

Europe-ACP cooperation through Erasmus+

What is Erasmus+ ?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. Erasmus+ funds academic and youth mobility and cooperation between Programme Countries* in Europe and Partner Countries in other regions in the world, including ACP countries.

Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the EU's priorities for policy cooperation with the three regions.

ACP countries can take part in Erasmus+ as Partner Countries in four types of projects in the higher education sector, and in youth cooperation projects.

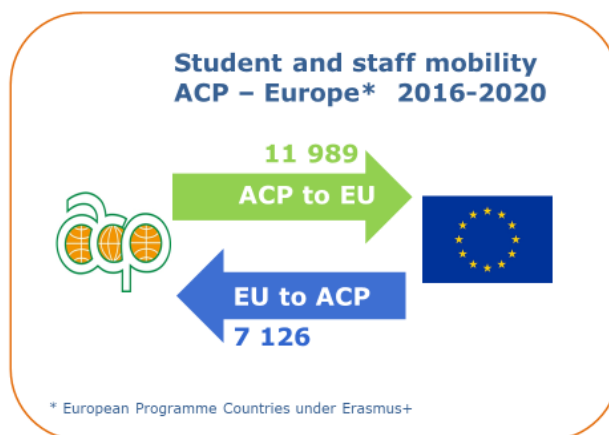
Student and staff mobility, 2015-2019

(international credit mobility)

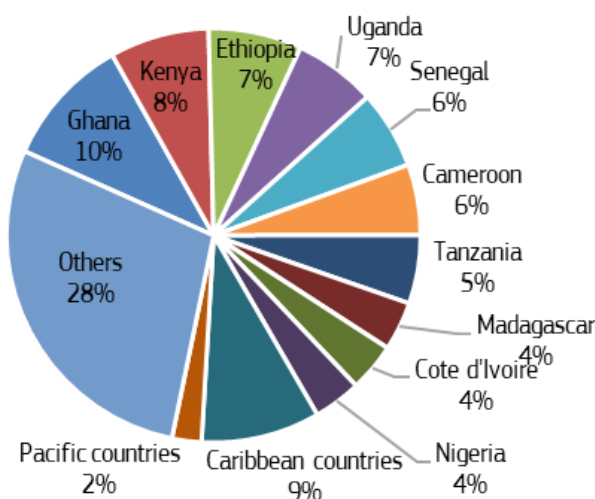
This type of short-term mobility between ACP countries and Europe for students, researchers, and staff provides grants for students to study in a European foreign university for 3-12 months and obtain credits, which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. Training periods are also possible for students, and a grant for staff mobility is also possible for 5-60 days.

Under this action, European institutions form bilateral partnerships with universities in partner countries. Thanks to European Development Fund financing, some 4% of this international mobility budget is earmarked for exchange between Europe and ACP countries. Under four annual selections of projects from 2016 to 2020, over **1 300 mobility projects** have organised or planned mobility for exchange of **over 19 000 students, researchers, and staff between ACP countries and Europe: 11 989 moving to Europe, and 7 126 Europeans – mainly staff – going to ACP countries.**

Erasmus+ student and staff mobility between Europe and ACP countries: over 1 410 projects, close to 11 300 people moving



ICM Regional Budget ACP Countries 2016-2020



The University of Sofia, Bulgaria cooperates with universities across Asia, Africa and the Americas. It organises its mobility with Caribbean universities around teaching and learning on electronics (Pontificia Universidad Madre y Maestra - Dominican Republic); and electronic device design (University of the West Indies Augustine - Trinidad and Tobago).

The University of Limerick, Ireland has a mobility agreement with the University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. As part of this agreement the two universities exchange students and staff from their respective music schools, the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, and the Yared School of Music.

* **Programme Countries** in 2020 were the 27 EU Member States plus six other countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. In 2020 the UK also participated as a Programme Country under a transition period for its withdrawal from the EU. All other countries worldwide – including ACP States – are **Partner Countries**.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs) award full-degree EU-funded scholarships to Master students from around the world covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different European countries. Upon graduation, they are awarded a joint or double degree, or multiple degrees.

Students can apply to these programmes even if the university where they studied is not involved in any of them. They can see the available programmes in the EMJMD Catalogue and apply directly to the programme coordinator: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/emjmd-catalogue_en

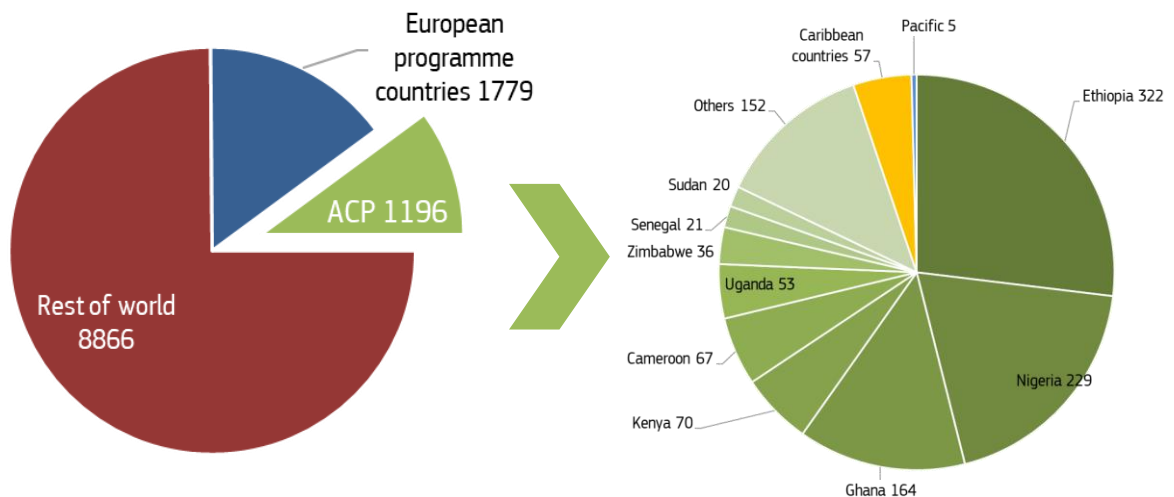
Each programme offers some 15-20 scholarships per year, plus a number of additional scholarships for students from ACP countries. Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs) award full-degree EU-funded scholarships to Master students from around the world covering tuition, travel and living costs. **So far, almost 1200**

students from ACP countries have been awarded Erasmus Mundus scholarships.

Institutions from ACP countries can also be part of the consortia that deliver these programmes, as Full Partners, which means they officially award degrees, or as Associated Partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of capacity, but do not award the actual joint degree.

ACP partners

From 2014 to 2020, there were **108 instances of participation by institutions** from the ACP region (103 from Africa and 5 from the Caribbean) were involved in **43 of the 251 selected EMJMDs**. Of these, 100 were acting as associated partners in 35 of the EMJMDs. **Eight ACP universities – from Uganda (2), Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Sudan and Senegal take part as full partners in six of the projects.**



Extended Sustainable Territorial Development - ESTEDE

ESTEDE bundles together European expertise from Italian, Belgian and French universities in different aspects of sustainable territorial development to train practitioners and administrators. Recognising the specific challenges Africa face in this domain – such as migration and water management and land-grabbing – the current second edition of the programme includes partners from universities in three major African cities – Cairo, Ouagadougou and Johannesburg.

Each year the EU funds 15-20 full scholarships: in 2018 this intake included students from Benin, Morocco, and Egypt, as well as Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Erasmus Mundus and ACP, 2014-2020



1196 scholarships for masters students from ACP



108 instances of participation from ACP countries

IDOH: Infectious Diseases and One Health

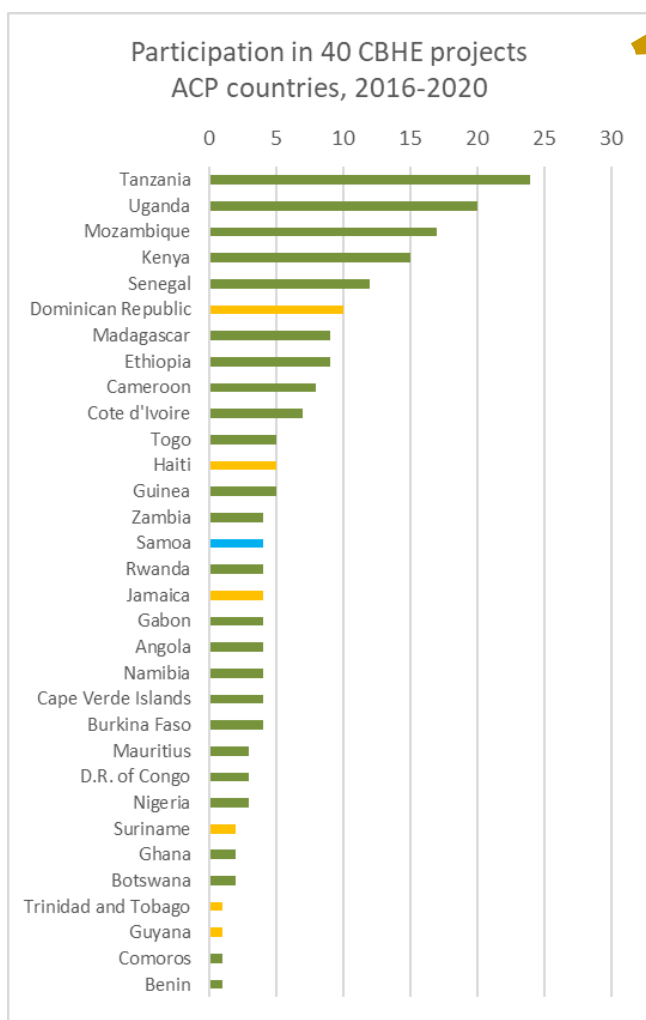
This Master Degree [programme](#) involves a partnership of some of Europe's leading research-intensive universities in the field of infectious diseases. The consortium aims to offer innovative postgraduate courses in infectious diseases, emphasising the three aspects of the one health concept: humans, animals, and the environment. After completing the first three semesters at Partner Country institutions in Europe, students complete an internship and draft their thesis in any Partner Country institution worldwide, including Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in Saint Kitts and Nevis. Its first intake of students in 2018 included four ACP nationals: from Cameroon and Nigeria.

Capacity Building in Higher Education

There are two types of Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) projects, which all last from two to three years. Joint projects are aimed at modernising and reforming higher education institutions, developing new curricula, improving governance, and building relationships between higher education institutions and enterprises. Structural projects can also tackle policy topics and issues, preparing the ground for higher education reform, in cooperation with national authorities.

Capacity building projects can be nationally-focused, or addressed to a group of ACP Countries. Before 2014, the EU supported regional programmes with similar aims including Edulink for ACP countries.

So far, 40 projects have been selected involving the ACP region:



CITYLAB CAR

This [project](#) develops curriculum modules to develop skills in tackling a range of urban challenges faced by Caribbean cities. The project introduces using problem-based learning techniques and often crosses traditional disciplinary borders. It involves cooperation with urban actors and provides the opportunity to structurally strengthen the relationship between the higher education institutes and several public and civil society organizations. Higher education organisations from five Caribbean and five European countries work together on this project, which started in late 2017.

Capacity-building projects for higher education in ACP countries 2016-2020



40 projects



201 instances of
participation by organisations

Did you know...?

Erasmus+ Capacity Building projects can contribute to jobs and sustainable development by better linking higher education, innovation and research.

Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. For over 30 years they have been supporting Modules, Chairs, Centres of Excellence and networks of EU studies organisations to promote excellence in teaching and research on the European integration process at higher education level. The programme also supports policy debate with the academic world and a number of associations in the domain of EU studies.

One network brings together universities from Europe and Africa to explore the integration process in and between the EU, the Mediterranean and Africa:

The EU, Mediterranean and Africa: Integration in the Global Age

This [network](#) brings together Jean Monnet chairs and module teachers and students to examine the role that joint international policy and action by the EU can play in the current global context, and more specifically in the pivotal role that the Mediterranean region can play in the "vertical" dimension that links the North (Europe) to the South (Africa). It will focus on ways in which the main lessons of the EU integration experience should be usefully applied in Africa.

The network is coordinated by the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid in Spain, and includes ACP partners from Cape Verde, Senegal, Mauritania, DR Congo and Ghana, as well as Morocco, Greece, Poland and the UK.

Capacity Building in the Field of Youth

Capacity Building projects in the Field of Youth cover a range of activities that encourage cooperation between organisations active in youth empowerment, education of youth, youth training, and other relevant socioeconomic sectors in Programme and Partner Countries from different regions of the world. The projects aim to recognize and improve youth work, non-formal learning, and volunteering, and consequently link this to education systems and the labour market.

During the selection periods between 2014 and 2020, **250 projects have involved 384 full partners and 151 associates in ACP countries** from Barbados via Malawi to the Solomon Islands. 347 African, 21 Caribbean and 16 Pacific partners are involved. Projects are varied in subject-matter, ranging from topics like **human rights to inter-cultural dialogue, gender equality, migration, rural entrepreneurship**.

Youth Capacity Building projects with ACP countries, 2014-2020



250 projects



384 full partners

from ACP countries

Youth Empowerment through Social Entrepreneurship "We Care" (YES, WE CARE)

African partners: 'Youth volunteers for community development' Kenya, 'Never again Rwanda' Rwanda, 'Let us save Uganda', Uganda

The [project](#) YES, WE CARE aims at empowering young people from Europe and Africa to embrace the opportunities of social entrepreneurship and to make a benefit from it by boosting an impact in their communities and in the same time, creating jobs for themselves and thereby, contributing to the solution of the youth unemployment in the countries.

The project intends to inspire youth to build up their network and be engaged in entrepreneurial activities around certain societal issues, caring for the homeless, sick or elderly, becoming aware about preserving the nature or helping vulnerable groups.

Country and regional factsheets:

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about/factsheets_en#worldwide



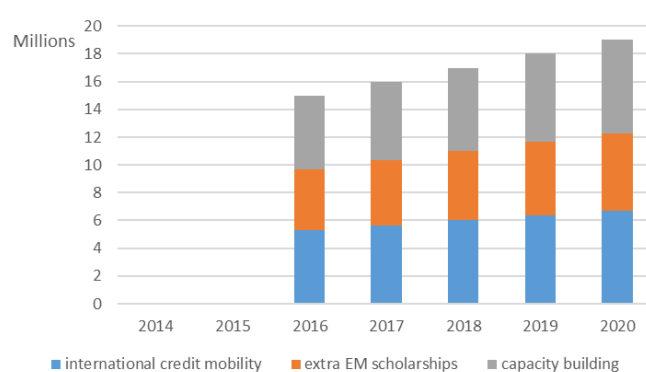
The impact of EDF financing on Erasmus+ cooperation with ACP countries

Erasmus+ has a strong international dimension, and a substantial part of this comes from the EU's own budget for economic and social development, which is focused on Europe but can fund international activities such as higher education cooperation and mobility. Above and beyond this, Erasmus+ forms part of the EU's cooperation with other regions and the world, and here a range of financing instruments add to the funding available for international cooperation, particularly in the higher education sector.

For ACP countries, all international credit mobility and all capacity building projects for higher education are funded by the Europe and Development Fund, EDF. The EDF also finances additional Erasmus Mundus scholarships on top of the global budget. This enables more nationals of ACP countries to follow Erasmus Mundus masters programmes. For example in 2020, 86 additional scholarships were awarded to students from 22 ACP countries, doubling the scholarships for five of these countries. The awardees included students from Botswana and Chad otherwise not have taken part in the programme.

Each year, some EUR 15 million of EDF funding is channelled into these three components of Erasmus+.

EDF support for Erasmus+ higher education (EUR)



More information:

Erasmus+ website:

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

Erasmus+ projects & results:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/>

Erasmus+ funding opportunities:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en

Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association:

www.em-a.eu

Study in Europe:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/>