



E U R O P E A N A L L I A N C E

BIP INFO SESSION

CALL for BIPs

Blended Intensive Programmes

Work Package 6

23rd September, 2024



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the European Union**

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BIP – DEFINITION

BIP (Blended Intensive Programme) is a short, physical learning, teaching and training programme which allows groups of higher education institutions to jointly develop blended mobility curricula and activities for students, academic and administrative staff.

BIP should foster:

- development of transnational and transdisciplinary curricula;
- innovative ways of learning and teaching;
- online collaboration;
- research-based learning;
- challenge-based approaches that tackle societal challenges.

BIP provides an opportunity to reach out to new groups of students, for example those in study fields where mobility opportunities have been limited or those who lack confidence to go abroad alone.





BIP - GOALS

BIP should be based on conducting short, intensive mobility periods and activities with international partner universities using innovative learning and teaching methods, including online learning.

The intensive program should have an additional benefit compared to existing courses or trainings, e.g. BIPs aiming to:

- form transnational and transdisciplinary teams;
- facilitate the joint processing of global changes (e.g. in connection with SDGs);
- promote flexible mobility offers for students with different backgrounds and fields of study and in all study cycles;
- create more opportunities for blended learning;
- introduce innovative forms of teaching and learning;
- stimulate and support the development of transnational and multidisciplinary courses.

BIP – GENERAL RULES



- **At least 3** universities from 3 programme countries;
- Dedicated to students or staff who go on a training activity;
- The funding source for students is **Erasmus+ KA131** grant (category: SMS – Studies);
- Includes both a **physical activity** (5-30 days) and **virtual part** (no specified duration);
- Minimum number of **ECTS: 3**;
- From project KA131-2024 there are **3 kinds of BIPs to apply: for 10, 15 and 20 participants**
- **10% margine rule** – due to this rule the minimum number of participants for the above BIPs is: 9, 14 and 18;
- Non-EU students are not counted to the minimum 15;
- At least 2 universities send its students to participate in BIP;
- **Green travel** option is available (car pooling, bus, train);
- Before mobility **students prepare their OLAs** (it is important to pay attention to equivalent courses at the sending institution since BIPs are short-term studies);
- BIP can be recognized as a part of the study programme or as a Diploma Supplement.

OS – Organisational Support (sharing the BIP slot)



- **OS (Organisational Support)** in the amount of EUR 400 per participant is paid to each university which has been awarded with the BIP slot.
- Starting from the project KA131-2024 there are **3 kinds of BIPs**:
 - 10 participants: OS in the amount of EUR 4000
 - 15 participants: OS in the amount of EUR 6000
 - 20 participants: OS in the amount of EUR 8000.
- When one of the EU GREEN universities is giving their BIP slot to the another university for the BIP organization, also should share their OS money. The amount of the transfer cannot be higher than EUR 8000.
- The amount should be discussed earlier between the 2 universities but we recommend to transfer 100% of the OS money to the host university. The OS money should be meant for the development and organisation of the programme, the payments for the teachers are excluded.

ROLES EXPLANATION

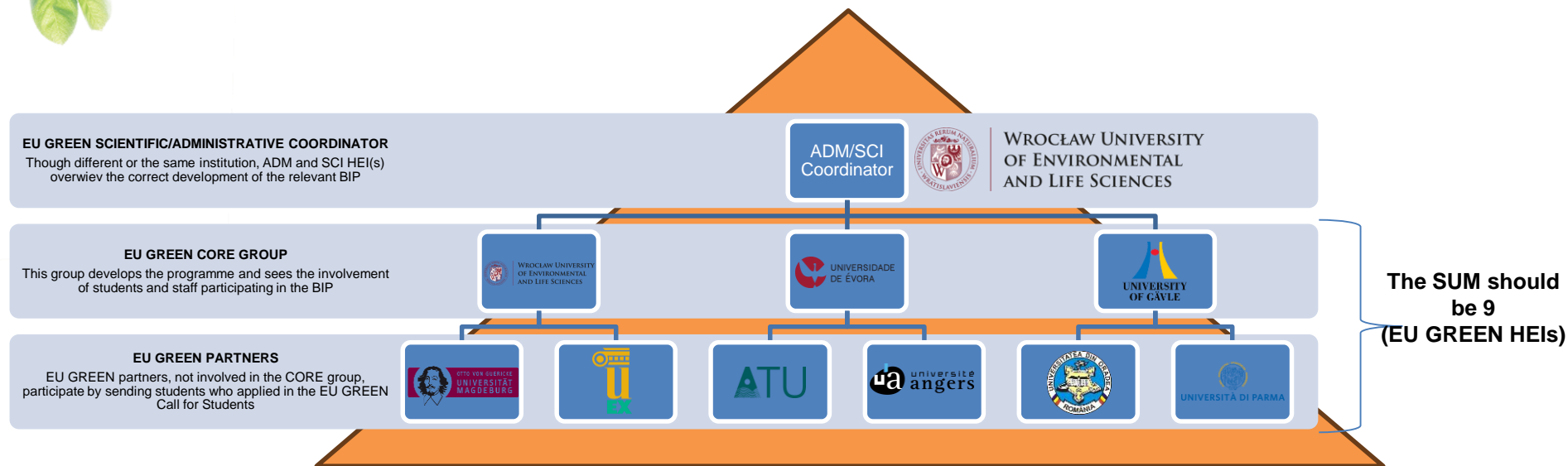
SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR

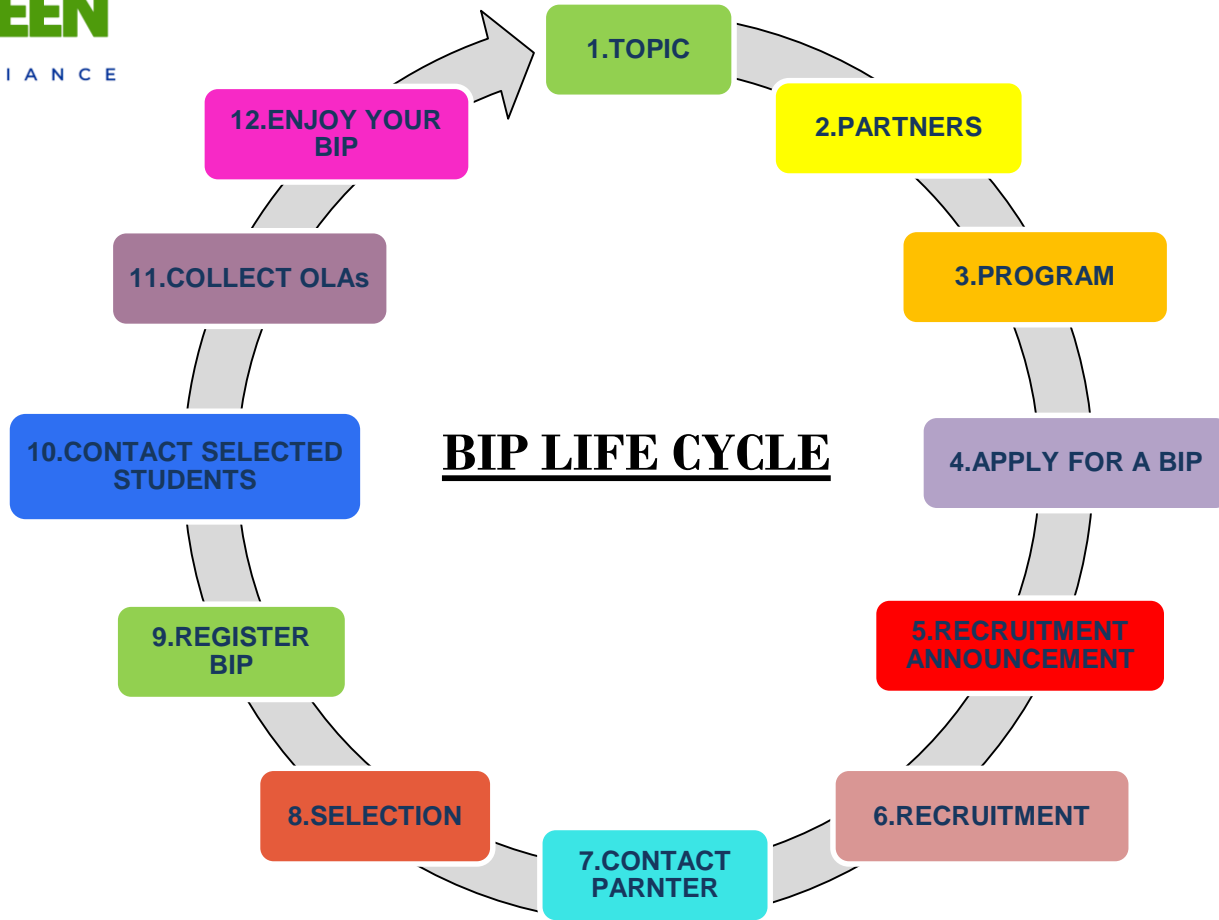
- is responsible for preparation of the BIP programme (together with BIP partners);
- is responsible for preparation of the BIP advertisement with all the details regarding recruitment and uploading the advertisement on its university website;
- is responsible for conducting recruitment of the students;
- is responsible for announcement of the recruitment results and further contact with the selected students.

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

- is responsible for the registration of the BIP in the ERAMSUS+ Beneficiary Module (owner of the „E+ BIP SLOT” and owner of the OS financial support);
- is responsible for controlling the minimum number of BIP applicants registered in Beneficiary Module;
- is responsible for sharing the Organizational Support money with the host University;
- is responsible for reporting BIP in the interim and final report.

BIPs – involvement of all EU GREEN universities (example of the BIP Statistics for Management)





HOW TO CREATE A BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAM?

1) INVENT A TOPIC OF THE BIP

- The topic must be chosen very carefully and it should be interesting for most of the EU GREEN students. If it is not, there is a high risk that the BIP will finally fall apart because of lack of applications.
- The BIP topic should address one or more thematic areas identified in the six clusters of excellence described in the EU GREEN Research Strategy.

2) INVITE PARTNERS TO THE CORE GROUP

The core group is responsible for creating a BIP programme. It is advised to ask for support the person responsible for BIPs administration and dissemination. Each EU GREEN university has such one person.

3) CREATE A BIP PROGRAMME

- The scientific coordinator together with partners from the core group create the programme (onsite and online part)
- The modules are chosen here together with the teachers who will be involved by giving lectures.

THE PERFECT BIP PROGRAMME

➤ Should have an added value compared to existing programmes or courses	➤ Should enable the students or staff to gain new perspectives on the topic being studied	➤ Should encourage transdisciplinary and multinational teaching and training
➤ Should promote flexible mobility offers for students with different backgrounds and fields of study and in all study cycles	➤ Should guarantee active classroom participation by providing an appropriate ratio between teaching/training staff and students/learners	➤ Should help develop transversal competencies, in addition to the key competencies in sustainability and learning outcomes on subject-related competencies
➤ Should provide significantly new learning opportunities, skills development, access to information and to state-of-the art research results and other knowledge for the participating teachers and student/learners	➤ Should include challenge-based learning where transnational and transdisciplinary teams work together to tackle challenges for example those linked to the EU GREEN Alliance sustainable development goals or other societal challenges identified by regions, cities or companies	➤ Should allow members of the teaching staff to exchange views on teaching content, new curricula approaches, to test innovative teaching methods that could eventually become part of a newly devised joint course or curriculum in an international classroom environment

THE MANDATORY POINTS IN BIP PROGRAM

- **BIP title**
- **Access requirements: study cycle and field of study of the eligible students, language requirements**
- **Maximum number of admitted students:**
It is not advised to accept more than 60 students, the most popular approach is 3 students per EU GREEN University which gives 27 students in total
- **Teaching hours in presence mode (and dates)**
As a soft recommendation, at least 30% of the proposed total number of hours of the BIP can represent activities guided by academics/teaching/training staff, as direct interaction (face-to-face or online) with the participants, the difference being represented by individual work conducted by the students.
- **Teaching hours in virtual mode (and dates + used platform)**
- **Number of ECTS awarded to participants upon completion (the most popular: 5 ECTS)**
- ECTS credit points must be linked with the total number of hours dedicated by the student to participate in the programme expressed as workload (1 ECTS = 25-30 hours of student workload).
- **Language of instruction**
- **Modules discription**
- **Learning outcomes**
- **Assessment criteria.**



HOW TO CREATE A BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAM?

4) APPLY FOR A BIP WITHIN THE CALL FOR BIPs

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- [Call for BIPs](#) - on the EU GREEN website
 - [BIP application tool](#) - to be completed by 31st October 2024
 - [Results of the Call](#) - announced on 15th November 2024 on the EU GREEN website

5) PREPARE THE RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT which should be available:

- At the EU GREEN website (within call for BIPs)
 - At the scientific coordinator university website
- with the detailed conditions regarding:
- Mandatory level and field of study (Bachelor, Master or PhD)
 - Language level
 - Earlier attended courses
 - Transcripts of records.

6) CONDUCT THE RECRUITMENT

- The selection of the students has to be managed by the Scientific Coordinator
- It should be completed in about one month prior the start date of the BIP.

HOW TO CREATE A BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAM?

7) CONTACT EACH SENDING PARTNER and:

- Send the list of students who applied for the given BIP
 - Ask which of these students are eligible to attend the BIP
- „Eligible” in this context means that:
- The student will go with Erasmus+ short mobility scholarship
 - There are no other reasons (raised by the sending university) why the student shouldn't attend the BIP.



8) MAKE THE SELECTION of students:

- At least one academic from each EU GREEN university (part of the BIP core group) must take part in the meeting of the selection committee
- It is advised to create a „waiting list” with the students who met all the required conditions but didn't receive enough recruitment points to participate in the given BIP. Such a list may be really helpful when resignations appear.

9) REGISTER BIP IN THE BENEFICIARY MODULE:

- This role is assigned to the Administrative Coordinator who holds the BIP slot
- All the participating students have to be registered in the Beneficiary Module.

HOW TO CREATE A BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAM?

10) CONTACT THE SELECTED STUDENTS and the sending partners:

The Scientific Coordinator contact all the selected students with:

- the selection results
- the logistic details of the BIP, such as: the platform used for the online part, accommodation, travel options, the meeting place, food options (it is advised to provide free lunches to the students)

In case when the Scientific Coordinator is not the host of the BIP it is the host university which provides the students with the logistic details.

11) COLLECT OLAs:

- The Scientific Coordinator sends students full info required to complete the OLA (Online Learning Agreement) including details such as: BIP/course code, description of the virtual part, name and email of the responsible person)
- The Scientific Coordinator signs OLAs of all accepted students.

12) ENJOY YOUR BIP 😊

- Prior the start date of the onsite part the Scientific coordinator should choose a group of 3-4 students who will take pictures and prepare input to the BIP report
- Don't forget to provide the students and staff with the Certificates of attendance upon your onsite part of the BIP is completed
- The final Certificates (together with Transcripts of records) should be issued upon the whole BIP is completed.

BIPs – suggestions and tips

RECRUITMENT



- ✓ We encourage to organise BIPs dedicated also for the 1st cycle students
- ✓ We recommend to give the priority in the selection to the students who have never attended any BIPs before
- ✓ The sending institution which sends a student for more than one BIP should check if the BIPs do not overlap. In such a case the student has to choose only one BIP.



OVERLOADED PROGRAM

- ✓ The lectures and generally the program shouldn't be overloaded: 8 contact hours per day is enough
- ✓ The lectures shouldn't be scheduled for the weekend.



EXAMS

- ✓ Maybe it is better to replace some exams with presentations, reports and a teamwork.

SOCIALIZING/CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



- ✓ Students need some activities (other than lectures) in order to meet in an informal atmosphere
- ✓ These activities should be included in the BIP programme as part of the pluriculturalism.

BIPs – suggestions and tips



FREE TIME

- ✓ for many students participation in BIP is being in the given city (or even a country) for the first time
- ✓ the students need to have some time for the sightseeing.



FREE LUNCHES

- ✓ coordinators of all BIPs should guarantee free lunches for the students.



ACCOMMODATION

- ✓ the host university should provide students with some contacts regarding accommodation
- ✓ the best option is to book rooms in a dormitory which is cheap.



RESIGNATIONS

- ✓ In case of increasing number of resignations and the BIP start date dangerously getting closer ... don't panic but try to reach out to universities which are in a close distance from your country. It is much easier for the student to make up his/her mind and go for a BIP which is held not so far away.

BIPs - responsible staff

If you have any doubts or questions please do not hesitate to contact the *BIP responsible person* at your university:

UNIVERSITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	EMAIL
UEX	Magdalena López Pérez	dirmovilidad@unex.es
UA	Sonja Civardi	sonja.civardi@univ-angers.fr
UNIPR	Alessandro Bernazzoli	alessandro.bernazzoli@unipr.it
UE	Marina Cordeiro	mscm@uevora.pt
UO	Ana-Maria Vandici	avandici@uoradea.ro
OVGU	Reena Schliephake	reena.schliephake@ovgu.de
ATU	Frances Lucy	frances.lucy@atu.ie
HIG	Malin Hillman	malin.hillman@hig.se
UPWR	Anna Posadowska-Malarz	anna.posadowska-malarz@upwr.edu.pl



Thank you!

Anna Posadowska-Malarz (UPWr)

Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator

Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences

anna.posadowska-malarz@upwr.edu.pl



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