Erasmus+ international mobility & cooperation with partner countries worldwide

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, as well as cooperation between Europe and other regions in the world. All supported activities are closely matched with the EU’s priorities for cooperation policy with these regions.

All these projects are based on cooperation between the 34 Erasmus+ Programme Countries and all other countries throughout the world, known as Partner Countries. The Programme Countries comprise the 27 Member States, plus six other European countries that contribute to the programme budget – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. The UK remains a Programme Country during the transition period.

1 - International Credit Mobility

For over 30 years, students and staff have moved between European universities in the Erasmus programme. Since 2015, Erasmus+ has also allowed short-term mobility between Europe and other parts of the world for students, researchers, and staff, known as 'International Credit Mobility' (ICM for short). This two-way mobility allows students to study in a foreign university for 3–12 months (2–12 months in case of traineeships) and obtain credits, which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. A grant for staff mobility is also possible for 5–60 days.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all the European countries. European institutions make up bilateral partnerships with universities from partner countries and apply on behalf of their partners. New partnerships are selected each year. So far (2015–2019), over 4 700 projects are managing international exchange for 206 147 students and staff: some 62% come to Europe, while 38% are Europeans going to Partner Countries.

Erasmus+ student and staff mobility between Programme Countries and Partner Countries (2015-19): 4 735 projects, over 205 000 people moving,
2 - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs) are innovative, often multi-disciplinary joint programmes offered by consortia of higher education institutions from Europe and beyond. These are great examples of universities bundling forces across faculties and across borders to provide students with holistic skills sets for careers key profession. 204 programmes have been selected since the start of Erasmus+. There are 1 029 cases of involvement of higher education stakeholders in these programmes, some 90% from Programme Countries.

The EU funds full-degree scholarships to the best applicants from around the world: these cover 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. https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/emjmd-catalogue_en

Students from all over the world can apply direct to these programmes. At least 75% of the scholarships are for partner-country students. Students from certain regions that are priorities for cooperation can also benefit from additional scholarships injected from EU cooperation funding. Almost 30% of Partner-country students were awarded these additional scholarships.

Since the start of Erasmus+ in 2014, almost 9 400 scholarships have been awarded to students from 161 countries.

Erasmus Mundus scholarships awarded, 2014-2019 – top 10 Partner Countries, top 5 Programme 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.

EUROAQUAE+
The programme is dedicated to international participants interested to develop their professional life within the water sector. The consortium is coordinated by the University Nice Sophia Antipolis and is offered in cooperation with 14 leading international universities, including the North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power, the Hohai University in China and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. 27 world leading companies and organisations from the water and IT domains cooperate as well as associated partners.

In semester 4, participants conduct their master thesis either as an internship with an industrial partner or with an academic partner of EuroAquae+ consortium.
3 - 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 – some 12% of projects selected so far - can also tackle policy topics and issues, preparing the ground for higher education reform, in cooperation with national authorities.

Capacity building projects can be focused on a single partner country, but many address regionally-shared issues and involve HEIs from a group of countries.

CBHE projects are by their nature addressed at developing and emerging countries. They have to display their relevance not only for the higher education sector, but also to the wider social and economic development of the partner countries.

In the five annual selections from 2015 to 2019, 735 selected projects have created over 8,000 instances of participation of stakeholders from both Programme Countries and Partner Countries from ten regions: the Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, South Mediterranean, Russia, Asia, Central Asia, Latin America, Iran-Iraq-Yemen, South Africa, and the ACP Countries. The map shows the level of participation from all eligible countries.

4 - Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. For over 30 years they have been supporting Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence 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. This programme is also popular outside Europe, either as a way of projecting European values, or comparatively as academics examine their own region’s integration process in comparison to Europe. Many European Centres of Excellence are Jean Monnet actions: the participation of certain countries that are priorities for the EU’s public diplomacy policy is encouraged through additional ear-marked funding.

Out of a total of 1,500 successful applications to Jean Monnet between 2014 and 2019, 608 are coordinated by Partner Countries.

Co-construction d’une Offre de Formation à Finalité d’Employabilité Élevée

This structural project pilots professional bachelor degrees in Algeria to answer industry needs for middle managerial staff who can quickly get operational. It involves industry in the building of attractive pilot bachelor degree programmes, thereby building nation-wide cooperation between industry and universities. The consortium includes the Ministry for Higher Education and Research (MESRS), nine universities and two industry organisations from Algeria and six European partners, under the coordination of l’Université de Montpellier, France.

Strengthening the internationalisation of Bosnia & Herzegovina’s higher education system

The lack of standardised recognition of qualifications in accordance with the European Higher Education Area represents a drawback for the internationalisation of higher education and mobility. This project, carried out by eight higher education institutions (HEIs) and two Ministries of the country, aims to strengthen HEIs through developing and implementing strategies and indicators for internationalisation, improving national recognition, improving HEIs’ capacities (human and physical), and developing criteria for assessing internationalisation and their incorporation in existing criteria for accreditation of HEIs.

ASEAN-EU in Dialogue, Learning from One Another

This Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence builds on the existing infrastructure at the Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) at University of Malaya. The proposed objectives are to promote ASEAN-EU studies and to foster an ASEAN-EU policy discourse in Malaysia that translate into policy recommendation. It also aims to build capacity for and among the next generation of students and young researchers in the field of comparative regionalism and EU studies.

“WOMEN@IR-WEBIND”

This project run by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research of Washington, US compares and promotes women’s leadership in the EU and the US, thus filling a gap in an area of studies, that has so far neglected the role of women political leaders in EU policymaking and IR.

The project raises awareness about the EU and European Union studies in the US and inspires emerging women leaders to engage in civil service and politics. This trans-disciplinary history and political science project – it does in fact have a clear gender-promotion goal and an agenda that will help reduce the gap between academia and the policy community.
5 – Opportunities in the field of Youth

(a) Mobility Projects for Young People and Youth Workers

Organisations from countries in the EU’s Neighbourhood (Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, South Mediterranean countries and Russia can take part in projects for young people and youth workers. Three types of activities can be supported under this Action:

- **Youth Exchanges**
  Between 2014 and 2019, 50 710 young people from the neighbourhood region took part in youth projects in Europe while 36 544 participants were hosted in neighbouring countries.

- **Youth Workers Mobility**
  Between 2014 and 2019, 27 954 youth workers came to Europe to take part in youth projects (including training, job shadowing), while over 21 605 youth workers were hosted in neighbouring countries.

- **Volunteering Projects (individual or groups)**
  Between 2014 and 2019, 4 941 volunteers carried out European Volunteering Service in Europe while over 3 550 volunteers were hosted in neighbouring countries.

(b) 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.

**Projects selected**

Between 2014 and 2019, calls have been made for these types of capacity-building projects in Asia, Latin America, Africa-Caribbean-Pacific and Europe’s neighbouring regions. A number of organisations from industrialised countries also take part.

**Youth Capacity Building projects worldwide, 2014-2019**

- 796 projects
- 3186 organisations

**DIVE IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**Associação de Idéias Ambientais e Ações Sócio Culturais, Brazil**

This Capacity Building project in the Field of Youth focuses on developing human capital through the encouragement of entrepreneurial initiatives and activities by youth. In particular, the project aims to influence and encourage youth leaders, youth workers, programme managers, project coordinators, representatives of institutions, and local authorities through seminars and mentorship programmes.

**Social Entrepreneurship for Disadvantaged Youth Social Integration**

The project links up social entrepreneurship with the development of core work skills development through informal education. It does this by encouraging youth workers to cooperate with social enterprises, whose remit is to help integrate disadvantaged youth into society through work. It is setting up a virtual cooperation platform which enables these work integration social enterprises (WISE) and their supporting organisations to share educational resources and good practices. A Social Entrepreneurship School will be organised with entrepreneurs providing the training. The project is coordinated by the Georgian Children and Youth Development Fund and involves partners from Armenia, Ukraine, Georgia, Belgium and Denmark.

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**More information:**

- **Erasmus+ website**: [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en)
- **Erasmus+ Student and Alumni Alliance**: [www.esaa-eu.org](http://www.esaa-eu.org)
- **Study in Europe**: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/](http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/)

**“Advocacy for Street based Youth work and networking Action”**: Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam

The project proposes support for marginalized groups in each country through the Social Street Work, approach based on educational relations and non-formal educational action. By meeting youngsters in their on their own life area, Social Street Work builds up an educational relationship based on trust that favours emancipation and citizenship.

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