In accordance with Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Member States remain responsible for the content of teaching and the organisation of their education systems. The Commission only has a supporting role, fostering cooperation between Member States. Inclusive and high quality education is at the heart of this cross border cooperation as set out in the new Commission plan for achieving a European Education Area by 2025. This plan includes the ‘Pathways to School Success’ initiative and the creation of an expert group on supportive learning environments for groups at risk and well-being at school. The new Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027 has inclusion as a guiding principle across its 14 actions.

The new Strategy on the rights of persons with disabilities is under preparation. While details are still subject to consultation, inclusive education will be a priority to be addressed in the new strategy.

The Commission proposal for the future Erasmus programme (2021-2027) foresees support for European Centres of Vocational Excellence contributing to regional development, innovation, and smart specialisation. The programme is currently under negotiations. If agreed by the European Parliament and the Council, it is expected that any public or private organisation active in the field of vocational education and training, or in the world of work, including providers of vocational education and training, companies, or regional development authorities would be able to apply to participate in such Centres. The 2021 Erasmus Programme guide, which will be published in the coming months, should include extensive information about the specific application requirements.

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