



CEEPUS IV Work Programme 2025 - 2027

The Contracting Parties shall develop and promote individual thematic university networks. These networks are designed to stimulate academic mobility, in particular regional student and teacher mobility within Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, and to promote Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European university cooperation as well as the development of joint activities, joint intensive courses and of joint programs, leading up to double, joint or multiple degrees.

Action 1: Establishment and Operation of Individual University Networks

- 1) A network shall comprise at least five universities, five of them belonging to different Contracting Parties. The participation of institutions other than eligible universities as Silent Partners shall be foreseen upon invitation by an eligible university and provided the CEEPUS budget is not affected.
- 2) Any university desiring to participate in a CEEPUS IV network shall meet the following requirements:
 - a) Periods of study or training or placement completed at one participating university or host institution shall be fully recognized at the partner universities.
 - b) Mutual recognition within the network shall be foreseen. ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) shall be applied. In the case of students working on their theses or dissertations this might be replaced by a statement of both the supervisor of the home and of the host university that the study abroad period served the purpose of working towards a thesis or dissertation, respectively.
 - c) In order to facilitate academic mobility, CEEPUS IV courses and/or lectures shall be held in English, or in a language relevant to the topic of the network.
 - d) Accompanying language courses in the language of the host country might be offered where possible, and students can also earn ECTS credits for these courses.

- e) The use of e-learning, e – teaching and the development and extension of digital skills and competences shall be encouraged.
- f) Priority will be given to networks with a high participation rate in network activities among their partner institutions.
- g) Efforts to promote gender balance for faculty staff in network activities will be actively encouraged.
- h) The collaboration between higher education and research within the CEEPUS networks will be encouraged by strategically prioritizing the mobility of young faculty members, up to 10 years post their PhD-graduation, and PhD scholars.

Action 2: Scholarship Scheme

- 1) All activities within CEEPUS networks are made possible by individual mobilities through scholarships.
- 2) The CEEPUS IV currency is defined as "one scholarship month". All Contracting Parties shall announce their quotas for the following academic year in yearly intervals, which will be officially accepted by the Senior Officials online. The minimum requirement shall be 100 scholarship months.
- 3) Since there is no transfer of funds, CEEPUS IV scholarships shall be paid by the host country, with the exception of travel expenses, which shall be paid by the country of origin where applicable.
- 4) CEEPUS IV shall not cover overhead costs or expenses related to organizational purposes. Individual Contracting Parties and participating universities are encouraged to provide additional funding.
- 5) With the exemption of hybrid or virtual grants according to Action 2, para. 7, CEEPUS IV scholarships are "comprehensive" scholarships, i.e., intended to cover living expenses,

laboratory fees according to general usage in the host country where applicable, and housing and basic medical insurance where applicable during the stay in a host country. CEEPUS IV scholarships shall be linked to the cost of living in the respective host country and shall be safeguarded against inflation. Additional scholarship months may be considered for students with special needs where applicable.

- 6) CEEPUS IV offers additional grants to disadvantaged and/or disabled students to involve them in the mobility programs, where applicable and according to national regulations.
- 7) CEEPUS IV scholarships can also be used for expenses related to the purposes for e-learning, e-teaching or hybrid learning or teaching, if applicable and according to the national regulations in a CEEPUS member country. In that case, the CEEPUS IV scholarship does not necessarily have to be used for mobility purposes only, but scholars can also receive the CEEPUS grant or a partial grant even if they are not present in their guest country for the complete awarded period.

Action 3: Student Mobility Scholarship Scheme

- 1) The Contracting Parties agree to award individual scholarships to students from eligible CEEPUS universities, as defined in the CEEPUS IV agreement, who participate in the CEEPUS IV activities described under Action 1 and 3.
- 2) Students need to have successfully completed a minimum of two semesters of higher education studies to be eligible, except for short-term programs and intensive courses under Action 5. Each student may receive up to a total of 12 scholarship months for each study cycle, either Bachelor or Master.
- 3) Student scholarships for regular semester activities shall be awarded for a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 10 months. Longer stays may be permitted for doctoral students. Shorter stays shall only be permitted for students working on their theses or dissertations.

- 4) Synergies between higher education and research shall be enhanced by focusing on the mobility of Master and PhD-students.
- 5) Scholarships shall also be awarded to students and graduates for practical training and placement at a commercial enterprise, research facility, governmental institution, or other organizations in the host country, provided that a definite and structured proposal is made.
- 6) CEEPUS IV scholarships may also be awarded to students enrolled at an eligible CEEPUS IV university for whom special arrangements for studying have been made outside a CEEPUS IV network (Freemovers).
- 7) A student studying within the CEEPUS IV framework shall be exempt from registration and/or tuition fees.

Action 4: Faculty Members Mobility Scholarship Scheme

- 1) The Contracting Parties agree to award scholarships to faculty members (i.e., teaching, research and/or artistic staff of a given higher education program) participating in a CEEPUS IV network activities outlined in Action 1. This also implies their active contribution to transnational university cooperation and/or appropriate training measures.
- 2) Faculty members shall carry a workload of at least six teaching or supervising hours a week at the host university, as laid down in their mobility application. There is a limitation of 10 mobilities per person and academic year.
- 3) Scholarships under CEEPUS IV may be granted to faculty members from an eligible CEEPUS IV university outside a CEEPUS network, provided they actively contribute to transnational university cooperation and/or participate in relevant training measures. (Freemovers). There is a restriction of four freemover mobilities per applicant and academic year.

Action 5: Short-Term Programs and Intensive Courses

- 1) The Contracting Parties also agree to award scholarships to promote short term programs and intensive courses.
- 2) Short-Term programs and intensive courses are designed to attract participants from as many partner institutions within the relevant CEEPUS network as possible and participants from the CEEPUS Contracting Parties. Participants are defined as students and faculty members. (i.e., the teaching, research and/or artistic staff of a given higher education program.) The Courses may also be attended by undergraduates after the completion of at least one semester.
- 3) Short-term programs and intensive courses are joint activities which can be summer schools, winter schools, joint student group activities, joint intensive programs or joint certificate programs.
- 4) These courses last for at least 6 days and carry credits for students and are automatically recognized by the CEEPUS partner universities as part of a learning agreement.
- 5) Short-term programs and intensive courses are focused on specialized topics that are directly linked to the network's thematic framework.
- 6) Short term programs can also be excursions, where applicable. Excursion, lasting at least three days and offering academic credits, are designed to enhance students' educational experience by providing opportunities to explore and learn in real-world settings. They aim to complement academic learning, foster cultural understanding, and promote the practical application of theoretical knowledge. Participants are defined as students and faculty members.
- 7) Hybrid grants that combine both in-person exchange and virtual participation can be effectively used to prepare and support short term programs and intensive courses, where applicable.
- 8) Conferences and similar events are explicitly excluded.

Action 6: University Staff Mobility Scholarship Scheme

- 1) The Contracting Parties further commit to granting scholarships to University Staff from eligible CEEPUS Universities involved in CEEPUS networks, specifically administrators from International Relations Offices. These scholarships aim to strengthen capacity building within the network and support the organization of collaborative activities among CEEPUS network partners.
- 2) The duration of the scholarship stay can be from 2 to 5 working days. The outcome must be documented in the mobility report and the letter of confirmation.
- 3) There is a restriction of 2 mobilities per applicant and academic year.

Action 7: Network coordination meetings

- 1) The Contracting Parties further commit to granting scholarships to participants of CEEPUS network coordination meetings, where applicable and according to national regulations. The meetings aim to strengthen capacity building within the networks and support the organization of collaborative activities among CEEPUS network partners.
- 2) Network meetings have to include a maximum number of contact persons from participating units within a network, including the coordinating unit from the host country. At least 50% of all partner institutions of a network should be participating in such meetings to receive scholarship funds.
- 3) Network meetings can last from 1 to 3 working days, in accordance with national regulations.
- 4) There is a restriction of 1 meeting per network and 1 mobility per applicant per academic year.

Action 8: Inclusion of scholars from third countries

- 1) The Contracting Parties further commit to granting scholarships to third-country students and faculty members of eligible CEEPUS universities if they can provide proof of their equal status with CEEPUS citizens, if applicable and according to national regulations.
- 2) The Contracting Parties further declared a shared interest in collaborating with Ukrainian higher education institutions. Ukrainian students and teachers are eligible to participate in mobilities within the CEEPUS networks or for freemover mobilities, where applicable and according to national regulations. The participation is subject to the availability of unused scholarship months/funds or based on an additional scholarship quota in the respective CEEPUS contracting country.
- 3) Each contracting party can accept and recognize the participation of students and teachers from higher education institutions from non-contracting parties according to national regulations and based on the individual decision of a contracting party. The activities must be linked to a CEEPUS network activity, meaning the incoming scholar must be supervised by at least one participating unit in a CEEPUS network. Contracting parties may announce extra scholarship months for each following academic year for these activities at the announcement of the pledges. There is a maximum limit of 10% of the overall quota per academic year and CEEPUS country for third country participants.