

Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programmes: an opportunity for a better and flexible mobility

What is a Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)?

Within the framework of the new Erasmus+ programme period (2021-2027), higher education institutions (HEIs) can design, offer and apply for funding for Blended Intensive Programmes (BIP). BIP are short and intensive training programmes, include online cooperation by combining physical mobility with a virtual part, and promote and use innovative ways of learning and teaching, research-based and challenge-based learning. BIP are expected to address transnational and transdisciplinary teams, the UN sustainable development goals or other societal challenges identified by regions, cities or companies.

PIB partnership

A BIP should be offered by a minimum of 3 HEIs from at least 3 different programme countries (with a ECHE). Additionally, any other HEI or organisation in a programme country may also participate in the BIP. HEIs from partner countries (outside European Union) may also participate and may send participants, but do not count towards the minimum requirements.

Participants

BIP can be attended by any student enrolled in a HEI for studies (for a degree).

Teaching and training staff

The teaching and training staff can include any staff working in a HEI from a programme country and staff from enterprises in programme countries invited to teach.

Rules for BIP

BIP should include physical mobility and a virtual component. BIP must award a minimum of 3 ECTS credits. The physical mobility at BIP can be from 5 to 30 days. BIP should be attended by a minimum of 15 participants from programme countries, not including the teaching and the training staff neither the participants (students/staff) from the institution that receives the physical mobility (IPB). Participants from partner countries are allowed but do not count towards this minimum requirement.

Physical mobility support

The individual support to participants and teaching/training staff for the physical mobility should be provided by the sending organisation, that can use their own regular Erasmus funds for mobility. Short-term student mobility grants are now allowed for BIP within the new Erasmus+ programme. The receiving HEI can support the participation in the case of invited staff from enterprises for training.

BIP and IPB Schools

IPB and its Schools start offering BIP from the 2nd semester of 2021/2022 academic year to support an important enlargement and flexibility of Erasmus mobility. BIP can enlarge the mobility dimension by receiving participants that stay at home institution (except during the short-term mobility at IPB) and allow the participation of IPB students (internationalisation at home).

Students can maintain their study plan at home institution and include the BIP training as parallel activity. The short-term physical mobility will constitute the only period outside their home institution (it can be reduced to 5 working days). Students will credit the BIP at their study plans.

Using BIP, IPB Schools could design and implement new forms of teaching, including COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) with strategic European partners. Each School can design and implement BIP addressing its societal challenges and joining students, staff, researchers and stakeholders. The virtual part will allow the participation in teaching/training of experts from all partners. The physical short-term mobility will allow the face-to-face cooperation of teachers and participants