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| Logo of the European Commission, 12 yellow stars on a blue background arranged in a circle and framed by two light grey graphic elements representing the Berlaymont building, which is the headquarter of the European Commission. | EUROPEAN COMMISSIONDIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTUREYouth, Education and Erasmus+**Erasmus+ Coordination** |

Brussels, EAC.B.4/UHB/VD/kn *2022/NOT NA DIR/001* **(E+/NA/DIR/2022/072)**

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE ERASMUS+ NATIONAL AGENCIES**

# Subject: Online Language Support adjustments

This note is a follow up to the [Note 033: Online Language Support – New service](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/download/attachments/1046808348/033-%20Online%20Language%20Support%20%E2%80%93%20New%20service.pdf?api=v2).

Progress has been made integrating the Beneficiary Module with EU Academy. The Beneficiary Module will share participants’ and learning managers’ specific data with EU Academy. This will facilitate language course enrolment and monitoring. The interface with OLS is currently being tested internally. Both systems will be opened for **acceptance testing in the course of January 2023**. The systems will be thoroughly tested and the functionalities communicated in advance to all of you before going in production, so that the transition can be efficiently planned by beneficiaries.

At the same time, the Commission is fully aware that the absence of such integration between the Beneficiary Module and the EU Academy brought on additional workload for beneficiaries due to the need to manually check in OLS whether participants have finished a mandatory language assessment, where relevant. That is why the Commission has also taken the decision to **lift the obligation for participants in higher education to take an OLS assessment before going on mobility,** thus aligning to all other mobility actions eligible for OLS. This is valid for all mobilities for 2021, 2022 and 2023 Erasmus+ calls.

## Adjustments for participants

Currently, participants receive an email inviting them to sign up for the OLS in EU Academy and benefit from all the opportunities offered by the platform.

Participants will continue receiving such an invitation - either from beneficiaries or from EU Academy - to connect to OLS. Please note that clear guidelines will be provided to beneficiaries and National Agency staff about the possible change of workflow for sending invitations to participants, before it is released in production.

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However, **the pre-mobility OLS language assessment will not be compulsory anymore in any mobility action**, **although highly encouraged**. Therefore, there will be no repercussions for participants who would not have taken the OLS assessment.

The use of the OLS platform will continue being promoted for participants to improve their knowledge of the language in which they will study abroad, or use for their training in companies, so that they can make the most out of their learning and training experience. OLS makes language support accessible in a flexible and easy way, and also contributes to promoting language learning and linguistic diversity.

Participants who wish to improve their language proficiency have the opportunity to follow online language courses before and during their time abroad. Assessment tests and communities of learners are available in 29 languages (24 official EU languages + languages of associated Erasmus+ countries). Online courses for 24 languages are available, from levels A1 to B2. More courses will be gradually included in 2023 to reach all levels for the 29 languages.

Students have also the opportunity to connect with each other through the OLS forums and discuss their language learning experiences. There are already 12 communities with their respective forums and community managers. In the course of 2023, this number is expected to more than double.

## Adjustments for beneficiaries

Until the integration between the Beneficiary module and the EU Academy is put in production, beneficiaries will continue sending emails directly to learners, inviting them to sign up for the OLS in EU Academy.

# However, beneficiaries will not need to monitor that their participants have taken the language assessment prior to a mobility abroad, since it is not compulsory any more to take it before going on mobility, although it should continue being highly encouraged.

**This change does not require any amendment to the beneficiary grant agreements**.

## Adjustments for National Agencies

**The requirement for National Agencies to monitor the results and usage of the individual OLS journeys of participants is removed**. Nevertheless, the dashboard for monitoring OLS usage, scheduled for early 2023, will allow National Agencies to monitor the overall usage of the OLS, if the learners’ access to EU Academy had been established via encoding the learners’ data in BM. This way, it will be possible for National Agencies to report on the OLS usage in their yearly reports and provide information on the use the Online Language Support, including achievements, challenges and best practices, as appropriate. As this feature is currently not available, they will not have to report on detailed use of the OLS by their beneficiaries in the yearly reports due by 15 February 2023.

As concerns grant agreements (GAs), relevant OLS clauses referring to the mandatory language assessment in beneficiaries’ and participants’ GAs for 2021 and 2022 calls shall

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be disregarded and no amendments to those GAs are needed. For the participant GAs, the current circumstances are to be considered as a 'duly justified case' for the assessment not to be taken. References to the mandatory language assessments will additionally be removed from the 2023 Erasmus+ calls documents. Please note that the parts regarding the obligation to promote language learning and the general use of the OLS will continue to apply.

Finally, the Guide for NAs will be updated accordingly.

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Head of Unit

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 Electronically signed on 21/12/2022 18:07 (UTC+01) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121