



ERASMUS+: BRIEFING FOR MEMBERS

An Overview

What is Erasmus + and why is it relevant for you?

Erasmus+ is an EU funding programme that aims to provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to work, study or volunteer abroad from 2014-2020. Every year countless proposals for projects are submitted by organisations, students, teachers, and professionals through this work programme. The European Commission evaluates all of these proposals and awards grants to the most suitable projects.

Erasmus+ specifically focuses on trying to tackle key problems in Europe by focusing on youth, education, sports, and training. With rising unemployment levels across Europe due to the economic crisis, especially in youth, many young adults are leaving school prematurely. Many of these young people run the risk of becoming unemployed. Research has shown that youth programmes, education initiatives and work-training programmes can help combat these unemployment issues that many Europeans are facing. In order to tackle these issues, the Erasmus+ work programme has been created to fund projects in the fields of youth as well as adult education, training and sport to boost skills and employability and to modernise education, training and youth work.

- What is the MFF?

The MFF stands for Multiannual Financial Framework and is basically a long term spending plan. This is a seven year program that sets out the annual budget for the EU. The MFF sets out the “max” budget for the EU in six broad areas. These areas are: smart and inclusive growth (1), sustainable growth with natural resources (2), security and citizenship (3), EU as a global player (4), and Administration (5), and Compensations (6).

- How does Erasmus + relate to the MFF and Europe 2020?

Erasmus + is one of the programmes within the MFF that was approved for 2014-2020. It operates under the smart and inclusive growth section of the MFF.

The programme is directly linked to two policy objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy: (1) raising higher education attainment from 32% - 40% and (2) reducing the share of early school leavers from 14% to less than 10%.

- How is Erasmus+ different from previous work programmes in education, youth and sport?

Erasmus+ combines 7 previous youth, education and training programmes that were implemented from 2007-2013. These include:

- The Lifelong Learning Programme
- The Youth in Action Programme
- The Erasmus Mundus Programme
- Tempus
- Alfa
- Edulink
- Programmes of cooperation with industrialised countries in the field of higher education





What do you need to know about Erasmus+?

- Erasmus + is a single integrated programme covering all education, training and youth sectors in a holistic manner, including sports, bringing the 7 existing programmes into a single coherent framework
- Erasmus + is addressing 5 areas: (1) School Education, (2) Higher Education, (3) Adult Education, (4) Youth and (5) Vocational Education and Training
- Each of these 5 areas is supported by 3 main types of key actions: (1) Learning mobility of individuals, (2) Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices and (3) Support for policy reform.

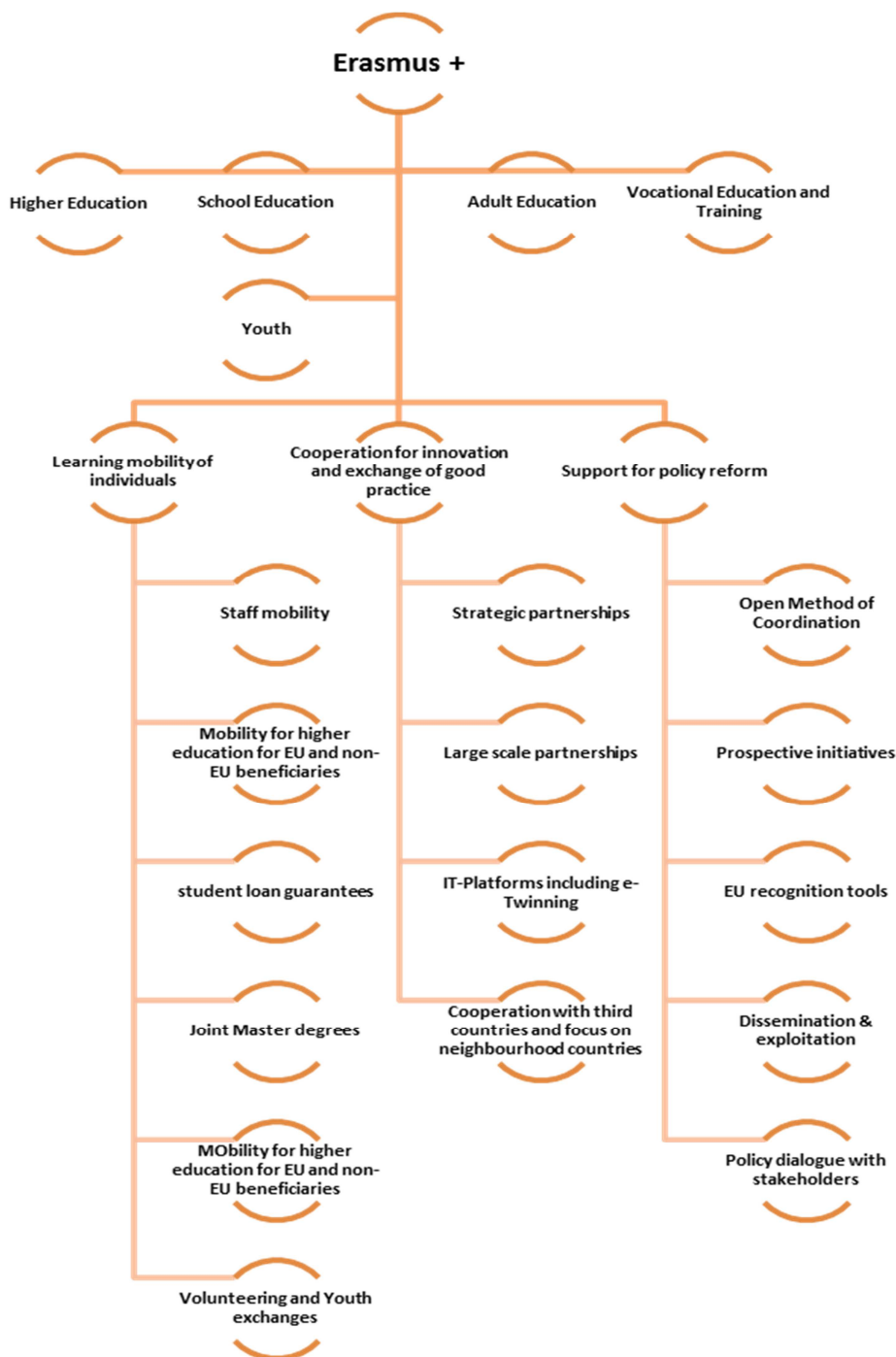
What are the specific goals of Erasmus+ key actions?

Within the first Key Action, Erasmus+ seeks to make it easier for higher education students to study abroad. There is also a goal of making it easier for teachers, youth workers and school leaders to work abroad in another EU country. This part of the Key Action also wants to create more “joint” master’s degrees where students can study in multiple locations to earn a single master degree. Providing guarantees for student loans is also a goal of this part of Erasmus +.

There will be several activities supported under the first Key Action. Some of these include:

- Mobility of learners and staff
- Joint Master degrees
- Creating job shadowing opportunities for students

The second Key Action focuses on creating key partnerships to disseminate best practices among Member States, youth organisations, schools and other relevant bodies. Erasmus+ hopes to create new partnerships with youth organisations, education organisations, and vocational training groups to exchange ideas about ways to improve education and training programs throughout Europe.





Some of the actions supported under the second Key Action include:

- Transnational strategic partnerships aimed to develop initiatives addressing one or more fields of education, training and youth and promote innovation, exchange of experience and know-how between different types of organisations involved in education, training and youth or in other relevant fields
- Knowledge alliances between higher education institutions and enterprises
- Capacity Building projects supporting cooperation with Partner Countries in the fields of higher education and youth
- IT support platforms, such as eTwinning, the European Platform for Adult Learning (EPALE) and the European Youth Portal, offering virtual collaboration spaces, databases of opportunities, communities of practices and other online services for teachers, trainers and practitioners in the field of school and adult education as well as for young people, volunteers and youth workers across Europe

The third Key Action seeks to foster dialogue with policy makers, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders that could provide relevant insight into policy reform in the areas of Erasmus + (youth mobility, education, training, sport).

Some of the actions supported under the third Key Action include:

- Knowledge exchange in the fields of education, training and youth for evidence-based policy making and monitoring in the framework of Europe 2020, in particular: country-specific and thematic analysis, including through cooperation with academic networks; peer learning and peer reviews through the Open Methods of Coordination in education, training and youth
- Prospective initiatives to stimulate innovative policy development among stakeholders and to enable public authorities to test the effectiveness of innovative policies through field trials based on sound evaluation methodologies
- Stakeholder dialogue, policy and programme promotion with public authorities, providers and stakeholders in the fields of education, training and youth

How is Erasmus+ being implemented?

The European Commission is ultimately responsible for the running of the Erasmus+ Programme. It manages the budget and sets priorities, targets and criteria for the Programme on an ongoing basis. Furthermore, it guides and monitors the general implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Programme at European level.

At national level, the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme is mainly implemented as indirect management, meaning that the European Commission entrusts budget implementation tasks to National Agencies; the rationale of this approach is to bring Erasmus+ as close as possible to its beneficiaries and to adapt to the diversity of national education, training and youth systems. For this purpose, each Programme Country has appointed one or more National Agencies. They promote and implement the Programme at national level and act as the link between the European Commission and participating organisations at local, regional and national level. It is their task to:

- provide appropriate information on the Erasmus+ Programme
- administer a fair and transparent selection process for project applications to be funded in their country
- monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Programme in their country
- provide support to project applicants and participating organisations throughout the project life-cycle



- collaborate effectively with the network of all National Agencies and the European Commission;
- ensure the visibility of the Programme;
- promote the dissemination and exploitation of the results of the Programme at local and national level

To find your national agency please click [here](#).

How can I participate in the Erasmus+ Programme?

Although the programme targets mainly individuals, students, trainees, apprentices, pupils, adult learners, young people, volunteers, professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, professionals of organisations active in the fields of education, training and youth, it reaches these individuals through organisations, institutions, bodies or groups that organise such activities. Therefore, **individuals cannot apply for Erasmus+ projects.**

To submit an Erasmus+ project, members must follow the four steps mentioned below:

- (1) Register in the Participant Portal
- (2) Check the compliance with the Programme criteria
- (3) Check the financial conditions
- (4) Fill in and submit the application form

Please consult the Erasmus+ programme guide, available at the [Erasmus+ website](#) of the European Commission, to learn in detail about these steps. The Erasmus+ Programme guide also describes in more detail the kinds of activities supported under the three key actions.

What are the relevant calls members could respond to at this point?

In December 2013 the latest Call for Proposals has been published by the European Commission. Most deadlines have therefore already passed for this year. However, it is still possible to apply for the following actions:

- Key Action I: Mobility of individuals in the field of youth (Deadline: 01 October 2014)
- Key Action II: Strategic partnerships in the field of youth (Deadline: 01 October 2014)
- Key Action III: Meeting between young people and decision makers (Deadline: 01 October 2014)
- Sport actions: collaborative partnerships in the sport field (Deadline: 05 May 2014)

The call for proposals can be found [here](#).

A new Call for proposals will be published by the end of this year. Eurodiaconia will keep members informed about any funding opportunities that arise in the future.

What can members do now?

Right now, members can participate in the calls that are still open for 2014 and read the Programme Guide to see in detail what kind of actions can be supported by Erasmus+. Members can also begin to look for partner organisations for actions that involve more than one organisation/country. Eurodiaconia is happy to assist members in finding partner organisations for collaborative projects and will organise an event later this year looking particularly at developing cooperative projects in the area of youth inclusion.

Further information and links

Erasmus+ Programme Guide: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf



Erasmus+ leaflet: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-leaflet_en.pdf

Erasmus+ Call for Proposals: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOC_2013_362_R_NS0004&from=EN

National Agencies for Erasmus+: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/national-agencies_en.htm