

Rec-Mat project: Call for external evaluator

1. The project

The Rec-Mat project is funded by the European Commission, through the Erasmus+ Programme's Key Action 2 – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education.

The Rec-Mat project started on 15 October 2017 and will end on 14 October 2020.

2. Project Objectives

The core aim of the Rec-Mat project is to contribute to facilitate and promote student exchange between Europe and Latin America by reducing the barriers to mobility related to the process of academic recognition and capacitating Latin American HEIs to implement a fairer academic recognition process.

Rec-Mat has 3 specific objectives:

- To raise awareness among LA academic staff about the importance of ensuring a full academic recognition by
 - eliminating existent prejudices regarding internationalisation;
 - eliminating resistances and current barriers to full post-mobility recognition (stimulating credit transfer and fair grade conversion);
 - highlighting the benefits of internationalisation and full recognition through a peer-to-peer approach, i.e involving mainly academic staff and not only International Officers.
- To capacitate and provide information to LA Academic and IT staff on concrete ways to facilitate the implementation of a full recognition process.
- To contribute to facilitate the harmonization of academic recognition processes between Latin American institutions. This will be achieved through the organisation of national and international dissemination events, which will debate the topic and present possible solutions to promote a wide discussion, thus leading non-partner institutions to adopt similar processes. Also, the public sharing of the project's deliverables (particularly MOOC and Digital Compendium) will provide a wide number of HEIs in Latin America (and worldwide) with extremely useful tools towards the improvement and convergence of academic recognition processes.

3. External evaluator

The external evaluator will be invited through the present call to submit proposals for the project's assessment. This external evaluation will cover all the project's activities in order to

complement the quality assessment scheme of the project and to provide the consortium with ideas for further improvement. **He/she must not be an employee, i.e. have a contractual link with one of the Rec-Mat partner institutions.**

This call for proposals is transparent, fair and based on principles of equal treatment.

4. Description of the external evaluation task

Besides the internal mechanisms to ensure quality control, the Rec-Mat consortium has decided to subcontract an external evaluation. The external evaluator must be **an expert in the field of academic recognition** and his/her work will be in accordance with the main objectives of the project.

The external evaluation will be carried out in two different moments of the implementation:

- The first, at an initial stage, will focus on the proposed goals and methodology of the project as well as cross-cutting issues such as quality, dissemination, exploitation and management strategies.
- The second, at a final stage, will focus on the results obtained and on the expected impact for target groups.

The external evaluator will actively participate in the consortium discussions and provide insight on the topic, namely by attending two consortium meetings. Through such evaluation, the consortium expects to have a completely independent constructive and experienced analysis that may enhance the quality of the project. All milestones concerning the evaluator's action must be included on the Redmine tool, as one of the activities foreseen in the Work Package 7.

5. External evaluator selection criteria: profile, skills, experience and knowledge required

- Substantive professional experience in the higher education sector in European Union and Latin American countries
- Solid background in academic recognition
- Strong quality assurance and management experience in the context of internationally funded projects. Past experience conducting external evaluations or as reviewer is an asset.
- Good experience in management/coordination and development of international projects or academic networks, ideally including UE and Latin American Higher Education Institutions
- Prior involvement into the implementation of EU-funded projects

- Excellent knowledge of English is required, knowledge of Portuguese and/or Spanish is an asset
- Excellent communication competence and experience in working in intercultural and international environments
- University degree, a PhD either in social sciences and humanities or science and technology is an asset.
- Ability to work in intercultural environments with partner

The external evaluator should demonstrate in his/her application that he/she has sound knowledge and understanding of the project topic.

6. Budget

The Rec-Mat project allows for a maximum sub-contract of **6760 Euros** including all related costs for the external evaluation.

- Evaluation task: 3000 Euros
- Travel costs: 3760 Euros. (Two travels: Santa Fe and Buenos Aires, Argentina) .

7. Documents to present:

Proposals must be sent to: recmat@univ-lille and rec-mat@reit.up.pt in PDF format, in English language. Please provide a proposal/ plan (maximum 2 pages) on how the evaluator plans to work with the consortium members so as to evaluate the project, include a list of related previous activities contributing to current know-how and expertise in the topic, as requested above (5).

8. Deadline to submit proposals under the present call

Proposals must be sent until 12th May 2018 23:59 CET.

9. Timeline

Analysis of submitted proposals: 14th May – 16th May 2018

Steering Committee decision: 17th May 2018

Communication of results: 18th May 2018