Changing lives, opening minds

Erasmus+

A guide to European Union opportunities in education, training, youth and sport



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Through Erasmus+ the European Union supports a wide range of activities in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. This brochure highlights the main opportunities available and explains how you can find out more.

There may be opportunities for you...

Erasmust

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Introduction

The EU is investing \leq 14.7 billion in Erasmus+, the new programme for education, training, youth and sport for 2014-2020.

Erasmus+ is a unique programme which seeks to boost the job prospects and personal development of young people, as well as help our education, training and youth systems deliver teaching and learning that gives people the skills they need in today's labour market and society, as well as in the future.

If you are interested in EU funding for education, training, youth or sport, then this brochure is for you.

The following pages provide essential information about the main opportunities available in these fields. More detailed information is available in the Programme Guide for applicants.

An integrated programme

Erasmus+ has 3 Key Actions:

- Key Action 1: Learning mobility opportunities for students, doctoral candidates, trainees, young volunteers and youngsters in general, as well as teachers, trainers, lecturers and youth workers.
- Key Action 2: The opportunity to build partnerships that drive collaboration within and between education, training and youth institutions and organisations, as well as between the worlds of education and work.
- Key Action 3: Supporting the processes of reflection, dialogue and evidence-building needed to deliver reform in education, training and youth policies and systems.



Opportunities for all

Erasmus+ provides opportunities for:

- Higher education and vocational students to study, train and gain work experience abroad (including mobility to and from Europe in higher education).
- Young people to take part in transnational youth exchanges and volunteering (including to and from Europe).
- Teachers, trainers, lecturers, administrators and youth workers to teach, train and gain new professional perspectives abroad, or to share experience (including mobility to and from Europe in higher education).
- Education, training and youth institutions/organisations to exchange good practice in order to innovate and modernise.
- Collaborative initiatives between higher education institutions and enterprises to strengthen the entrepreneurial potential of both staff and students, as well as to help organisations better respond to the needs of the labour market.
- Support to improve policy making and the reform of education, training and youth systems.
- Collaborative projects in the field of sport.



Languages for people on the move

The better your language skills, the more you will benefit from your time abroad. Practicing different languages is an important aspect of most mobility actions. If you're a university student, volunteer or staff member staying abroad for at least two months, or a vocational learner staying abroad for at least one month, Erasmus+ offers you the chance to reinforce your knowledge of the language you will use for studying, working or volunteering.

When your mobility application has been approved you will be asked to check your language competences and offered a language course either before leaving or during your stay abroad. Contact your home institution or organisation to find out more about this great new opportunity offered by Erasmus+. Brush up your language skills and get ready to move!



Erasmus+ support for the learning mobility of individuals (Key Action 1)

Erasmus+ supports a variety of mobility opportunities for learners and staff in education, training and youth institutions and organisations.

For learners, the aims of these opportunities include improving learning performance, enhancing their employability and improving career prospects, as well as enhancing their personal development and participation in society.

For staff, the aims include improving competences, increasing their capacity to trigger modernisation in their educational or youth organisations, and broadening their understanding of practices, policies and systems.

Learner mobility

Students in higher education

Study periods: Students can spend from 3 to 12 months studying at a university or college in another country.

Traineeships: Alternatively, you can do a traineeship in a workplace abroad lasting from 2 to 12 months.

The study or traineeship can be in any field or academic discipline at Bachelor, Master or Doctoral level. It is also possible to combine a traineeship with a study period abroad.

Recent higher education graduates can also do a traineeship abroad within one year of graduation. But plan ahead! You have to be selected by your university or college during your last year of study.

Erasmus+ also supports some European students to study in the rest of the world and students from elsewhere in the world to study in Europe.

Who is it for?

- Students or doctoral candidates wanting to study or train abroad, or receive a joint degree issued by more than one university
- Trainees or apprentices looking to expand their skills abroad
- Young people wishing to benefit from a youth exchange or to volunteer abroad

Studying at another university helped me broaden my scope in my field of study more than ever before. But the best part of the experience was meeting a lot of people who I am sure to work with in the future

Robert (UK) on studying industrial design for ten months at Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands



Master's student loans

Erasmus+ supports new, low cost loans to help Master's students to study in other European countries, with favourable pay back conditions.

Students are able to apply for a loan for a full Master's degree abroad and can borrow up to $\leq 12,000$ for a one year course or up to $\leq 18,000$ for a two year course.

The loans are provided by selected financial intermediaries in Programme Countries.

Joint Master's degrees

Erasmus+ offers Master's students worldwide the chance of a scholarship to follow joint, high-level international study programmes run by university partnerships. The Joint Master's programmes lead to a degree issued jointly by some or all of the participating institutions.

Tip!

Joint Doctoral programmes are supported by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under the Horizon 2020 Research programme. Ongoing Joint Doctoral programmes selected under Erasmus Mundus before 2014 continue to be supported under Erasmus+.



How to find out more?

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

How to apply?

You can get more information from the international office of your higher education institution. For joint degrees, students can find the list of Joint Master's degrees on the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) website:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

Mobility in vocational education and training (VET)

Mobility abroad can help young people in vocational education and training to gain the skills needed for today's competitive employment market.

Upper secondary students in vocational training schools, trainees and apprentices may complete a traineeship or apprenticeship abroad, hosted in a company, a workplace (e.g. NGO, public organisation) or vocational school, with a period of work-based learning in a company. Traineeships may last from two weeks to one year.

Also, recent graduates of a VET school or company (i.e. former apprentices) may participate in a mobility activity. Recent graduates must undertake their traineeship abroad within one year of qualifying.

My mobility experience has definitely helped further my career. Without it, I wouldn't have had the confidence to apply for the Young Chef of the Year competition, never mind winning it. I'd highly recommend this to anyone. My trip to France was, and still to this day is, one of my greatest memories

Deborah (UK) on experiencing a work traineeship in Lyon, France



How to find out more?

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

How to apply?

If you are interested in applying, you should approach your vocational education and training institution.

Youth mobility

Youth Exchanges help young people acquire important skills such as project management and teamwork. Such opportunities outside the school environment enable groups of young people to undertake a structured programme of activities (e.g. a mix of workshops, exercises, debates and role plays) in another country within or outside the EU for up to 21 days.

The **European Voluntary Service** offers an ideal opportunity for young people to develop skills by contributing to the daily work of organisations in areas such as social care, environment, non-formal education programmes, ICT, culture and many others. It's also a chance for them to grow in self-confidence, feel more actively engaged as citizens and experience another way of life. A volunteering activity can last up to one year and participants can volunteer to support all kinds of causes, either within or outside the European Union.

Youth Exchanges are open to young people aged between 13 and 30. The European Voluntary Service is open to young people aged between 17 and 30.

In just one year with the European Voluntary Service, I've learned more than I've ever learned before. I would definitely recommend the Voluntary Service to anybody who is open-minded and wants to gain experience

Clara (Germany) on participating in a project to assist recently arrived immigrants in Brussels, Belgium at the Jozef Swinnen community centre

How to find out more?

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

How to apply?

If you are interested in applying, you should get in touch with the national agency in your country:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/ national-agencies_en.htm

Staff and youth worker mobility

If you are a teacher or you work in an enterprise, you can teach at an institution abroad, gaining new professional perspectives, widening your networks and helping to modernise and internationalise Europe's education and training systems.

Teachers, non-teaching staff or youth workers can also follow training abroad, including structured courses, professionallyfocused language training, training events and job-shadowing, to develop new knowledge and ideas that you can put into practice when you get home.

These activities can last from two days to two months.

How to find out more?

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

How to apply?

If you are interested in applying you should approach the educational institution/organisation or youth organisation you are working for. Enterprise staff must be invited by the higher education institution where they intend to teach.

Who is it for?

Staff and youth workers from:

- Higher education institutions (or an enterprise)
- Schools
- Vocational education and training organisations
- Adult education organisations
- Youth organisations or other bodies active in the youth field



If you are interested in connecting and networking with other school teachers or adult educators online, then eTwinning (for school teachers) or EPALE (for adult educators) might also be something to look into. See page 30 in this brochure.

If you are working in the field of European integration studies at tertiary level, the Jean Monnet action may be of interest to you. See page 44 in this brochure.

"

My experience consisted of job-shadowing at the Deaf Federation of Cyprus in order to learn about their activities and experiences... This experience allowed me to better understand Cypriot deaf culture, further develop my sign language competences and gain a better understanding of the learning process that has to be implemented when teaching deaf learners

Christophe (France), a sign language instructor, on his job-shadowing in Cyprus



Erasmus+ support for cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices (Key Action 2)

Erasmus+ supports partnership projects for organisations, institutions, companies and research organisations in the fields of education, training or youth.

These projects encourage collaboration across borders and sectors, within and across the fields of education, training, youth and with the world of work. Their aims include innovating and modernising practices, strengthening cooperation and transferring knowledge at organisational, local, regional, national and European levels. In the area of higher education, they also cover capacity-building projects that bring together higher education institutions from programme and partner countries.

By becoming involved in partnership projects, participating organisations are expected to develop more modern, dynamic and professional environments, an increased capacity to work at EU/international level and more innovative approaches to addressing their target groups.

Strategic Partnerships

Within and across the education, training and youth fields and with the world of work

Strategic Partnerships seek to develop, transfer and implement innovative education, training and youth practices through cross-border cooperation among organisations of different kinds.

To achieve these aims, Erasmus+ supports organisations active in the fields of education, training and youth from different countries. The projects supported can involve organisations from different economic and social sectors working together through partnerships with enterprises, public authorities and civil society organisations.

Strategic Partnerships may vary considerably in scale, ranging from fairly simple cooperation projects between small scale organisations (such as schools or informal groups of young people) to large scale projects focusing on the development and exchange of innovative outputs in the education, training and youth fields.

They may address a specific field, but they also seek to promote cooperation across the education, training and youth fields and establish links with the world of work.

The kinds of activities (non-exhaustive) which can be supported include:

- Developing joint study programmes, new curricula, innovative teaching methods (e.g. better exploitation of ICT), new teaching/ training materials, methods and practices (e.g. for languages), open educational resources and virtual mobility exchanges.
- Networking and peer learning to allow students and staff to study real-life cases with enterprises aiming to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and creative thinking.

- Exchange of good practices and innovation for support services such as guidance, counselling and coaching methods.
- Validation of competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning at national level by referencing them to EU frameworks and using EU documentation instruments.
- Structured and long-term cooperation among institutions and with stakeholders (e.g. private enterprises, social partners, local/regional authorities, NGOs).
- Transnational initiatives fostering entrepreneurial mindsets and skills, to encourage active citizenship and new social enterprises.

Strategic Partnerships may also organise mobility activities for learners and staff if they support/complement the other activities of the partnership and bring added value to achieving the project's objectives. However, mobility is not the main activity of a Strategic Partnership.

Strategic Partnerships can last for two or three years in the fields of higher education, VET, adult education and school education. In the youth field they can last from six months to two years. They must involve at least three organisations in three different programme countries, with some exceptions in the fields of youth and school education.

How to find out more?

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

How to apply?

If you represent an education, youth or other insterested organisation please contact the national agency in your country:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus-plus/national-agencies_ en.htm

Large scale cooperation projects

Knowledge Alliances: Cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprises

The involvement of enterprises is a way of improving the quality and relevance of higher education programmes in line with the needs and the realities of the labour market.

To this end, Erasmus+ funds Knowledge Alliances, which are structured partnerships that help bridge the gap between the world of academia and the world of work in order to stimulate innovation in both higher education and enterprise.

Knowledge Alliances also help to equip people (students, teaching and company staff) with more entrepreneurial skills and mindsets, making higher education institutions and enterprises more entrepreneurial and innovative, with all that this entails for the socio-economic environment in which they operate.

They must involve a minimum of six organisations from at least three different programme countries, of which at least two are enterprise partners and two are academic partners.

Knowledge Alliances can support activities (non-exhaustive) aimed at:

- Developing and implementing new learning and teaching methods (like new multidisciplinary curricula, learner-centred and real problem-based teaching and learning).
- Organising continuing educational programmes and activities, both with and within companies.
- Developing joint solutions for challenging issues, product and process innovation (students, professors and practitioners together).

- Creating structures for the learning of transversal skills and their application throughout higher education programmes. These should be developed in cooperation with enterprises, thereby strengthening employability, creativity and new professional pathways.
- Introducing entrepreneurship education into any discipline to provide students, researchers, staff and educators with the knowledge, skills and motivation to engage in entrepreneurial activities across a variety of sectors.
- Opening up new learning opportunities through the practical application of entrepreneurial skills, which can involve and/or lead to the commercialisation of new services, products and prototypes.

Knowledge Alliances can also organise mobility activities for students, researchers and staff if they support/complement the other activities and are in line with the objectives of the project. However, mobility is not the main activity of a Knowledge Alliance.

Who is it for?

Knowledge Alliances are open to:

- Higher education institutions
- Public, private, small, medium and large enterprises (including social enterprises)
- Organisations involved in education and training systems (both public and private authorities), research institutions and NGOs

Sector Skills Alliances: Cooperation between VET providers and the world of work

Sector Skills Alliances are cross-border projects focused on national and European challenges related to the skills workers need for employment in different sectors.

They must involve at least nine different organisations from at least three programme countries, including two Member States.

Sector Skills Alliances may support activities (non-exhaustive) aimed at:

- Defining skills and training provision needs in a given specific economic sector (e.g. gathering and interpreting evidence of skill needs on the labour market in a given economic sector).
- Designing EU sector-specific curricula, VET programmes and integrating innovative approaches to teaching and learning, notably through more strategic and integrated use of ICTs and Open Educational Resources. Opportunities to apply knowledge in practical projects/"real life" workplace situations should also be included, along with the chance to develop entrepreneurial mindsets.

Sector Skills Alliances may also organise mobility activities for learners and staff if they support/complement the other activities of the Alliance and bring added value to achieving the project's objectives. However, mobility is not the main activity of Sector Skills Alliances.

Who is it for?

Sector Skills Alliances are open to:

- Vocational education and training providers
- Organisations with sector-specific expertise (including employers' organisations, trade federations and chambers)
- Organisations involved in education and training systems (both public and private authorities), research institutions and NGOs



Capacity-building in higher education: Cooperation with higher education institutions in partner countries

Erasmus+ supports cooperation between higher education institutions from programme countries and their counterparts around the world. Partner institutions can be chosen in EU Neighbourhood Policy countries, the Western Balkans and Russia, as well as regions in Asia, Latin America and Africa/Caribbean/Pacific (ACP) countries.

Projects should be aimed at the development and modernisation of higher education institutions and systems in the partner countries, to improve the level of competence and skills. They could also reshape education systems by involving education policy-makers at national or regional level.

Examples of projects could include:

- Joint projects developing new curricula and degrees, learning and teaching methodologies, staff development, quality assurance, new governance and management structures and processes.
- Projects for developing structural reforms at national level with support of authorities in partner countries (e.g. policy modernisation, governance and management of higher education systems).



Capacity-building in the field of youth: Cooperation with youth organisations in partner countries

Erasmus+ supports cooperation projects between organisations active in the field of youth around the world. These projects aim to improve the quality and recognition of youth work, non-formal learning and volunteering in different regions of the world – notably in developing countries – and enhance how they complement formal education systems, the labour market and society.

Examples of activities (non-exhaustive) include:

- Cooperation, networking and peer-learning among youth organisations.
- Working together to raise awareness and recognition of volunteering and non-formal learning in partner countries.
- Developing and implementing good practices and tools for the professional development of youth workers and trainers.
- Outreach activities between youth sector organisations and local communities.
- Youth learning experiences abroad and developing cross-border exchange schemes.
- Youth exchanges, volunteering abroad and mobility of youth workers.

How to find out more?

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

How to apply?

If you represent an organisation interested in Knowledge Alliances, Sector Skills Alliances and capacity-building partnerships, you should visit the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) website for details:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu

Online tools for schools and adult education

eTwinning

eTwinning supports and reinforces cooperation between schools by providing support, useful tools and a place to work together online. eTwinning can be used to support mobility projects, Strategic Partnerships, or to collaborate online.

In addition, eTwinning contributes to the professional development of teachers and staff by offering online learning materials and networking opportunities throughout Europe.

All schools and pre-schools in the programme countries are welcome to use eTwinning at any time by registering on the eTwinning portal: **www.etwinning.net**

EPALE (Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe)

EPALE is an online space to exchange, showcase and disseminate methods of good practice in adult education. It creates communities of adult education staff across the EU.

The platform will be available by the end of 2014.

Many students will never travel to experience the life and culture of our European neighbours, so it is our duty to bring the outside world into our school

Ann (UK) Deputy Head Teacher, Durham Trinity School for children with special needs

How to find out more?

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus



Erasmus+ support for policy reform of education, training and youth systems (Key Action 3)

Erasmus+ supports policy actions aimed at achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy, of the Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020) and of the European Youth Strategy.

Activities in support of such actions include initiatives for developing, implementing and assessing policies, networks and tools to encourage dialogue and promote European higher education among policy-makers, stakeholders and partner countries, and meetings between young people and decisionmakers in the field of youth (Structured Dialogue).

The intended outcomes of this action include improving the quality and efficiency of education, training and youth systems, promoting mutual learning and transnational cooperation, developing knowledge and encouraging the active participation of young people in democratic life.

Erasmus+ support for policy reform (Prospective Initiatives)

Erasmus+ provides funding opportunities for strategic or organisational improvements in education and training systems and youth policies, aimed at major stakeholders and public authorities.

Forward-looking cooperation projects

Forward-looking cooperation projects are partnerships between major stakeholders with state-of-the-art knowledge, to explore innovative approaches for reforming or modernising systems or policies in the fields of education, training and youth.

They can provide valuable input to policy-makers by spreading their results among stakeholders and through stakeholders' networks.

European policy experimentations

European policy experimentations are field trials led by high-level public authorities in the fields of education, training and youth, to assess the effectiveness and scalability of innovative policies through rigorous evaluation methods.

How to find out more?

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

How to apply?

If you are interested in applying, you should get in touch with the national agency in your country:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus-plus/national-agencies_ en.htm
- Major education, training and youth institutions or organisations wishing to investigate new strategic approaches and policy developments
- Public authorities wishing to test and evaluate the effectiveness of innovative policies before full scale implementation

Erasmus+ support for policy reform (civil society cooperation)

Erasmus+ provides funding opportunities for cooperation with civil society organisations in the fields of education, training and youth, to raise awareness among stakeholders of European policy agendas in these areas and elicit their active commitment.

Civil society cooperation

Erasmus+ supports organisations to secure the active involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of policy reforms in the different countries, for promoting their participation in Erasmus+ and other European programmes, and for disseminating policy and programme results and good practice through their extensive membership networks.

How to find out more?

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

How to apply?

European non-governmental organisations and EU-wide networks interested in civil society cooperation are invited make enquiries with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA):

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu

- European non-governmental organisations (in the fields of education, training and youth)
- EU-wide networks (in the fields of education, training and youth)

Erasmus+ support for policy reform (Structured Dialogue)

Erasmus+ provides funding opportunities for Structured Dialogue between young people and decision-makers in the field of youth.

Structured Dialogue

Structured Dialogue promotes the active participation of young people in democratic life and encourages debates that are centred on the themes and priorities set by the Structured Dialogue and the EU Youth Strategy.

Projects can take the form of meetings, conferences, consultations and events. Activities that can be supported include:

- National meetings, transnational seminars and events offering space for information and debate with youth decision-makers on topics relevant to the EU Youth Strategy.
- Structured Dialogue linked to the activities organised during the European Youth Week.
- Consultations with young people to find out their needs on matters relating to participation in democratic life.
- Events simulating the functioning of democratic institutions and the roles of decision-makers.

 Youth organisations wishing to take part in Structured Dialogue with young people developed at EU level

Support for sport

Erasmus+supports transnational partnerships between sport organisations, federations and governing bodies to promote sport and physical activity, especially at grassroots level. It addresses major challenges facing the sector including doping, match-fixing, racism and gender inequality. The programme can also assist bodies to help develop dual careers for athletes, and to support the implementation of EU guidelines on health-enhancing physical activity.

Examples of activities include:

- Networking among key stakeholders.
- Sharing of know-how and good practice.
- Development of guidelines, recommendations, codes of conduct and other policy documents.
- Cooperation on the development and implementation of training and educational modules.

- Public bodies in charge of sport at local, regional or national level
- Sport clubs, organisations or unions representing athletes
- Organisations promoting physical activity
- Organisations or unions representing professionals and volunteers in sport (e.g. coaches, managers)
- Organisations representing the active leisure sector
- Organisations active in the fields of education, training or youth



Not-for-profit European sport events

Erasmus+ grants are available to organisations to help fund not-forprofit sporting events involving several participating countries.

Examples of activities supported include:

- Organisation of training activities for athletes, coaches, organisers and volunteers in the run-up to the event.
- Organisation of the event.
- Organisation of side activities to the sport event (e.g. conferences, seminars).
- Implementation of legacy activities (e.g. evaluations, drafting of future plans).

How to find out more?

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

How to apply?

Applications should be submitted to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA):

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu



Tip!

Unlike other parts of the programme, there is no support for individual mobility through individual grants. However, sporting organisations could potentially apply for funding for mobility for young athletes under the vocational education and training section of the programme.

Jean Monnet: support for studies and research on European integration

Erasmus+ funds the special Jean Monnet scheme to stimulate teaching, research and reflection in the field of European integration studies.

European integration studies involve the analysis of the origins and continued evolution of the European Communities and the European Union (EU). They cover both the internal and external dimension of European integration, including the EU's role in the dialogue between peoples and cultures, and its image around the world.

Opportunities are open to higher education institutions, both within Europe and beyond. Individuals cannot apply directly but can benefit from the activities carried out by institutions.

How to find out more?

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

How to apply?

Applications should be submitted to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA):

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu

The Jean Monnet Fellowship at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies was one of the most enriching professional and personal experiences in my life. It gave me the chance to develop my own research agenda and engage with international scholarly communities. This experience will be indelibly ingrained in my memory

Tamirace (Lebanon), Jean Monnet Fellow 2010/2011 Assistant Professor, Lebanese American University

- Higher education institutions in the EU or any other country of the world interested or specialising in European integration
- Associations of professors specialising in European integration studies
- Networks interested or specialising in European integration

Participating countries

Programme countries

Programme countries are those which can participate fully in all Erasmus+ opportunities. They include all EU Member States, as well as the following countries if they have fulfilled the necessary conditions: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Partner countries

All other countries of the world are partner countries and can participate in some parts of the programme, as explained in the relevant sections of the Programme Guide.



Erasmus+ programme

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus

National agencies

http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus-plus/national-agencies_ en.htm

Publications

EU Bookshop: http://bookshop.europa.eu

Publications of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/publ/eac_en.html

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