

ERASMUS+

Specific provisions and opportunities for EU outermost regions

The EU's outermost regions (OR) can benefit from many new opportunities for support under EU policies to help them shape, implement and fund their tailored regional development strategies. The permanent constraints faced by these regions and their specificities are recognised in Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which provides for specific measures to support these regions. It is in this spirit that most EU funds and programmes 2021-27 include specific provisions applicable to the outermost regions. In its [Communication](#) "Putting People first, securing sustainable and inclusive growth and unlocking the potential of the EU's outermost regions", the European Commission has committed itself to facilitating outermost regions' uptake of EU tools to support youth education, training and mobility. The Erasmus+ programme is a key tool for this purpose¹.

About Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. The 2021-2027 programme places a strong focus on social inclusion, the green and digital transitions, and promoting young people's participation in democratic life.

The objective of the programme is to support, through life-long learning, the educational, professional and personal development of people in the fields of education and training, youth and sport in Europe and beyond. Erasmus+ promotes the learning mobility of individuals and groups, non-formal and informal settings, among learners, teachers, youth workers and sport staff as well as cooperation at the level of organisations and policies in all fields covered by Erasmus+. The programme has three key actions: learning mobility, cooperation among organisations and institutions, and support to policy development and cooperation.

The Erasmus+ Programme is implemented mainly by National Agencies in charge of managing the programme at national level, by European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) and the European Commission.

Opportunities for EU Outermost Regions

Outermost regions face specific challenges such as higher youth unemployment, higher school dropout rate and lower educational attainment than EU and national averages. Moreover, many young people lack skills that are essential for a changing labour market and that are needed for the digital and ecological transition. Limited education opportunities in the regions make it difficult for young people to acquire those much-needed skills.

Through its strategy for inclusion and diversity², the Erasmus+ programme helps young people from the outermost regions to participate in the programme and to benefit from the opportunities offered by the different actions of the programme.

Key Facts

Programme duration: 2021-2027

Total budget: € 26 274 000 000

Thematic categories: E Education, Training, Youth, Sport.

Target groups: Individuals (such as students, apprentices, teachers, young people, sport staff, youth workers, etc) and organisations active in the field of education, training, and youth (such as universities, schools, NGOs, etc).

Type of funding: mainly grants

¹This factsheet has been elaborated as part of the organisation of seven virtual workshops for EU outermost regions on the following EU programmes: Connecting Europe Facility (CEF); Digital Europe Programme; Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE); Erasmus+; Horizon Europe; Creative Europe Programme; Single Market Programme.

²<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/implementation-guidelines-erasmus-and-european-solidarity-corps-inclusion-and-diversity-strategy>

Funding opportunities

Outermost regions can benefit from funding opportunities under each of the actions of the Erasmus+ programme, as presented below, including under the international dimension of the programme.

Key action 1: Mobility of individuals

Supported actions: Organisations active in the fields of education, training and youth can receive support from the programme to carry out projects promoting different types of mobility. Depending on the profile of participants involved, the following types of mobility projects are supported:

- In the field of Education and Training: mobility projects for higher education students and staff, for VET learners and staff, for school pupils and staff, for adult education learners and staff.
- In the field of Youth: mobility projects for young people (youth exchanges) and for youth workers, youth participation activities and DiscoverEU.

International mobility opportunities:

- **Mobility projects for higher education students and staff³:** The action supports the international dimension through two strands of mobility activities involving third countries not associated to the Programme⁴.
- **Virtual exchanges in higher education and youth⁵:** Virtual exchanges projects consist of online people-to-people activities that promote intercultural dialogue and soft skills development. They make it possible for every young person to access high-quality international and cross-cultural education (both formal and non-formal) without physical mobility. Organisations established in eligible third countries not associated with the Programme can participate in the exchange.

Specific opportunities for OR: Considering the constraints imposed by the remoteness from other EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme and the economic level, students and recent graduates studying or having studied in higher education institutions located in outermost regions of EU Member States will receive higher amounts for individual support⁶.

Key action 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions

Supported actions: This key action is expected to result in the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices at organisational, local, regional, national or European levels. It supports inter alia:

- Partnerships for Cooperation (including Cooperation Partnerships and Small-scale Partnerships);
- Partnership for Excellence (including European Universities, Centres for Vocational Excellence and Erasmus Mundus Action);
- Partnerships for Innovation (including Alliances and Forward-looking projects);
- Capacity Building projects in the fields of higher education, vocational education and training, youth and sport;
- Not-for-profit European sport events.

3. Erasmus+ Programme Guide, p50.

4. The list of third countries not associated to the Programme can be found on the Erasmus+ Programme Guide, p34. Third countries associated to the Programme are: Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

5. Erasmus+ Programme Guide, p205.

6. Erasmus+ Programme Guide, p70

International cooperation opportunities :

- **Erasmus Mundus action⁷:** This action aims at fostering excellence and worldwide internationalisation of higher education institutions via study programmes – at Master course level – jointly delivered and jointly recognised by higher education institutions (HEIs) established in Europe, and open to institutions in other countries of the world. Associations or organisations of HEIs or public or private organisations in a third country not associated to the Programme can participate but not as coordinator. Additional funding for scholarships for students in the poorest and least developed third countries not associated to the Programme are available via EU's external action instruments.
- **Capacity Building in Higher Education⁸:** It supports international cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of higher education. It supports the relevance, quality, modernisation and responsiveness of higher education in third countries not associated to the Programme. The activities and outcomes of CBHE projects must be geared to benefit the eligible third countries not associated to the Programme, their higher education institutions and systems. Third countries not associated to the Programme can apply.
- **Capacity building in the field of vocational education and training (VET)⁹:** International cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of VET in EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme, and third countries not associated to the Programme. Project activities must focus on building and strengthening the capacities of organisations active in the field of VET principally in the third countries not associated to the Programme covered by the action. Third country organisations can participate but not as coordinators.
- **Capacity building in the field of youth¹⁰:** International cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of youth in Programme and third countries not associated to the Programme. Project activities must focus on building and strengthening the capacities of youth organisations and young people principally in the third countries not associated to the Programme covered by the action. Consortium must include at least 2 eligible third countries not associated to the Programme (only from Region 1 and 3).

Specific opportunities for OR: This action supports projects that promote social inclusion and aim at improving the outreach to people with fewer opportunities as well as people living in remote areas such as outermost regions.

Key action 3: Support to policy development and cooperation

Supported actions: This key action provides support to policy cooperation at EU level, thereby contributing to the implementation of existing policies and the development of new policies, which can trigger modernisation and reforms, at EU, and systems' level, in the fields of education, training youth and sport. Actions supported include:

- European Youth Together;
- Support to European policy development;
- Support to Union tools and measures that foster the quality, transparency and recognition of skills, competences and qualifications;

7. Erasmus+ Programme Guide, p259

8. Erasmus+ Programme Guide, p312.

9. Erasmus+ Programme Guide, p328.

10. Erasmus+ Programme Guide, p345.

- Policy dialogue and cooperation with key stakeholders and international organisations;
- Measures that contribute to the qualitative and inclusive implementation of the programme;
- Cooperation with other union instruments and support to other union policies;
- Dissemination and awareness-raising activities.

Jean Monnet actions

Supported actions: The Jean Monnet actions offer opportunities in the field of higher education and in other fields of education and training. The Jean Monnet actions contribute to spreading knowledge about the European Union. The following actions are supported:

- Jean Monnet Actions in the field of higher education
- Jean Monnet Actions in other fields of education and training
- Jean Monnet policy debate

Example of funded projects

[“Palmeros in Europe 2019”](#) was a mobility project for students and staff of vocational training, coordinated by IES VIRGEN DE LAS NIEVES, in the Canary Islands in Spain. This project has been developed with the aim of enabling students and vocational training staff of IES Virgen de Las Nieves to take part in projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ programmes, both by participating in mobilities and by hosting students or staff from other institutions. The actions developed were aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- To give students and staff of the school the opportunity to acquire professional, linguistic and social skills in places where the business dimension is different from the insular one.
- To promote the personal enrichment of the participants through intercultural awareness.
- To strengthen relations with counterpart partners, favouring future cooperation projects.
- To bring La Palma society closer to Europe.

The project [“learning and innovation through foreign languages and entrepreneurship skills”](#) coordinated by Grand-Bourg in Guadeloupe in France received support from the Erasmus programme. Due to a high number of unemployed youths, along with high rates of early school leavers, the idea of the project was to create tools to empower youths, especially those at risk of dropping out of school; to become a part of the solution, rather than the problem.

More information

How to apply?

Calls for proposals are published on the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#). More information on the calls can be found on the [EACEA website](#).

Applicable EU law

[Regulation \(EU\) 2021/817](#) establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport.

Other information

Erasmus+ Programme: [information webpage](#)

Erasmus+ work programme: [2023 Annual Work Programme](#)

Programme guide : [Erasmus+ Programme guide 2021-2027](#)

Erasmus+ National Agencies : [National Agencies](#)