



Factsheet

The European Commission's 'Youth on the Move' initiative aims to promote the mobility of students and trainees and to improve the employment situation of young people. 'Youth on the Move' will encourage EU countries to work together to give young people in Europe better opportunities to make the best of their skills. This can be achieved by improving the performance and international attractiveness of Europe's universities, but also by raising the overall quality of all levels of education and training in the EU. The initiative specifically targets younger people to make them aware of the benefits of participating in EU mobility programmes.

The EU's main programmes to enhance mobility are under the wing of the Lifelong learning programme: Projects within this programme are not only intended for individual students and learners, but also for teachers, trainers and all others involved in education and training and non-formal exchange.

There are sub-programmes which fund projects at different levels of education and training:¹

The Comenius Programme

This programme focuses on all levels of school education, from pre-school and primary to secondary schools. Comenius aims to improve and increase the mobility of pupils and educational staff across the EU.

Leonardo da Vinci programme

This programme funds practical projects in the field of vocational education and training. Initiatives range from those giving individuals work-related training abroad to large-scale co-operation efforts.

The Erasmus Programme

ERASMUS is the EU's flagship education and training programme enabling 200.000 students to study and work abroad each year. In addition, it funds co-operation between higher education institutions across Europe. The programme not only supports students, but also professors and business staff who want to teach abroad, as well as helping university staff to receive training.

Grundtvig

The Grundtvig programme focuses on the teaching and study needs of learners taking adult education and 'alternative' education courses, as well as the organisations delivering these services.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc78_en.htm

Other EU mobility programmes:

Youth in action

The Youth in action programme promotes non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue among European youth by supporting a large variety of activities, including youth exchanges, transnational voluntary service as well as national and transnational youth initiatives. Most activities are eligible to the 27 EU member states, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, Turkey, countries covered by the European neighbourhood policy² and other countries which have signed relevant agreements with the European Union.

Marie Curie

Marie Curie Actions are designed to boost researchers' careers in all fields in science and humanities. They offer researchers the opportunity to upgrade and diversify their skills, join established research teams and enhance their career prospects. Eligible countries are the 27 EU Member States and countries associated with the EU's seventh framework programme. Moreover, researchers and organisations from non-EU countries are eligible for some of the actions.

Erasmus Mundus

The programme enhances quality in higher education through scholarships and academic cooperation between Europe and the rest of the world. Higher education institutions, organisations active in the field of higher education and research, students, doctoral candidates, teachers, researchers and university staff worldwide may participate.

Tempus

Tempus helps modernise higher education in partner countries geographically close to the EU and promotes cooperation between higher education institutions in the EU and in partner countries. The programme covers 27 countries in the western Balkans, eastern Europe, central Asia, northern Africa and the Middle East.

Important tools to European mobility

eures - The European job mobility portal:

The purpose of the online portal EURES is to provide information, advice and recruitment/placement services for to assist any citizen wishing to benefit from the principle of the free movement of persons. EURES also has a human network of more than 700 EURES advisers. EURES is a co-operation network between the European Commission and the Public Employment Services of the EEA Member States³, Switzerland and other partner organisations.

Europass

Europass consists of five documents that are designed to help people make their skills and competences clearly understood across Europe (European Union, EFTA/EEA and candidate countries). Europass documents are valid in 31 countries and assist European citizens in enrolling in an education or training programme, applying for jobs or getting experience abroad.

² eastern Europe and the Caucasus, the Mediterranean region and south-eastern Europe

³ Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein