participant's total duration cannot exceed the maximum number of eligible days allowed in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

The same rate of individual support should be applied as for the regular mobility period that the quarantine is connected to. The support for the quarantine period is only eligible for the time spent in the host country of the activity and does not apply when returning to the country of origin of the participant. If possible, participants should commence virtual activities during the quarantine period.

If you have any further questions about your on-going project and how it may be affected by the coronavirus, [please get in touch](#).