



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 06.09.2021
C(2021) 6643 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on measures to increase the mobility of European senior citizens.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Senat concerning senior citizens, who are an important and valued part of the European Union population. Indeed, this age group deserves proper attention and equal opportunities to make the most of the available European Union programmes.

The 2021-2027 Erasmus+ programme keeps the integrated nature of the previous programme and the aim to boost flexible learning paths. The programme also aims to increase the number of beneficiaries, reach out to people of all social backgrounds, building stronger relations with the rest of the world, focus on promoting forward-looking study fields, and promote a European identity.

The division of the Erasmus+ programme into the following areas – higher education, vocational education and training, school education, youth, sport and adult education – is one of the parameters allowing the adult education sector to get more funds for the next programming period, as agreed by the co-legislators. Together with this reinforcement, the inclusion of adult learners as such in Erasmus+ Key Action 1 (mobility projects) will make this opportunity for adult learners, including seniors, more visible and easier to implement. Overall, the number of participants – being adult learners, including seniors, or staff involved in the adult education sector – in mobility projects should increase under the next programme in comparison with the previous one.

The Erasmus+ programme offers learning and training opportunities to individuals of all ages and, as a matter of fact, the focus on elderly people and senior citizens was reinforced in the 2020 Erasmus+ general call, e.g. the 2020 Erasmus+ programme guide. The Commission added the relevant priority in the Key Action 2 – cooperation partnerships projects, ‘promoting Erasmus+ among all citizens and generations by offering activities of education and exchanges of experiences to senior citizens with a

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view to building and adding solidity to the European identity'. Projects under this priority can develop innovative learning solutions and techniques to empower elderly persons and senior citizens to become active members of society.

In addition to Key Action 1, the Key Action 2 of the Erasmus+ programme, and more precisely the strategic partnership projects (called 'cooperation partnerships' in the new programme), address the issue of improving the competences of educators and other adult education staff. Similarly, the programme includes a priority on developing staff competences that lead to overall improvements in provision, targeting and effectiveness of adult education at any settings – formal, informal and non-formal.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senat concerning the mobility of European senior citizens and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel
Member of the Commission*