

NOTE TO NATIONAL ERASMUS+ OFFICES

Budget use in the Higher education International Credit Mobility action (KA107) in Enlargement, Neighbouring, Central Asiacountries and Russia

1. First analysis of applications received by National Agencies

The call for International Credit Mobility closed at noon on 4 March 2015. Each of the 33 Programme-Country National Agencies (NAs) offered opportunities for mobility with Partner Countries grouped into 10 distinct budget envelopes, with very limited possibilities to transfer budget between these envelopes.

A detailed analysis of the applications received showed that overall, demand for funding was reasonably high if the data were combined for all 33 NAs. However, at the level of each individual NA the picture is more mixed. Not all NAs will be able to use the entirety of each of their budget envelopes, even if we assume that each of the applications received was of the highest quality and could, in principle, be funded in the first round.

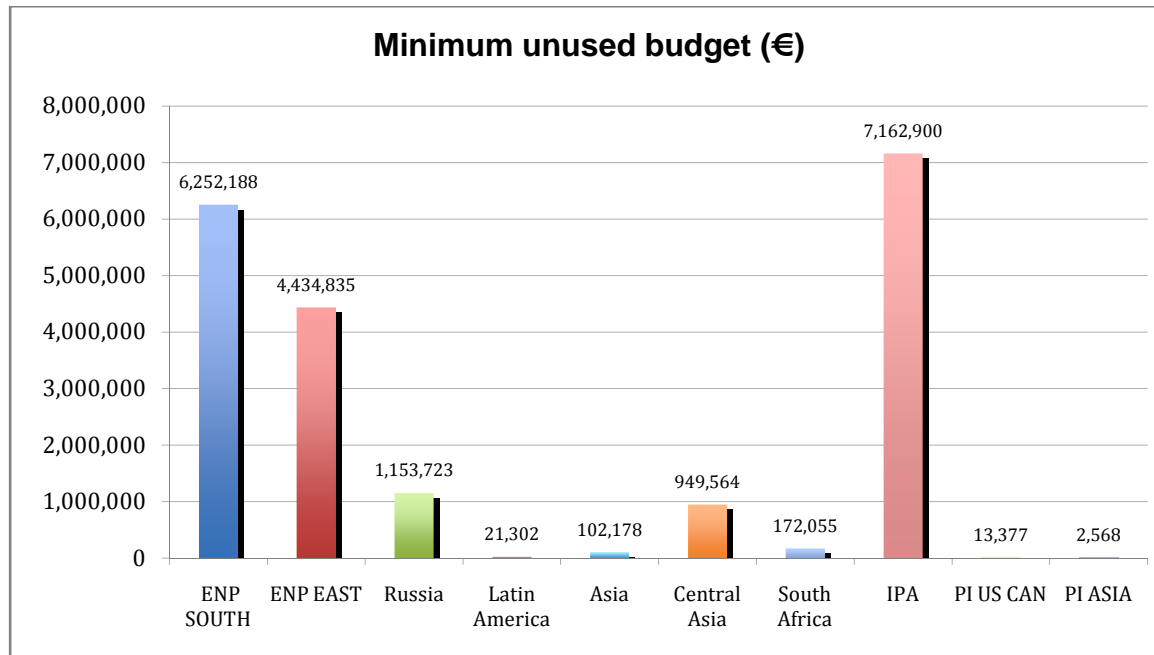
Some regions were very popular across all NAs: developing Asian countries (DCI Asia); Latin America; North America; and industrialised Asian countries (PI Asia). Other regions were reasonably popular with most NAs: Russia; South Africa; and to a lesser extent Central Asia (DCI Asia).

The remaining three envelopes were popular with some NAs but undersubscribed in a **majority** of NAs: South Mediterranean (ENI South); Eastern Partnership (ENI East); and the Western Balkans (IPA).

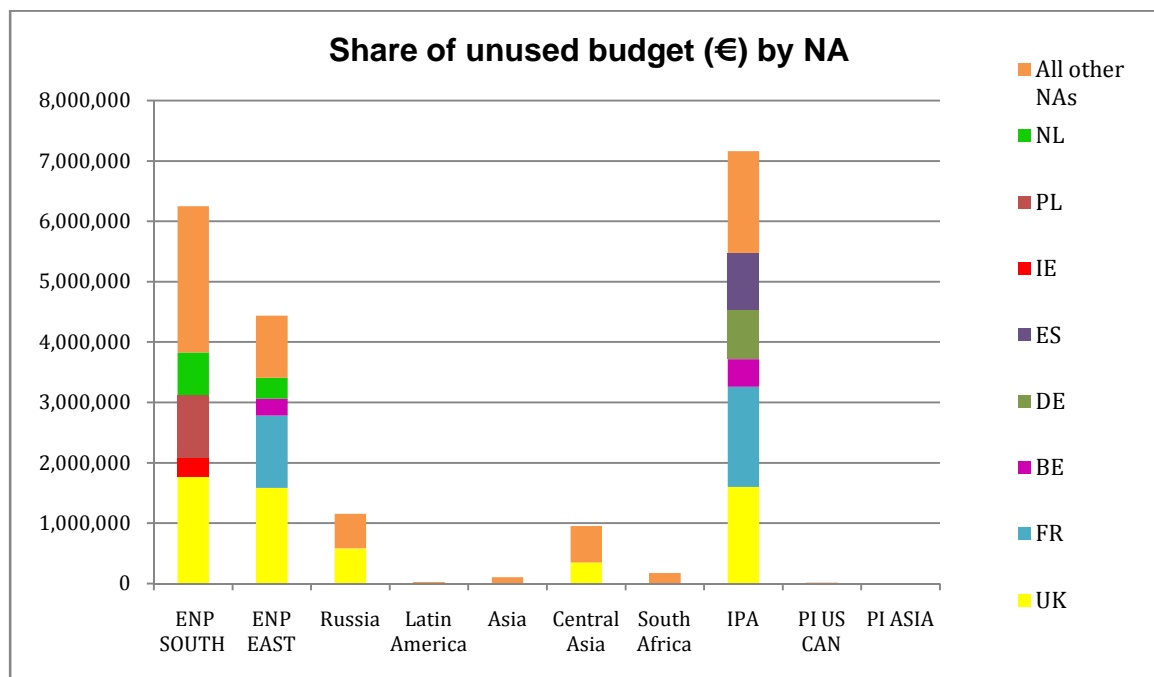
The two graphs included in this note show the minimum remaining budgets for the different envelopes; and a broad view of which NAs will have the most remaining budget.

Uneven demand for 10 budget envelopes

Graph 1 shows the minimum budget in EUR remaining after the first round of applications



Graph 2 shows the main contributors to the likely underspend of the different budget envelopes.



2. Remedial measures for maximising budget utilisation

Having examined the different possible scenarios to maximise budget utilisation for the International Credit Mobility action in 2015, DG EAC has invited NAs **who wish to do so**, to open a second round of applications for the 2015 call, for any budget envelopes that they consider are sufficiently large. Although optional, the Commission has strongly encouraged NAs to organise a **second round** for the 2015 call for budget envelopes where their likely absorption rate is low and where the remaining budget is large.

Organisation of the second application round

With the evaluation of the first round of applications anticipated at the end of May, NAs will be in a position to forecast their remaining budgets in each envelope. We anticipate that a second round of applications will be announced in mid-June and the common deadline has already been set for **24 September 2015**. The length of mobility projects will be limited to 16 months (no possibility of 24 months) beginning on 1 February 2016, in order to align with those projects selected after the first round of applications which will finish no later than 31 May 2017.

Each NA will decide which regions will be covered by this new round and publish this information on its website. The European Commission will also publish a note gathering this information.

We can already predict those NAs which will have large budgets remaining for the following envelopes. The list below is **indicative** and the final decision remains with the individual NAs.

Budget envelope	NAs with large underspend, most likely to organise a second round
ENI Southern Mediterranean countries	UK, PL, NL, IE, SK, AT, RO, BG, NO, SE, SI, FI, HR, CZ, LV
ENI Eastern partnership countries	UK, FR, NL, BE, SE, IE, DK, AT
IPA Western Balkan countries	FR, UK, ES, DE, BE, SE, PT, IE, DK, EE, FI
Central Asia	UK, NL, FR, DK, IE, BE, NO, AT
Russia	UK, RO, IE, DK

Expected role of National Erasmus+ Offices

National Agencies will be responsible for mobilising their HEIs but we rely on the NEOs to publicise this additional round in their respective countries (information sessions, targeted publicity, information on NEO websites and social media). This is a real chance for your local institutions to be selected and to organise mobility of students and staff with European universities which we should not miss.

For further information, you can contact DG EAC following colleagues:
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