

Frequently Asked Questions

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Version 3: 2 April 2020

For UK organisations with projects funded by the UK National Agency

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

It is the responsibility of your organisation and individual participants to decide on the course of action to take considering the [latest advice provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#).

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

As of 17 March 2020, the UK Government advised against all but essential international travel. Please review and [continue to consult the latest travel advice](#).

3. 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 NA with any proposed changes and you will be advised as to whether there needs to be an amendment to your contract.

4. 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 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.

5. In respect of my Erasmus+ / ESC 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 ESC contract will need to be

approved by the UK NA. As stated above please email the UK NA outlining the proposed changes, and you will be advised of the next step.

6. 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+/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.

7. Due to the Coronavirus outbreak some of my Erasmus+ / European Solidarity Corps 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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). For those who are abroad please also refer to the [relevant guidance provided](#).

11. 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.

