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NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE ERASMUS+ NA DIRECTORS

Subject: Visa for outgoing Erasmus+ participants to Israel and Palestine¹

The purpose of this note is to explain to the Erasmus+ National Agencies the visa procedures to follow in case of undertaking a mobility period to either Israel or Palestine, with a view at communicating those to the involved universities and to prospective participants.

Israel

While the majority of citizens of the Erasmus+ Programme Countries may enter Israel visa-free for visits of up to 90 days², student visas are required for those planning a longer stay.

Student visas must be requested by the host universities in Israel on the student's behalf before he/she travels. Once the host university receives a request from an Erasmus+ incoming student, it will apply for a student visa to the Israeli Ministry of Interior. After the student visa has been awarded, the host university should provide it to the student before he/she travels.

A student planning a stay longer than 90 days should not travel before his/her host university has provided the student visa. In the event that a student enters Israel visa-free, he or she will have to leave the country after 3 months.

Palestine

While most visitors from the Erasmus+ Programme Countries to Palestine enjoy visa-free access through Israel for visits of up to 90 days³, permits are required for those planning a longer stay.

¹ This designation shall not be construed a recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice of the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

² Visitors from certain Programme Countries, or those coming from Programme Countries but with a different nationality, may need visas irrespective of length of stay. For the latest entry requirements, please check: <https://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ConsularServices/Documents/VisaRequirements-Tourists.pdf>.

³ See note 2 above.

Permits must be requested by the host universities in Palestine on the student's behalf before he/she travels. Once the host university receives a request from an Erasmus+ incoming student, it will apply for a permit to the Palestinian Authority, who will forward it to the Israeli Civil Administration (Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories) liaison officer. After the student permit has been awarded, the host university should provide it to the student before he/she travels. Generally, student permits are granted for three-month periods; when needed, permit extensions may be requested to the Palestinian Authority, who will forward them to the Israeli Civil Administration. Any questions in this regard may be referred to the public request office of the Israeli Civil Administration, e-mail: mnz@mgar.co.il.

A student planning a stay longer than 90 days should not travel before his/her host university has provided the permit. In the event that a student enters Palestine permit-free, he or she will have to leave the country after 3 months.

It has come to the attention of the European Commission that some students have erroneously applied for Palestinian student visas at Israeli embassies or at Ben-Gurion airport in Tel-Aviv. It is **therefore essential that sending universities in Europe and host universities in Palestine explain the procedure** to follow to the involved universities and to prospective students.

We would like to recall that neither the European Commission nor the European External Action Service are involved in visa applications, provision or consular assistance.

The above information is only provided for clarification purposes and with a view to its transmission to future participants in exchanges in Israel or Palestine in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme.

Ute HALLER-BLOCK
Head of Unit