



EUROPEAN COMMISSION - PRESS RELEASE

Erasmus for All: 5 million in line for EU funding

Brussels, 23 November 2011 - Up to 5 million people, almost twice as many as now, could get the chance to study or train abroad with a grant from Erasmus for All, the new EU programme for education, training, youth and sport proposed by the European Commission today. Among them would be nearly 3 million higher education and vocational students. Master's degree students would also benefit from a new loan guarantee scheme set up with the European Investment Bank Group. The seven-year Erasmus for All programme, which would have a total budget of €19 billion¹, is due to start in 2014.



"Investing in education and training is the best investment we can make for Europe's future. Studying abroad boosts people's skills, personal development and adaptability, and makes them more employable. We want to ensure that many more people benefit from EU support for these opportunities. We also need to invest more to improve the quality of education and training at all levels so we are a match for the best in the world and so that we can deliver more jobs and higher growth," said Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth.

¹ €19 billion taking account of estimated inflation in 2014-2020. This is the equivalent of €16.9 billion in 'fixed' 2011 prices.

The Commission's Erasmus for All proposal would allow:

- 2.2 million higher education students to receive grants to spend part of their education and training abroad (compared to 1.5 million under current programmes);
- This figure includes 135 000 students getting support to study in a non-EU country, as well as non-EU students coming to study in the Union;
- 735 000 vocational students would be able to spend part of their education and training abroad (compared to 350 000 under the current programme);
- 1 million teachers, trainers and youth workers would receive funding to teach or train abroad (compared to 600 000 under current programmes);
- 700 000 young people would go on traineeships in companies abroad (compared to 600 000 under the current programme);
- 330 000 Master's degree students would benefit from loan guarantees to help finance studies abroad under a brand-new scheme;
- 540 000 young people would be able to volunteer abroad or participate in youth exchanges (compared to 374 000 under the current programme);
- 34 000 students would receive grants for a 'joint degree', which involves studying in at least two higher education institutions abroad (this compares to 17 600 supported under the current programme);
- 115 000 institutions/organisations involved in education, training and/or youth activities or other bodies would get funding to set up more than 20 000 'strategic partnerships' to implement joint initiatives and promote exchange of experience and know-how;
- 4 000 education institutions and enterprises would form 400 'knowledge alliances' and 'sector skills alliances' to boost employability, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Background

Erasmus for All would bring together all the current EU and international schemes for education, training, youth and sport, replacing seven existing programmes² with one. This will increase efficiency, make it easier to apply for grants, as well as reducing duplication and fragmentation.

The Commission is proposing an increase of approximately 64% compared with the current seven-year budget, which would allocate €19 billion to the new programme in 2014-2020. This figure takes account of future estimates for inflation and includes expenditure foreseen for international cooperation – that is grants for 'third countries' such as those in the Southern Mediterranean³. The increase without international cooperation would amount to 72.6%.

The new programme will focus on EU added value and systemic impact, with support for three types of action: learning opportunities for individuals, both within the EU and beyond; institutional cooperation between educational institutions, youth organisations, businesses, local and regional authorities and NGOs; and support for reforms in Member States to modernise education and training systems and promote innovation, entrepreneurship and employability.

² Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius, Grundtvig), Youth in Action, Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink and the bilateral cooperation programme with industrialised countries

³ International cooperation is financed from the external heading of the multi-annual budget and includes Tempus, Alfa, Edulink and part of Erasmus Mundus.

Two-thirds of the funding would be spent on mobility grants to enhance knowledge and skills.

The streamlined structure of the new programme – together with its significantly increased investment – means the EU will be able to deliver many more opportunities for students, trainees, young people, teachers, youth workers and others to improve their skills, personal development and job prospects. Erasmus for All will also promote research and teaching on European integration, and support grassroots sport.

Since 2007, an average of 400 000 people per year have received EU grants for study, training and volunteering abroad. Under the Commission's proposal, this figure would nearly double to almost 800 000. (In 2010, 560 000 received grants in the 27 Member States, see Annex 1).

Next steps

This proposal is now under discussion by the Council (27 Member States) and the European Parliament who will take the final decision on the budgetary framework for 2014-2020.

For more information:

See also [MEMO/11/818](#)

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus-for-all>

Commissioner Vassiliou's website

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/vassiliou

European Commission: [Education and Training](#) website

Contacts :

[Dennis Abbott](#) (+32 2 295 92 58)

[Dina Avraam](#) (+32 2 295 96 67)

Annex 1:

Table shows the number of recipients of EU grants for study, training and volunteering under the Lifelong Learning Programme and Youth in Action in 2010. (Erasmus for All will encompass both programmes and aims to nearly double the number of beneficiaries across the EU).

Country	Number of participants*		
	Lifelong Learning Programme	Youth in Action	Total
Austria	11000	2500	13500
Belgium	12000	4500	16500
Bulgaria	6000	5000	11000
Cyprus	1500	1000	2500
Czech Republic	14000	3000	17000
Denmark	6000	2000	8000
Estonia	3000	5000	8000
Finland	23500	2000	25500
France	52000	11000	63000
Germany	63000	15000	78000
Greece	8000	2500	10500
Hungary	8000	4500	12500
Ireland	4000	2000	6000
Italy	43500	6000	49500
Latvia	4500	3000	7500
Lithuania	7000	4500	11500
Luxembourg	1000	900	1900
Malta	250	100	350
The Netherlands	19500	3000	22500
Poland	23000	10500	33500
Portugal	21000	2500	23500
Romania	12500	7500	20000
Slovakia	6000	3500	9500
Slovenia	3500	2000	5500
Spain	52000	10500	62500
Sweden	8500	3500	12000
United Kingdom	20750	7500	28250
Total	435000	125000	560000

** All figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. The figures include participants in mobility projects who did not travel to study, learn or work abroad, such as school classes.*

Annex 2:

Proposed funding levels by sector 2014-2020, compared to the 2007-2013 programmes (€ Million, EU-27)

Erasmus for All	2007-2013 programmes*	Average year 2014-2020	% Increase	Concentration
Erasmus Higher Education (including tertiary VET ¹)	585	1100 – 1150	85 %-95 %	Students, staff, joint programmes, masters, strategic partnerships, knowledge alliances
Erasmus Higher Education - international dimension (heading 4 funding)	220	259	17%	Students, staff and capacity building in particular in neighbourhood countries
Erasmus Training (VET ¹ and adult learning)	330 of which 60 for adult learning	500 – 540 of which around 110 for adult learning	50 %-60 % overall, around 80 % for adult learning	Students, staff, strategic partnerships, sector skills alliances, IT platforms
Erasmus Schools	180	250 – 275	40 %-55 %	Staff, strategic partnerships, web platforms
Erasmus Youth Participation	150	190 – 210	25 %-40 %	Young people, staff, strategic partnerships, IT platforms
Operating grant (National Agencies)	55	63	15 %	
Policy support	75	92	20 %	
Jean Monnet (teaching and research on European integration)	30	45	50 %	
Sport	NA	34	NA	

¹ Vocational education and training