

Erasmus 2021-2027

On 30 May the European Commission released its proposal for the next ‘Erasmus’ programme for 2021-2027. The proposal is part of the “Investing in People, Social Cohesion & Values” Chapter of the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (see MFF [infonote](#)).

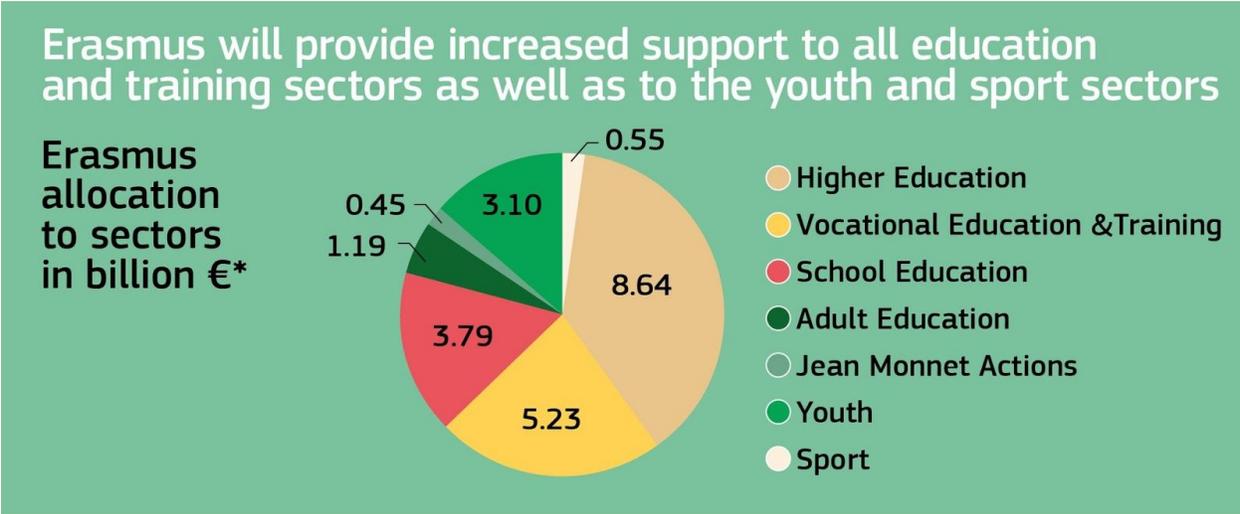
As part of the proposal the following documents were released:

- [Press release](#)
- [Regulation](#)
- [Annex](#)
- [Staff working document](#) (which outlines the main implementing actions)
- [Factsheet](#)

The proposal was welcomed as a positive response to the concerns expressed in the Erasmus+ mid-term evaluation released on 31 January (see [info-note here](#)), such as the need to extend access to smaller organisations with limited capacity. However, it should be treated as only a first indication of what the programmes will look like as many of the details and budget allocation are yet to be decided in the negotiations between the Commission, European Parliament and the Council of the EU on the Regulation.

Budget

The Commission has proposed a doubling of the current budget allocated to the Erasmus+ programme to **€30 billion**, with €25,9 billion for education and training, €3,1 billion for youth and €550 million for sport. An infographic explaining the proposed breakdown of the budget is provided below:



* only reflecting the minimum pre-allocated funding
Source: Proposal for a Regulation establishing ‘Erasmus’: the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport

According to this breakdown, **all sectors of the programme see their budget being roughly doubled**. However, the figures provided only amount to around €23 billion. With €1 billion to be allocated to the operational costs of the National Agencies, this leaves around €6 billion still to be allocated for the centralised actions of the programme.

The Commission has expressed its aim to have **12 million learners** participating in Erasmus in the next programming period, a **tripling** of the number it has intended for the current period 2014-2020. The intention to triple the number of participants with only a doubling of the budget has been met with a sceptical reaction. However, the Commission has assured that such a scenario is possible with the wider use of **more flexible mobility formats** such as **short-term and group mobility**, also with virtual exchanges and **“blended” mobility** (combining virtual exchanges and short physical mobility), so that more people are reached. A further justification is the displacement of the previous volunteer action European Voluntary Service (EVS) from Erasmus+ to the European Solidarity Corps initiative - one of the more expensive activities supported under the previous programme.

Concerning the **international actions** of the programme, under the current programme some of these were funded by four different EU external cooperation instruments¹ and European Development Fund - under the next MFF these will be merged into the new [Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument](#) which will continue to fund the Erasmus+ international actions, although the allocation has not been specified.

Structure

The overall structure of the programme remains the same, with some modifications and additions. A schema is presented below based on the Commission [Staff working document](#) explaining the main implementing actions. Features which can be considered completely new are coloured **in red**.

Key Action 1 - LEARNING MOBILITY IN EDUCATION, TRAINING, YOUTH AND SPORT

1. Mobility projects in the field of education, training, youth and sport

- Mobility of higher education students
- Mobility of VET learners
- Mobility of school pupils
- Mobility of young people
- Mobility of staff in the field of education and training
- **Mobility of sport coaches and staff**

2. Youth participation activities

3. **DiscoverEU activities**

4. Language learning opportunities

Key Action 2 - COOPERATION AMONG ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING, YOUTH AND SPORT

1. Partnerships for cooperation

- Cooperation partnerships
- **Small-scale partnerships**

2. Partnerships for excellence

¹ Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA); European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI); Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI); Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries (PI).

- European Universities
 - Centres of vocational excellence
 - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees
3. **Partnerships for innovation**
 - Alliances
 - Forward-looking projects
 4. **Not for profit Sport events**
 5. **Online platforms and tools for virtual cooperation**

Key Action 3 - COOPERATION AMONG ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING, YOUTH AND SPORT

1. **Support to European policy development, including:**
 - Open methods of coordination
 - European policy experimentations
 - EU-wide or international surveys and studies (e.g. Eurydice network, Youth Wiki)
 - Specific actions to address new policy challenges
2. **Support Union tools and measures that foster quality, transparency and recognition of skills, competences and qualifications, including:**
 - Europass & YouthPass
 - Activities and governing bodies of Bologna process and other initiatives enabling easier recognition of qualifications and periods of study in E&T fields
3. **Policy dialogue and cooperation with key stakeholders and international organisations, including:**
 - Policy Dialogue
 - Cooperation with International Organisations (OECD, Council of Europe)
 - Support to EU-wide networks and European NGOs
4. **Measures that contribute to qualitative and inclusive implementation of the programme, including:**
 - SALTO Resource Centres
 - Training and Cooperation activities by NAs
 - Former Erasmus+ participants (Alumni networks, ambassadors)
5. **Cooperation with other Union instruments and cooperation with other Union Instruments & support to other Union policies**
 - Learning mobility for other Union policies
 - Synergies with other EU programmes
6. **Dissemination and awareness-raising activities, including:**
 - Erasmus Programme Results Platform
 - European Youth Week / Vocational Skills Week / Week of Sport
 - Education, Training and Youth Forum
 - Eurodesk network

JEAN MONNET ACTIONS

1. **Jean Monnet Actions in field of higher education**
2. **Jean Monnet Actions in other fields of E&T**
3. **Support to designated institutions** (e.g. Florence School of Transnational Governance)

New features

Some of the new actions included in the proposal were public knowledge prior to the release (e.g. European University Networks and DiscoverEU), but others such as small-scale partnerships and centres of vocational excellence were not foreseen.

Changes to individual learner mobility

All learners' mobility has been brought under Key Action 1, including individual pupil mobility which was previously only possible under KA2. **Mobility for sports coaches** has also been introduced. In addition, the possibility of having a **mobility outside of Europe will be extended to VET learners**.

DiscoverEU

This [action](#) offers 18 year olds the opportunity to have a short-term individual or group experience travelling in Europe by providing them with a free travel ticket. The aim is to foster their sense of belonging to the EU and enable them to discover Europe's cultural diversity. In its pilot phase this year the Commission has selected 15,000 18 year olds who will be able to travel this summer. The travel ticket will be worth €255, with no grant for subsistence costs. Stakeholders from the youth field have expressed scepticism about the initiative, wondering **where the learning component is** and how young people with fewer resources will be able to take part if they cannot cover additional costs (see [reaction](#) of European Youth Forum). The fact that its earmarked budget line amounts to €700 million, not far from **one third of the €3 billion** allocated to youth as a whole has also provoked concern.

Small-scale partnerships

This is a response to the demand to widen the programme's access to smaller organisations without the capacity to apply for and run bigger KA2 partnerships such as schools, youth organisations and adult learning centres. The administrative workload will be reduced and in turn the partnerships will run for a shorter duration and with smaller grants. At the moment it is **not clear how "small-scale" will be defined** exactly, this could be left to the NAs to define themselves. It has been welcomed by many stakeholders as good first step in broadening access to a new cohort of applicants with fewer resources.

European Universities

The idea first came from French President Emmanuel Macron during a [speech](#) at Sorbonne University on 26 September 2017 where he proposed the creation of **20 European universities by 2024**, which was directly picked up by the European Council in the [conclusions](#) of its meeting on 14 December. DG EAC is currently working on a pilot for a "European University Networks" funding line in the framework of the current programme - the pilot call for proposals will be published this autumn and the first projects are to begin in 2019. The principle is that these networks should be open to every type of higher education institution in any Member State, that they should be **geographically balanced and socially inclusive**, and be designed through a bottom-up approach. The idea has been integrated into the new Erasmus proposal which also explains that the new 'Horizon Europe' programme will, where appropriate, complement the the former's support for the European Universities initiative.

The concept has proved very popular with Member State governments, although some tensions prevail over the balance between excellence and inclusion. There is also the **question of where the students fit into the discussions, if at all**. For stakeholder reactions, please consult position papers by the [European University Foundation](#), [the Guild](#) and [UAS4EUROPE](#).

Centres of Vocational Excellence

Although unforeseen, this action is not a brand new idea but based on a project previously developed by the [European Vocational Training Association](#) (EVTA). The Commission explains that such centres would be **transnational platforms consisting of partnerships between VET providers and other stakeholders** such as companies, employment services and social partners, with a strong focus on economic development and competitiveness and in connection with regional smart specialisation strategies. The action will be piloted under the current programme, although details are pending.

Cooperation with other EU instruments/policies

The proposal explains that the next programme will serve as a **"vehicle" to support learning mobility formats in other EU policy areas** in the form a new action, under KA3, to support mobility of organisations or individuals targeted specifically in other policy areas (e.g. public governance sector, agriculture and rural development, enterprise, law enforcement). Supported activities may consist of training periods (e.g. job shadowing, observation periods, training courses) and transnational seminars. The aim is to “stimulate up-skilling while fostering a sense of European identity, active citizenship and participation in democratic life in Europe”.

It also explains that **“specific measures”** will be introduced to help promoters of Erasmus projects to **apply for grants through or develop synergies with** the European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon Europe, and programmes relating to migration, security, justice and citizenship, health and culture. It is not yet clear how this will work in practice, especially because of the differing rules and implementation procedures of the various EU programmes.

European Parliament

As is customary in the Ordinary Legislative Procedure for a Regulation, the European Parliament will draft a report on the Commission’s proposal. The procedure file can be viewed [here](#).

Lead Committee CULT

Rapporteur - [Milan Zver](#) (EPP)

Shadow Rapporteurs - [Krystyna Lybacka](#) (S&D), [María Teresa Gimenez Barbat](#) (ALDE), Liadh Ni Riada (GUE/NGL), [Jill Evans](#) (Greens/EFA), [Isabella Adinolfi](#) (EFDD), [Dominique Bilde](#) (ENF)

Committees for Opinions

EMPL - **Rapporteur:** [Emilian Pavel](#) (S&D)

DEVE - tbc

BUDG - tbc

Timeline

October - Presentation of draft report

November - Deadline for amendments

March - Adoption of final report

There will be at least one stakeholder meeting organised in the framework of the CULT Committee. The EPP Group is also expected to organise a hearing on Erasmus+ in the autumn.

The first exchange of views in the CULT Committee on the proposal took place on 19 June. The main political groups are **unanimous in calling for a tripling of the programme’s budget** as demanded by the

EP [resolution](#) on the next MFF adopted in March this year. The EP will also push for the **name of the programme to remain “Erasmus+”** and will seek to **make the proposed objectives more concrete**, as they were criticised by CULT chair Petra Kammerevert during the first exchange of views as being too vague with the risk of allowing too much freedom to the Commission.

Next steps

1. Erasmus+ Coalition launched its [joint statement](#) on the future of Erasmus+ - an update of the previous Joint Contribution to the EP implementation report - with recommendations about how common transversal challenges that beneficiaries face in the programme implementation should be addressed in the new programme. The joint statement has been sent to and discussed with key MEPs as well as the education team of the future Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.
2. LLLP will develop **its own position** with input from the General Assembly meeting in Vienna on 7 July as well as informal cluster meetings with members on each of the programme’s sectors, with the aim for release in September.
3. **Meeting with DG EAC Director** for Erasmus+ Sophia Eriksson-Waterschoot and a meeting scheduled with **CULT rapporteur Milan Zver** in July to discuss the proposal and upcoming EP report.
4. **Two major upcoming events** are being planned for autumn with the LLL Interest Group, Youth Intergroup (tbc).

Member Reactions

A few LLLP members have already published their positions:

- ESN [Reaction](#) to the Erasmus+ programme
- EEE-YFU, EFIL and OBESSU [Reaction](#) to the Commission’s Proposal on the Erasmus+ successor with focus on individual pupil mobility
- EAEA [Statement](#) on the new Erasmus proposal: What happened to the ‘Plus’ in Erasmus+
- SOLIDAR [Reaction](#) to Erasmus+ doubling