The future of Erasmus+: more opportunities

From bigger budget to more opportunities for disadvantaged people. Parliament is calling for new priorities for the next Erasmus+ programme.

On 28 March, Parliament approved the next Erasmus+ programme for 2021-2027. Erasmus+ is one of many EU initiatives to create opportunities for young people and increase their employability.

MEPs propose to triple the budget and ensure there is more co-funding and cooperation with other European programmes. They also call for the introduction of centres of vocational excellence, international centres providing quality vocational training so that people can develop useful skills in key sectors.

Members are also keen to have more people who are disadvantaged participate. Special support should include language training, administrative support or e-learning opportunities;
On 13 March, Parliament agreed to **support continued funding** to all current Erasmus+ learning mobility activities should the UK leave the EU without a deal.

**What is Erasmus+?**

Erasmus+ is an EU programme supporting opportunities for education, training, young people and sport in Europe. It started as a student exchange programme in 1987, but since 2014 it also offers opportunities for teachers, trainees and volunteers of all ages.

More than nine million people have taken part in the Erasmus+ programme over the last **30 years** and **nearly 800,000 people** benefited from the programme in 2017 alone. The programme currently covers 33 countries (all 28 EU countries as well as Turkey, North Macedonia, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and is open to partner countries across the world.

According to the European Commission, one in three Erasmus+ trainees are offered a position by the company they trained in. In addition, the unemployment rate of young people who studied or trained abroad is 23% lower than that of their non-mobile peers five years after graduation.

**How to apply**

Erasmus+ has opportunities for **people** as well as **organisations** from all over the world.

The application procedure and the preparation can differ depending on what part of the programme you apply for. Discover more information about it **here**.

**Creative Europe**

On 28 March, Parliament also approved the **new priorities** for Creative Europe, another major EU culture programme. It will focus on more support for artists’ mobility, better use of digital technologies and improved distribution of works.

**Find out more**

- Procedure file
- Briefing: Erasmus+ programme for 2021-27
- Briefing: Erasmus+
- Multimedia materials