Programme	**LIFELONG LEARNING**
Subprogramme	**LEONARDO DA VINCI**
Action Category	**PARTNERSHIPS**
Action	**LEONARDO DA VINCI Partnerships**
Objectives and description of the action	A Leonardo da Vinci Partnership is a framework for small-scale cooperation activities between organisations working in the field of vocational education and training ("VET") which will be cooperating on themes of mutual interest to the participating organisations. Projects can focus more on the active participation of trainees, while others will concentrate on the cooperation between teachers, trainers or VET-professionals. The cooperation shall not only include VET schools or institutions but also shall also involve the world of work. World of work partners may include, for example: enterprises; VET providers associated with enterprises (e.g. providing work-based training, apprenticeships); sector representations, branches; professional associations; representatives of working life (e.g. chambers of commerce and trade organisations); and other organisations providing evidence of links to working life and employment (e.g. some local authorities). They can cooperate at national, regional or local level, but also at sector level, such as within VET-fields or economic sectors. The partnership should include partners from at least 3 participating countries. Given that only full (not "silent", unfunded) partners have a legal obligation to implement the Partnership project, at least one full partner should represent the world of work. One of the partners must act as coordinator. It is strongly advised to indicate at application stage which of the partners volunteer to act as replacement coordinators, should the original coordinator be rejected in the selection. Partnership projects fill a gap between the two major decentralised Leonardo da Vinci actions, i.e. the mobility projects and the bigger transfer of innovation projects, as they allow for cooperation in VET beyond mobility activities without, however, demanding large scale cooperation involving big budgets as in the Transfer of Innovation. Partnerships could also be used to continue to cooperate on results achieved in a previous project or be a first step towards a mobility or transfer of innovation project. However, LdV partnerships should not be used to carry out pure mobility projects or to prepare a transfer of innovation project. Partnerships are an excellent way of enabling peer learning activities for the use of common tools as described in the Helsinki Communiqué, such as transparency, EQF, ECVET, quality assurance, excellence of skills, competences for key sectors. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES - TOPICS FOR CO-OPERATION Leonardo da Vinci Partnerships follow the objectives of the Leonardo da Vinci programme as set out in Article 15.1 of the Programme Decision, which reflect the general political goals of VET policy at European level. This includes the objectives linked to the Copenhagen process and its 2-year updates. The main priorities for VET as reviewed in the Bruges Communiqué in December 2010 set an excellent framework for Leonardo da Vinci partnerships. More specifically, LdV partnerships are differentiated from the partnership actions in the Comenius and Grundtvig programme on the basis of the content of the activities, which have to be clearly VET and world of work related. The following examples of topics which could be covered within a LdV partnership are based on the Bruges communiqué reflecting present priority topics in common VET policy: • Development of guidance and advice on VET; • Opening VET to flexible pathways and create better conditions for transition to working life; • Reinforce or create closer links of VET with working life; • Promoting the recognition of non-formal and informal learning; • Responding to the needs of the labour market, particularly of SMEs, anticipation of skills needed in labour market; • Improve the qualification of teachers and trainers; • Support the implementation of Quality assurance in VET; • Cooperate in the area of transparency of VET systems (i.e. ECVET, EQF, Europass…); • Support the development of national qualifications frameworks in relation to EQF; • Cooperate to test and apply common concepts developed at European level with the aim to achieve a spreading at the level of the actors "on the ground". The LdV Partnership will produce an outcome or results which allow later dissemination and further application of the results of the cooperation. This can be descriptive or tangible, take the form of a common report, a conference, a CD, a tangible product as developed for / on behalf of / with the involvement of trainees, a training concept in a specific VET field, ...etc.
Who can benefit	• Institutions or organisations providing learning opportunities in the fields covered by the Leonardo da Vinci sectoral programme; • Associations and representatives of those involved in vocational education and training, including trainees', parents' and teachers' associations; • Enterprises, social partners and other representatives of working life, including chambers of commerce and other trade organisations; • Bodies providing guidance, counselling and information services relating to any aspect of lifelong learning;

	• Bodies responsible for systems and policies concerning any aspect of lifelong learning vocational education and training at local, regional and national level; • Research centres and bodies concerned with lifelong learning issues; • Organisation at tertiary level (higher education institutions) can participate in the projects, but the results should not target those attending vocational education and training at tertiary level • Non-profit organisations, voluntary bodies, NGOs
Who can apply	Each institution/organisation involved in the partnership.
PRIORITIES	The priorities for this Action can be found in the LLP General Call for Proposals 2011-2013 – Strategic Priorities 2013.
HOW TO APPLY	Decentralised, application to be sent to the relevant National Agency for the applicant
Please consult the relevant Agency website for further information.	
Selection Procedure:	NA1
Application Deadline(s):	21 February 2013
Duration	
Minimum Duration:	2 years
Maximum Duration:	2 years
Comment on Duration:	None
FINANCIAL PROVISIONS Please consult **Part I** of this Guide, Chapter 4 Financial Provisions for more information.	
Applicable Grant Table(s):	Table 4
Maximum Grant €:	not applicable
Comment on Funding:	Funding for Partnerships is based on pre-defined lumpsum amounts that depend on the number of mobility activities planned by the applicant institutions. By mobility we mean travel abroad by staff and/and or trainees to participate in Partnership activities in the partner countries. Each institution involved in the same Partnership can apply for a different amount, depending on its own capacity for sending out staff or trainees and on its degree of involvement in the Partnership activities.
EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES Please consult Part I of this Guide, chapter WHAT IS THE LIFECYCLE OF A PROJECT for further information about the evaluation and selection procedures **Eligibility Criteria** **General eligibility rules:** The general eligibility criteria for applications in the LLP Programme are outlined in Part I of this Guide, Chapter 3. Participating countries: please refer to Part I of this Guide, section "Which countries participate in the Programme?"	
Specific eligibility rules:	Applications must be submitted by bodies which are legal entities.
	- The mobility planning table includes the planned mobility activities of each participating organisation. - The number of mobility activities planned by each participating organisation respects the minimum number required for the grant amount in question. - Partnerships consist of a minimum of 3 partners each located in a different country participating in the LLP, at least one of which must be an EU Member State.
Minimum number of Countries:	3
Minimum number of Partners:	3
Comment on participants:	None
Award criteria	**1. Quality of the work programme**
	The objectives of the partnership are clear, realistic and address a relevant subject. The work programme is appropriate for achieving the objectives and suitable for the partnership type in question; the tasks are defined and distributed among the partners in such a way that the results can be achieved and all partners are actively involved.
	2. Quality of the Partnership
	There is an appropriate balance between partners in terms of their involvement in the activities to be carried out. Appropriate measures have been planned to ensure effective communication and cooperation.
	3. European added value
	The impact and benefits of European cooperation on the participating institutions are clear and well defined.
	4. Relevance
	The proposal addresses objectives of the programme.
	5. Impact
	The expected impact on both partnership institutions and on individual participants is clear and well defined. The partnership has defined a methodology for assessing whether the aims of the partnership have been met and the expected impact achieved.
	6. Dissemination and exploitation of results

	The planned activities for dissemination and exploitation of results are relevant and well defined. They involve all the participating organisations and, if possible, the wider community.
CONTRACTING PROCEDURES	
Probable sending date of pre-information on the results of the selection process	July
Probable sending date of agreement to the beneficiaries	August
Probable starting date of the action	August