Brussels,
EACEA.A2

EMANUELE AMODEI
FLORES SRL
Via Maggio 13
Firenze
IT - 50125

Programme	EPPKA1 - KA1 - Key Action 1
Action	ECHE - ERASMUS+ CHARTER HIGHER EDUCATION
Proposal	Call for Proposals 2020 - EACEA-02-2019
Application No	273131-EPP-1-2020-1-IT-EPPKA1-ECHE
PIC	900071149
Erasmus Code	I FIRENZE08
Title	ECHE Charter 2020
Decision	ACCEPTED

Dear Applicant,

You have submitted an application to the Erasmus+ programme,2020 call for proposals of the action specified above. The call for proposals closed on 29/03/2019. The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) received 271 applications eligible for this call.

I am writing to inform you about the selection decision taken by the Director of Youth, Education and Erasmus+ of the European Commission, acting in her capacity as authorising officer. The decision is based on the recommendations of an Evaluation Committee assisted by external experts and takes into consideration the eligibility decision of the National Authority of your country.

I am pleased to inform you that your application has been selected for the award of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). You can find the Erasmus code and the PIC attached to your Charter in the subject line of this letter. These two codes must be used in every future Erasmus+ grant application.

Please note, however, that, in the framework of the monitoring process, your National Agency will verify the follow-up action undertaken by your institution in order to comply with the comments and recommendations hereby enclosed. Your institution is expected to have implemented measures for improvement by the time you start the activities funded by the Erasmus+ Programme.

Non-compliance with the recommendations, the principles of the Charter and the objectives of the Programme may result in the withdrawal of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

By applying for this Charter, your institution has committed itself to implementing the activities funded by the Erasmus + Programme in line with the fundamental principles of the Charter and to publishing the Erasmus Policy Statement of your institution on the institution's website within one month of receipt of the Charter. As an expression of your commitment to adhere with the Charter, we kindly ask you to publish the copy of the Charter signed by the legal representative of your institution on the institution's website.

For your information, out of the 283 applications submitted 215 have been selected for award of an ECHE.

The list of all selected projects will be published on the website of the Executive Agency when all applicants have been notified about the selection results:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/selection-results_en

Should you have any questions concerning your application please do not hesitate to contact the Erasmus Charter Team EACEA-ECHE@ec.europa.eu at the Executive Agency. In all communications please use your application reference number and Erasmus code.

I would take this opportunity to congratulate you on your successful application and to wish your institution every success with its participation in the Erasmus+ Programme.

Yours sincerely,

François WILLEKENS

Annex: Evaluation of your application with recommendations

Part B Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall strategy)

The applicant clearly outlines the expected impact of participation in the Erasmus+ programme on the institution. They explain how partners are chosen and the most important objectives and target groups of their mobility activities. The applicant also clearly demonstrates its understanding of the advantages and benefits of international cooperation and mobility initiatives for the institution.

Regarding Erasmus international cooperation projects, the applicant expresses concrete interest in the implementation of all types of E+ actions.

However, the applicant might consider relating its internationalisation strategy more closely to the European Union's modernisation and internationalisation agenda in HE, including its 4 main priorities for action.
The 4 priorities of the renewed agenda for HE are:
1. Tackling future skills mismatches and promoting excellence in skills development;
2. Building inclusive and connected higher education systems;
3. Ensuring higher education institutions contribute to innovation;
4. Supporting effective and efficient higher education systems.
It is also recommended that the Policy Statement takes into account the principles and goals outlined in the Commission's publication on a renewed EU agenda for higher education:
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017DC0247&from=EN

Part C Statistics

The statistics have been partially filled in. The applicant institution has 10 teachers and three administrative staff, teaching and managing one 1st cycle and one 2nd cycle programmes. During the previous year, it had one full-time equivalent administrative personnel working in international relations at the central level. No international agreements are reported to be in operation at the time of submission of the application.

The statistics show that the applicant has sufficient operational capacity to engage in the Erasmus+ programme. The applicant should however consider training staff to work in the administration and coordination of Erasmus+ initiatives.

Part D General Organisation of Programme activities

The applicant refers to an internal administrative structure which is dedicated to the implementation and supervision of mobility actions. It includes the division of tasks, the operational method and the communication tools in use. Howeve, the Erasmus webpage of the applicant institution is empty.

The applicant provides an overview of the academic credit system in use and the methodology used to allocate credits to the different course units on offer or those assigned to students in mobility. One semester contains 30 credits. This should be explained in an accessible manner to students and staff in another language on the institutional website.

A detailed course catalogue should be provided online in another language. The ECTS Users' Guide clearly states that the course catalogue should be published on the institution's website, indicating the course/subject titles in the national language and in another language, so that all interested parties can easily access it. This is currently not provided on the webpages.

Furthermore, the course catalogue should not just be the list of courses: it should be fully developed according to the recommendations in the ECTS Users' Guide. This means that course programmes should include the course title, number of ECTS to be awarded, course objectives, learning outcomes, course syllabus, etc. For more information see p.55-57 of the Users' Guide: http://ec.europa.eu/education/ects/users-guide/docs/ects-users-guide_en.pdf

A procedure for the approval and monitoring of inter-institutional agreements or learning agreements is mentioned and so is the responsible administrative structure managing the process. Please keep in mind that the inter-institutional agreements should include full information on the grading system and that grade distribution tables should be provided with the transcript of records.

A much more detailed language policy for preparing participants for mobility and for supporting incoming students and staff should be developed. This should include details of expected language competence levels required of incoming and outgoing students, as well as the language support offered to students (courses, online tools etc). All of this information should be available online in another language.

A descriptive explanation of the mentoring support for incoming and outgoing mobile participants has been presented. This involves peer group support and academic mentoring.

The applicant will provide local language support to incoming student and staff.

The mechanisms to internally check, supervise and recognise the mobility achievements obtained abroad by students and interns have been explained, with explicit reference to Learning Agreements and Diploma Supplements. The application outlines clearly what students have to do for recognition and who makes the final decision.

The measures in place to support, promote and recognise the staff mobility activities have been listed.

Summary of recommendations

The application demonstrates that the applicant is sufficiently prepared to successfully engage in the Erasmus+ Programme activities. There are however various aspects of this application which require detailed attention in order for the institution to participate successfully in the Erasmus + programme.

Strengths:
- A clear international strategy which reflects the institution's future participation in the Erasmus+ programme – although this could be improved by referencing the 4 priorities of the renewed Agenda for the Modernisation of Europe's Higher education system.
- The administrative and academic structure at the institution for the organisation and implementation of European and international mobility is well developed.
- The institution's support policy for incoming and outgoing students is clear and well structured.
- Mobility will be recognised based on the principles of transparency, flexibility and fairness.
- The institution is committed to promoting staff mobility and participation in international projects.

Weaknesses:
- The basic information related to the Erasmus+ programme needs to be made available online in another language.
- The Course Catalogue should be prepared according to the recommendations in the ECTS Users' Guide and be made available online in another language.
- It is not clear whether the inter-institutional agreements will include full information on the grading system and grade distribution tables.
- The institution's language policy for incoming and outgoing students should be developed further.