

FROM
ERASMUS
TO
ERASMUS+
A STORY OF
30 YEARS



Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.



FOREWORD FROM TIBOR NAVRACSICS, COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT



Being responsible for Erasmus+ in the European Commission is a particular honour for me. When I was a university student in Hungary 30 years ago, Europe was split into two seemingly irreconcilable blocks. Taking part in an experience like Erasmus was a dream that I could not realise.

I am all the more pleased to see that, three decades later, 9 million people have had the opportunity to benefit from Erasmus. 9 million people who have gained fresh experiences, developed their skills, made new friends and learnt to understand and respect different points of view.

Today, going abroad for a while to study, train, volunteer or teach is the norm. And Europe has overcome the ideological and physical division of 30 years ago. Erasmus+, the current programme, and its predecessors have played a vital part in both of these achievements.

They have created a whole generation of people who identify themselves with Europe, as well as with the town, region and country they come from. A generation of open-minded, confident people ready to take control of their lives and support others.

This is what we have been celebrating throughout 2017, all over Europe and beyond. It was a joy to see the many people whose lives have been touched and enriched by Erasmus get together to pay tribute to this, one of the most successful programmes of the European Union.

More than 750 000 people took part in over 1 900 events in 44 countries. More than 65 000 media reports on the programme were published and reached over 90 million viewers or readers. The new Erasmus+ Mobile App that we launched in June 2017 has already been downloaded more than 22 000 times. And altogether, we reached out to more than 92 million people through social media.

We would not have achieved these impressive results without the dedication of Erasmus+ National Agencies, our ambassadors and other beneficiaries, alumni and current participants. I want to thank all of them for helping us celebrate the programme and its impact – and creating a unique opportunity to look to the future.

Europe, along with the rest of the world, is facing deep structural changes and challenges – including new, troubling divisions between East and West. To tackle them, we need to build resilient societies and economies. And we need to empower people, to make the most of their talents and become active, caring members of society.

Erasmus+ has a central role in this. Education, training, mobility and cooperation across national borders are critical in giving Europeans the forward-looking knowledge, skills and competences they need to innovate and prosper in the future world of work. And they enable people to develop as human beings and build communities.

There is no better European instrument than Erasmus+ to foster this. To provide the space for young people to develop a European identity alongside their national identity, empowering them to engage and shape the future of a Europe made of democracy, solidarity and inclusion.

We must make every effort to ensure that these opportunities are more accessible to all people in the future, at all stages of their life, with greater opportunities to include people who feel left behind, from disadvantaged backgrounds, and new arrivals in our countries and beyond our borders. Using new technologies will be essential to make it easier to access these opportunities.

I would like to thank the many high-level politicians and decision-makers, including Heads of State and Government and Members of the European Parliament, for their strong signals of support for an even more ambitious future for Erasmus+. And I would like to thank all those who contributed to the Erasmus+ Generation Declaration, proposing concrete recommendations on how we can make the future Erasmus+ programme after 2020 an even bigger success.

Happy birthday, Erasmus! Here's to the next decade!



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STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF ERASMUS+

Throughout this special year, the anniversary campaign showcased the impact of the Erasmus programme since its inception, as well as the continued support and enthusiasm for it among participants and stakeholders from the entire political spectrum, at national and European levels. Many top-level officials have been vocal in their support of the programme, highlighting its positive role in fostering the personal and professional self-development of individuals and making our education and training systems and youth sectors even more relevant to the needs of society.

‘Every euro that we invest in Erasmus+ is an investment in the future – in the future of a young person and of our European idea. I cannot imagine anything more worthy of our investment than these leaders of tomorrow. As we celebrate the 9 millionth person to take part, let’s make sure we are 9 times more ambitious with the future of the Erasmus+ programme.’

Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission



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‘Given its extraordinary importance as a force for integration and a symbol of European culture, I believe that Erasmus+ must be seen as much more than just a programme; it must be seen as an opportunity for every young person in Europe, regardless of family income or educational background.’

Antonio Tajani
President of the European Parliament



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‘Our fragmentation is only superficial. It is actually a great opportunity. And instead of lamenting the abundance of our languages, we must make it an asset! Europe must be a space where every student will have to speak at least two European languages by 2024. Instead of regretting the fragmentation of our countries, let’s reinforce exchanges! In 2024, half of an age group must have spent at least six months in another European country before reaching the age of 25, whether as a student or an apprentice. And here, too, where a few pioneers, such as Bologna, Montpellier, Oxford or Salamanca have believed in the power of learning, critical thinking and culture, I want us to live up to this great plan.’

Emmanuel Macron
President of France



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'No other programme or initiative can overcome Erasmus+. This allows people to leave their countries, leave their comfort zone and try to feel at home in a place they do not know. There is no other experience as rewarding as this.'

Tiago Brandão Rodrigues

Minister of Education of Portugal



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'I think that Erasmus is the best way to educate people about what Europe is all about – that's what happened to me. I used to think I know Europe, but my Erasmus made me discover more about what Europe has to offer for everyday life.'

Xavier Bettel

Prime Minister of Luxembourg



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'What strikes me is that Erasmus is not contested by anyone, it is a success, even at this moment of crisis of the European construction. The Erasmus budget which represents only 1.3% of the European budget should be multiplied by 10. I think we should give 10% of the budget to mobility, to make it a mass programme, and at some point, even mandatory.'

Sandro Gozi

Undersecretary to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy



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'My experience as an Erasmus student was not only useful for my studies and my work later on (...). It is also a great school to develop citizenship – European citizenship for European students who participate to the programme, but also regional and global citizenship. Personally, I have learned, during my Erasmus, to know, accept and respect others, each and every one in his/her diversity. I believe that living together, exchanging, studying together is a great school of life, encouraging openness, dialogue and respect.'

Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission



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‘I think Erasmus+ is one of the most important programmes because it shows everybody what integration is all about. It means [a] borderless Europe. It means that people have more opportunities. You are not only allowed to study in your country but you are also allowed to study wherever in Europe. It is your continent, it is your Europe.’

Jyrki Katainen

European Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness

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‘Still today when I come to my job every day, I feel that I’m not really working, I’m paying back what Europe did for me. Do it even if your parents tell you not to. Do it if your professors and coaches tell you not to. And you learn much more than you can learn in a course or studying or reading. So do it, do it, do it!’

Carlos Moedas

Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation

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STORIES ON ERASMUS+ AMBASSADORS

Erasmus+ is above all about people. Throughout the anniversary year, former participants in the programme shared their stories to highlight how decisive a step it was in the path of their lives. All participants agreed on one thing: there is a 'before' and an 'after' Erasmus+.

Eight of these participants, representing the full range of Erasmus+ sectors, have been put in the spotlight with inspiring videos. So inspiring, these videos went on to win a silver prize at the [8th Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards in 2017!](#)

TANIA HABIMANA,
United Kingdom
Erasmus student in Germany – 2009

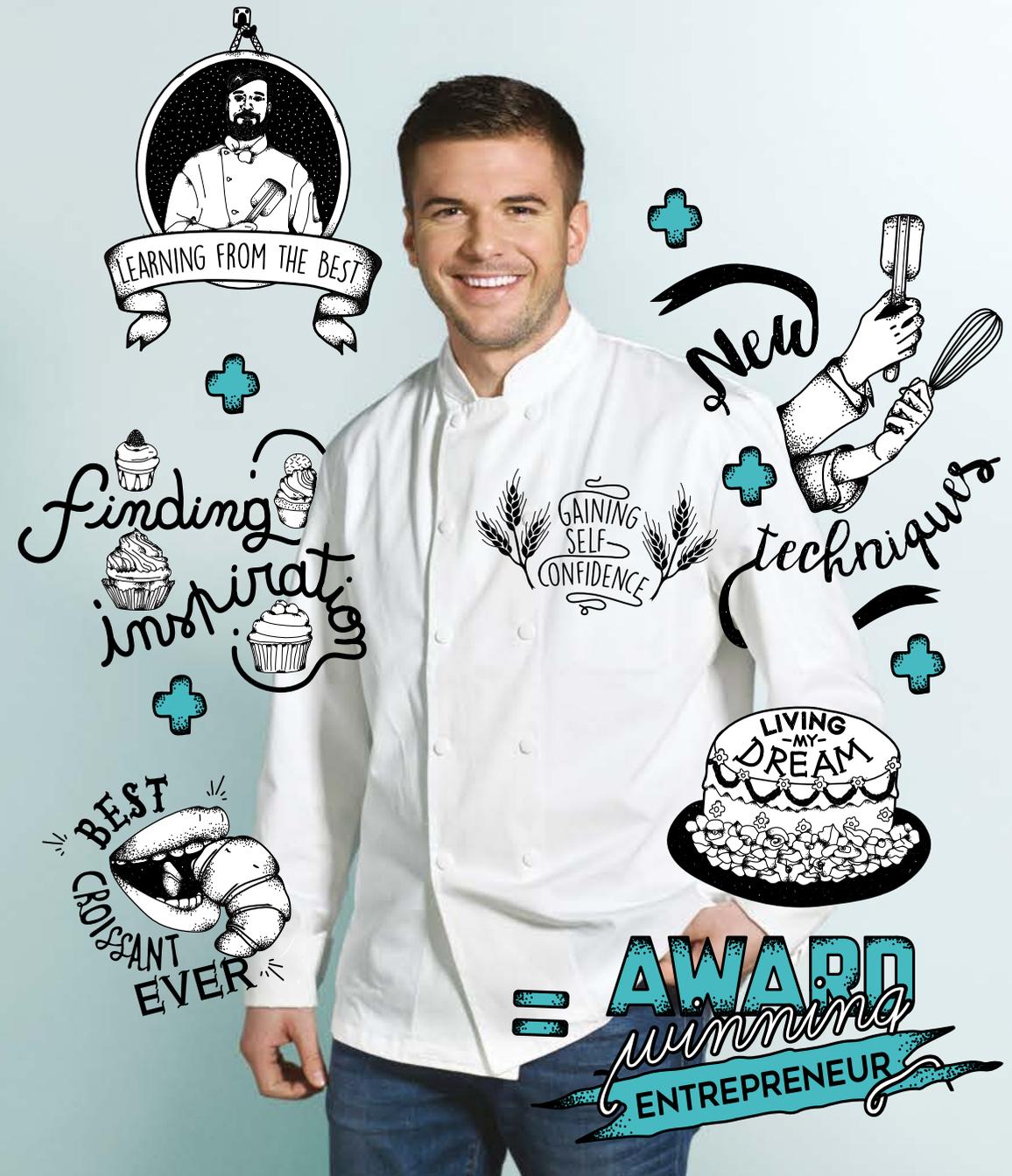
Tania Habimana grew up in the UK and Belgium. With Erasmus, she studied International Business and German. Today, Tania runs Tailored Business, a TV show which documents her criss-crossing Africa making suits for people and interviewing them. Tania is an advocate for women entrepreneurs and hopes that her TV show will inspire others to explore their own entrepreneurial talents.



GELLÉRT SZÓ,
Hungary

*Erasmus+ Vocational
& Educational Training in France – 2014*

Gellért had the opportunity to learn tricks of the trade from prestigious bakers in France. His three-week experience was so inspiring that he won the Best Cake competition in Hungary. Twice. He is now the happy owner of two pastry shops in two different cities.



MINA JAF,
Denmark

Erasmus+ volunteer in Belgium – 2015

Having left Iraqi Kurdistan as a child, Mina became passionate about protecting refugee rights. In 2015, she volunteered at Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen (Flemish Refugee Action) for a year. The experience allowed her to develop her own skills, such as languages, management, leadership, and coordination. Later, Mina started her own NGO called Women Refugee Route, which aims to provide information and services to women and girls during their journey, and increasing their visibility. In 2016, Mina was awarded the Voices of Courage Award by the Women's Refugee Commission.



ROBERTO BREEVELD,
The Netherlands
eTwinning, 5 countries – 2012

Roberto is a geography teacher who led two eTwinning projects, organising virtual student exchanges with five countries. By interacting with people from other cultures, his pupils gained new perspectives and improved their English. Now Roberto is an enthusiastic eTwinning ambassador.



**WASSIM, ALEXANDRO
AND AALIYAH,**

Belgium

Erasmus+ School project in Belgium & France – 2014-16

Wassim, Alexandro and Aaliyah took part in 'The Incredible Culinary Journey of Our European Pupils', a project that brought together children from schools in disadvantaged areas in Brussels (Belgium) and Bobigny (France). By making recipes from the cuisine of their parents' countries of origin, the pupils developed key skills such as mathematics and respect for other cultures.



RUTH FREUDO,

Malta

*Erasmus+ Adult Education project,
7 European countries – 2015*

Ruth represented Malta in a multi-country Erasmus+ project on social inclusion. Through the project, Ruth interviewed asylum seekers and refugees in Malta and was able to connect with people on a personal level through their stories. Her research was translated into seven European languages, and resulted in the production of an educational documentary.



CHRISTINA ARMUTLIEVA,
ANGELA NICULITSA AND
YURIY VDOVYCHENKO,

Bulgaria

*Cooperation between universities from 10 countries,
La Manche project - 2012-15*

Christina, Angela and Yuriy are three of the many people who were involved in La MANCHE, a project promoting the modernisation of higher education in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

In addition to these countries, the consortium includes five EU countries. It's a perfect example of collaboration and strategic partnership made possible by Erasmus+, leading to sustainable change.



MARTINA CAIRONI,

Italy

Erasmus student in Spain – 2012

Martina Caironi was 22 when she went on an Erasmus exchange to Spain. Doing everything on her own boosted her self-confidence. Two months after her Erasmus stay ended, she won a gold medal at the 2012 London Paralympic Games. At the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympic Games she won a gold medal in the 100 metre sprint and a silver medal in the long jump.



MAIN EVENTS ACROSS EUROPE

Over 1900 events were held all over Europe and beyond during the anniversary year, telling the story of Erasmus+ and its predecessor programmes.

Among these events were celebrations, conferences, debates, exhibitions and forums at local, national and European levels. At least 750 000 people took part in these activities. The events looked closely at the concrete impact of the programme, laying the foundations for discussions on the future, for the time after 2020, when the current financing period ends.

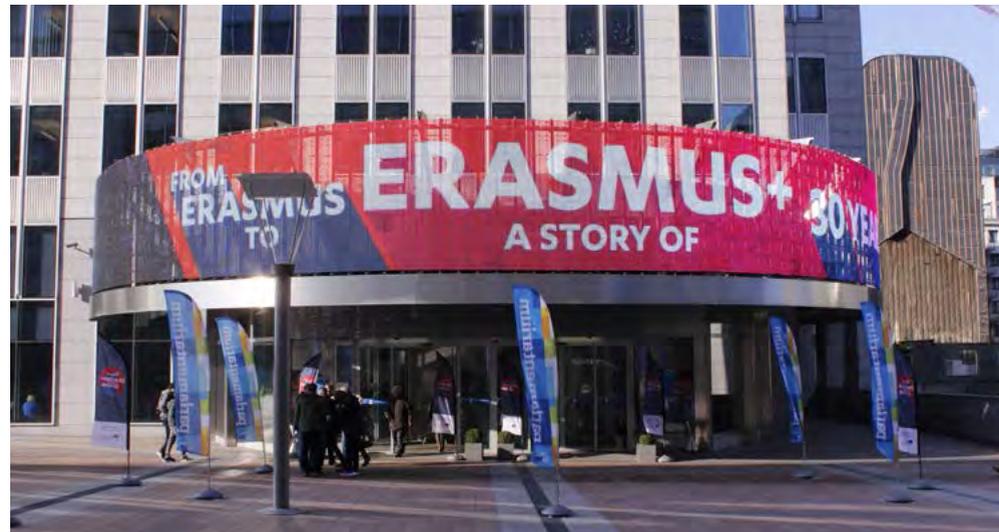


KICK-OFF EVENT ON 26 JANUARY

The Erasmus 30th Anniversary was launched by Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, and Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, with a celebratory event at the Parliamentarium in Brussels, featuring alumni of the programme who joined us from across Europe. What better way to kick-start the festivities than by gathering 400 Erasmus+ participants from the European Union and beyond?

EUROPEAN HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

At European level, the 30th anniversary of Erasmus was celebrated with three main events in 2017: the kick-off event on 26 January, the official European 'birthday' celebrations of the programme in Strasbourg on 13 June, and the closing conference on 30 November.



Part of the launch event took place in the Parliamentarium in Brussels.



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1_The official European-level celebrations of the 30th anniversary of Erasmus took place in Strasbourg, France, on 13 June.

2_The awards were handed out on the premises of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, during one of its plenary sessions.

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EUROPEAN CELEBRATIONS OF THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF ERASMUS ON 13 JUNE

Young people, Erasmus+ participants and beneficiaries, directors of Erasmus+ National Agencies, and members of the European Institutions were invited to reflect together on the future of the programme after 2020. During the ceremony, 33 representatives of the 9 million strong Erasmus+ generation – one from each programme country – were symbolically awarded for their particularly inspirational Erasmus+ experiences. Their stories were published on the Erasmus 30th anniversary website – [discover them](#).



THE ERASMUS 30TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN CLOSING EVENT

A whole year celebrating 30 years of the Erasmus programme came to a close on 30 November 2017. A series of high-profile events, including an outstanding artistic show, were organised by the European Commission throughout the day at various venues in Brussels.

Just in time for the celebration, the Commission released the 2016 Erasmus+ Annual Report, revealing some record figures: with a budget increase of 7.5 % compared to the previous year, the programme supported 21 000 projects, 15 % more than in 2015. During 2016, the programme strongly contributed to tackling societal challenges by supporting 1 200 cooperation projects focusing on tolerance, non-discrimination and social inclusion as well as investing EUR 13 million into 35 additional projects aimed at preventing violent radicalisation and fostering the inclusion of disadvantaged learners and people from migrant backgrounds. Overall, Erasmus+ invested EUR 2.27 billion to support 725 000 Europeans in 2016.

The BOZAR stage, with live music, the Erasmus+ 30th anniversary campaign logo and EU flag

© European Union, 2017/Source: EC – Audiovisual Service/Photo: Gaspare Dario Pignatelli



PRESENTING RESULTS OF ERASMUS+ IN 2016 AND THE ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN TO THE PRESS

The closing event started with a press conference at the European Commission’s headquarters in the Berlaymont building. Commissioner Tibor Navracscs presented the impact of the 30th anniversary campaign, along with the latest figures from the 2016 Erasmus+ Annual Report, while two representatives of the Erasmus+ Generation introduced the Erasmus+ Generation Declaration, which is included in this book on page 86 and provides participants’ vision for the future of the programme beyond 2020.



Press conference with Commissioner Navracscs

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Sealing the ‘Erasmus+ time capsule’: Vice-President Katainen and Commissioner Navracscs

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SEALING THE ERASMUS+ TIME CAPSULE

In the early afternoon, Commissioner Navracscs and Vice-President Jyrki Katainen sealed the Erasmus+ time capsule at the Berlaymont Piazza. The purpose of the time capsule is to create a shared memory of the impact of Erasmus+, and its predecessors, on participants’ lives, to be preserved for the next ten years, when it is unveiled at the 40th anniversary of the programme. The time capsule symbolises the widespread public support the programme enjoys, and underlines the high hopes Europeans have for the programme’s future. It contains testimonies and key artefacts from the campaign, depicting the impact that Erasmus+ projects and mobilities have had on participants and the communities they have engaged. The time capsule also keeps a record of what the Erasmus+ Generation of today envisages for the future with the Erasmus+ Generation Declaration – along with postcards inserted by attendees with their hopes and ideas for the future of Erasmus+ and Europe.

DISCUSSING THE FUTURE

The celebrations continued at the European Parliament, with a high-level panel discussion on the future of Erasmus+ after 2020. Commissioner Navracscics, the Estonian Minister for Education and Research, Mailis Reps, the Chair of the Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education, Petra Kammerevert, and Catherine Fox, a representative of the Erasmus+ Generation

Participants in the discussion agreed on the need to have a larger, more ambitious and inclusive programme that benefits more Europeans, with a bigger budget.

Following the panel, Commissioner Navracscics opened the Erasmus+ exhibition, also in the European Parliament. The exhibition showcased pictures, infographics and data documenting the programme's 30 years, including inspiring stories from people who have benefited from it.

High-level panel with Commissioner Navracscics, the Estonian Minister for Education and Research, Mailis Reps, the Chair of the Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education, Petra Kammerevert, and Catherine Fox, a representative of the Erasmus+ Generation

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Panel with Dr. Hywel Ceri Jones, Director-General Martine Reicherts & President of Erasmus Student Network João Mourato Pinto, BOZAR

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Catherine Fox, representative of the Erasmus+ Generation, presents the Erasmus+ Generation Declaration

© European Union, 2017/ Source: EP – Audiovisual Service/ Photographer: Laurie DIEFFEMBACQ



Directors of Erasmus+ National Agencies, TED speakers, representatives of the Erasmus+ Generation, European Commission staff and other guests on the BOZAR stage

Photo: Destrée Organisation

GOING OUT WITH A BANG

The day culminated in a fantastic show at the Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR), featuring testimonies and artistic performances highlighting the impact of Erasmus+ in each of the seven sectors it covers: higher education, school education, vocational education and training, youth, adult education, international cooperation and sport. Around 2 000 guests, ranging from prospective programme participants to high-level politicians, had the chance to listen to alumni share inspiring stories and views on the future of Erasmus+.

The show was followed by a cocktail reception and the night concluded with an exceptional DJ set!



Singer Blanche performs «City lights» at the BOZAR

© European Union, 2017/Source: EC – Audiovisual Service/Photo: Gaspare Dario Pignatelli

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER – THE CAMPAIGN ACROSS EUROPE

In the context of the 30th anniversary, Erasmus+ National Agencies and Representations from the European Commission launched a broad array of events throughout Europe, each recounting the programme's story, but also looking to the future. While the types of events varied, the takeaway from the year's activities was unanimous: Erasmus+ can be shared among individuals and communities at the local, national and European levels. The following are just a few highlights of the year-long anniversary celebrations, conferences, debates, exhibitions, forums, media coverage and much, much more.

On 4-5 May in Genval, over 120 participants gathered for a seminar to discuss Erasmus+ mobility and higher education in Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (the French-speaking Community of Belgium). In addition to reviewing success stories from the last 30 years, the seminar provided an opportunity to plan next steps for post-2020 initiatives in the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles and the EU more broadly.



Belgium commemorated 30 years of Erasmus with around 29 events. These events attracted more than 10 000 participants.

From 13 to 24 March, a *FédéralTruckErasmus+* took to the road to guide secondary school students, teachers and aspiring educators through information sessions. On 20 March, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen, gave a press conference at a national event in which around 400 people took part. These activities were made possible by cooperation between the Erasmus+ National Agencies, the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the Belgian Representation of the European Commission.



Czech Republic



To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus programme in the Czech Republic, national officials and local organisations set up 13 key events. National events were initiated, with participation ranging from 169 to over 45 000 people. This included stakeholder meetings with school directors, thematic seminars and alumni testimonials, as well as Erasmus+ photo and label competitions.

The local campaign focused on mobility and used a spin on a traditional Czech proverb as its motto: *'Don't sit around in the corner, little doll... travel abroad'*. Challenging the traditional proverb *'Sit in a corner, little doll. If you are good, they will find you.'*, the year-long campaign stressed the need for students to collect experiences abroad in order to truly succeed in their professional and personal lives. Through the campaign, 30 handmade dolls were created and distributed to students participating in various Erasmus+ programmes and sectors. The participants were encouraged to take selfies with the dolls in various situations showcasing how exciting and worthwhile studying abroad can be.

By October, 75 of the doll selfies had been collected and uploaded as photo-stories of memorable moments from the Erasmus+ experience. Posted on social media, these stories were shared using the tag #mujerasmus. Erasmus+ participants from or in the Czech Republic were encouraged to use the same hashtag to share their mobility experiences. Each mobility experience is marked on an interactive map found on the Czech campaign website (www.mujerasmus.cz).





Estonia

Estonia organised seven events to celebrate the anniversary, generating a record attendance of more than 30 000 participants. These events

focused on the accomplishments of different aspects of the Erasmus programme and involved academia, but also sport and music events.

On 6 May, Estonia celebrated Europe Day. Capitalising on this annual family event, the day was dedicated to the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU and Erasmus 30. The main celebratory events took place in Liberty Square, where many international organisations set up stands, inviting more than 13 000 visitors to participate in a cultural programme with debates and musical performances.



Notable attendees included Estonian Prime Minister Jüri Ratas along with representatives of the European Commission Representation in Estonia, journalists and popular cultural figures. As a highlight of the day's agenda, participants received customised commemorative items and Erasmus30 fortune cookies, with a piece of paper inside predicting what might happen during their study or internship abroad. A [30-second Erasmus+ video](#) also marked the anniversary, and was shown in outdoor screenings in Tallinn, Tartu and Viljandi.



Highlights from Erasmus+ celebratory activities organised in France included a conference marking the launch of the anniversary year, promotional campaigns and expositions, directly engaging an audience of 51800 participants. These activities were scattered throughout the year, with 600 events in October alone, and showcased the opportunities created by Erasmus+ as well as its positive impact at national and regional levels.

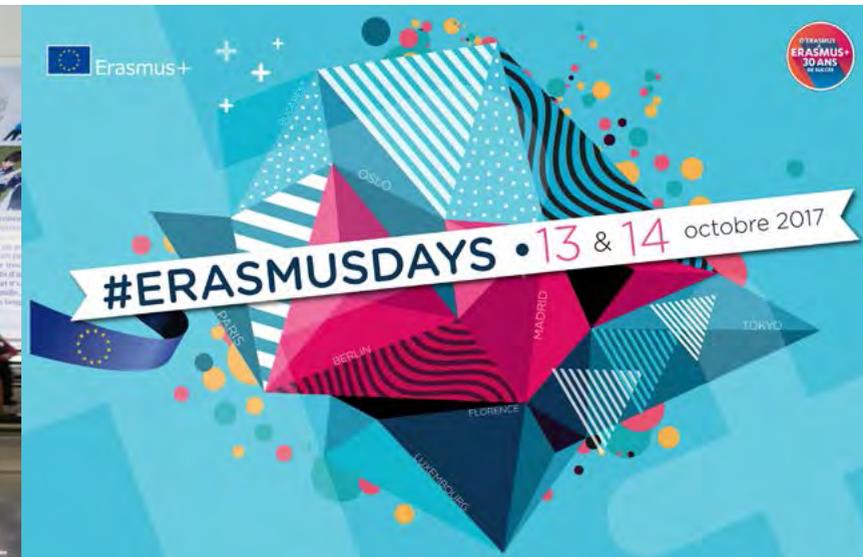
A collection of profiles was also published under the title *Ils ont fait Erasmus* ('They Did Erasmus'). With a foreword from Sandro Gozi, Undersecretary to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy, the collection of 30 individual profiles paid tribute to the Erasmus experience and its 30 years of discovery and exchange.



Participants at the official event marking the 30th anniversary of Erasmus on 9 January at the *Théâtre de l'Odéon* in Paris. More than 800 attendees listened to high-level speakers including: Sylvie Guillaume, Vice-President of the European Parliament; Pierre Moscovici, European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs; Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, then-French Minister of Education; Harlem Désir, then-French Secretary of State for European Affairs; and Sandro Gozi, Undersecretary to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy.



The Erasmus+ anniversary was also promoted in Montparnasse metro station.



On 13-14 October, the French National Agency (Agence Erasmus+ France) organised two 'European days' leading to 603 events in 11 countries, promoted via social media with the hashtag #ErasmusDays. This initiative covered all education and training fields, reaching 11.5 million people through the media! Michel Barnier, Chief negotiator of the Taskforce on Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom, and Martine Reicherts, Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission, participated in the ErasmusDays, together with several members from the European Parliament.

Greece



More than 14 000 people took part in 35 events celebrating Erasmus+ throughout Greece.

In the context of the 30th anniversary, the State Scholarships Foundation supported the pan-European [‘Crete Trip 2017’](#), organised by the Erasmus Student Network on 11-14 May. Within this framework, a video was developed by international students to capture the Erasmus+ Youth Parade, along with related celebrations throughout the four-day event. Thousands of citizens, and around 700 international students, were involved in the celebrations which included a colourful flag parade. Communication activities were intensified around the event, and the outreach was significant, engaging the support of Stavros Arnaoutakis, Regional Governor of Crete, representatives of the State Scholarships Foundation and journalists from various national and European media outlets.

Complementing the anniversary agenda, various national stakeholders in education launched satellite events and initiatives. For instance, the University of the Aegean invited students to take part in a competition to select ‘the best photograph of Erasmus’.





Around 43 events engaging 3 980 participants took place throughout the country. In February and March, the ‘Erasmus feeling’ was spread by an Erasmus+ 30 Roadshow, which visited five universities offering games, training and more.

On 5 May, 11 Erasmus+ alumni were invited to Budapest as speakers at the ‘Erasmus+30 University’ event. Held at the Tesla Budapest venue, the event focused on the career-building aspect of Erasmus+ mobility and took the form of a TED talk lecture series. Speakers presented their personal stories with Erasmus as well as interesting anecdotes from their current professional activities. Highlights included appearances by a youth Olympic champion, a start-up entrepreneur, a director of animated films, and many other Erasmus+ champions. The event was complemented by an Erasmus+ exhibition and covered extensively by the media. Following the talks, the celebrations continued with dancing.



The audience of 200 included Gábor Zupkó, Head of the Hungarian Representation of the European Commission, as well as Erasmus+ National Faces and institutional coordinators.





The Italian Erasmus+ National Agencies organised 17 key events, ranging from small thematic sessions involving 50 people to large conferences of more than 9 000.

On 7-9 May, Italy celebrated 30 years of Erasmus in Florence with a festival 'Erasmus30 al Festival d'Europa'. Open to the public, the event was attended by many Italian officials, EU representatives and Erasmus+ coordinators, including: Valeria Fedeli, Minister of Education, University and Research, Sandro Gozi, Undersecretary to the Presidency of the Council

of Ministers of Italy, Silvia Costa, Member of the European Parliament, Members of the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture at the European Commission, and INDIRE President Giovanni Biondi. Eight Erasmus+ participants told their stories. Around 5 000 people attended the event.





At 28 national events, Erasmus+ was celebrated by more than 9 000 students, schools, professionals as well as national political and community stakeholders.

The opening event of the Erasmus 30th anniversary at the European Union House in Riga took place on 7 February. Entitled ‘Erasmus+ impact in Latvia: People, achievements, investments’, the event took the form of a high-level discussion.

Targeted media coverage was used to reach a wider public audience. Speakers included Inna Šteinbuka, Head of the European Commission Representation in Latvia, Dita Traidās, Director of the State Education Development Agency, and Daina Sproģe, Head of the Agency for International Programs for Youth. Erasmus+ National Faces such as TV3 News reporter Kristīne Žilde-Krevica and University of Daugavpils Rector Arvīds Barševskis were also present.





Spain celebrated the 30th anniversary with an array of thematic conferences, information training sessions and cultural events. For the year-long anniversary, around 91 events took place with a turnout of approximately 36 850 participants. The Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education (SEPIE), the Erasmus+ National Agency for Education and Training in Spain, coordinated these events with the help of stakeholders, institutions, organisations and beneficiaries.

All over Spain, the Erasmus+ programme was honoured with various activities in all fields and national events under the thematic heading ‘Erasmus+: 30 years enriching lives and opening minds’. Some of these events embraced audiences of around 800 participants in numerous workshops, lectures, roundtables, and parallel sessions dedicated to different Erasmus+ sectors at all levels of education and training – from School and Adult Education, to VET and Higher Education, both locally and transnationally. Attendees included Erasmus+ students, teachers, alumni of different ages and generations. They were able to share their own Erasmus+ experiences with peers, colleagues in academic and research institutions, and with government representatives. The events were accompanied by concerts, videos and expositions. Throughout the entire year, SEPIE also published an ‘Erasmus+ 30th anniversary edition’ of their monthly online newsletter. It featured interviews with several event attendees, some of whom were still engaged in Erasmus+ initiatives benefiting Spanish schools and society – focusing for example on education for children with special needs or sustainable development research projects.



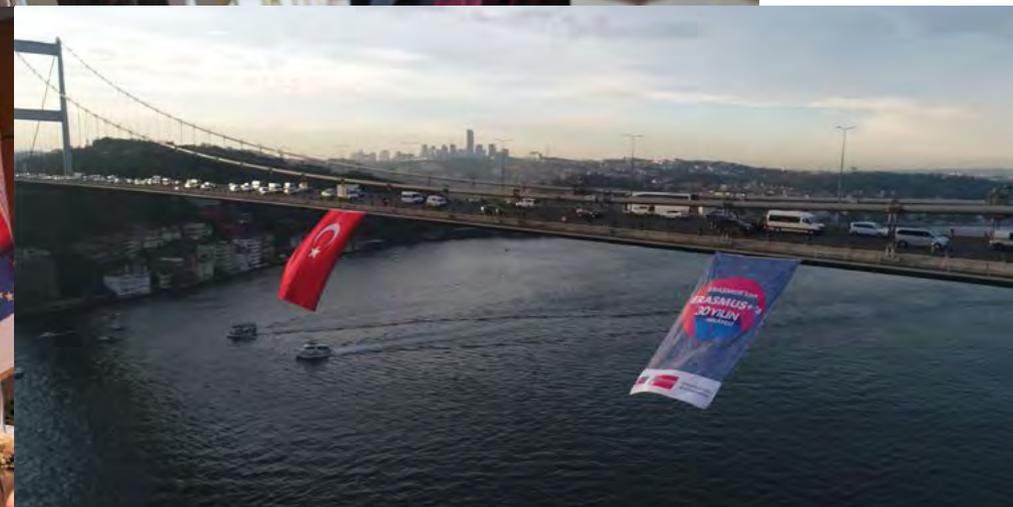
All over Spain during 2017, the national events ‘Erasmus+: 30 years enriching lives and opening minds’ stressed the importance of Spanish schools, universities and other education and training organisations as the key places to understand the European values that bind us together



Turkey paid tribute to Erasmus with a collection of 42 events which involved 4 320 people.

The events were highly successful and engaged various stakeholders in different venues throughout the country. On 30 March, 'Erasmus+ in Turkey' took place at the Anatolian Civilizations Museum in Ankara. A video was shown, and there were music performances. Side events offered participants the chance to learn how to make coins and take a tour of the museum.

Participants included representatives of the EU Delegation to Turkey and foreign missions as well as other stakeholders from higher education institutions, incoming and outgoing Erasmus+ students and journalists.



On 25 October a delegation of the European Commission, led by Director-General of Education and Culture Martine Reicherts, was received at the Koc University by the 'Jean Monnet Module on Inside the Turkey-EU Relations'. At the university, the coordinator of the module, Ebru Turhan, presented the activities, publications and findings of its first year of operation. Since the module is funded under the Erasmus+ framework, Ms Turhan stressed the importance of the programme in fostering EU-Turkey exchanges in education and transnational cooperation more broadly.



Austria



Erasmus 30 Gala on 9th May in Vienna
©OeAD-GmbH/APA-Fotoservice/Hörmandinger

18 500 people took part in 78 events celebrating Erasmus, its accomplishments and discussing the way forward for the programme. One milestone of the year was Austria's 'Erasmus+ Day', which took place on 10 May in Vienna, following a special Erasmus+ Gala event on 9 May.

To mark the day, about 1 000 participants joined in, including representatives of around 80 educational institutions and other key stakeholders. Each activity used Erasmus+ promotional items such as banners, folders, posters and gift bags. The ceremony provided a platform to discuss and promote Erasmus+ success stories. In addition to these ceremonies, the Erasmus+ National Agencies hosted and helped organise various activities in locations throughout the country. They notably handed out covers for bike saddles featuring the Erasmus 30 logo, set up information screens with short Erasmus+ spots on public transport, and launched an online photo competition in June on social media with the hashtag #erasmus30.

A series of 12 events were organised in Bulgaria for the 30th anniversary of Erasmus, attracting around 7 000 participants from 2017. 21 February marked the official launch of Bulgaria's Erasmus anniversary celebrations. The launch event was organised by the Human Resources Department Centre (HRDC) and took place at the University of Sofia, with keynote addresses from the then-Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, Professor Ognyan Gerdzhikov, the Minister of Education and Science, as well as other ministry officials and programme stakeholders. The event served as a precursor to the four main events that would follow during the year, each tailored to address a key Erasmus+ topic such as 'youth action' or 'mobility'. Accompanying the opening ceremony, the HRDC also planned multimedia promotion such as a [3D map projected against a building](#). In addition, a YouTube video was produced and promoted through the student channel Alma Mater TV.



Bulgaria



Croatia

Celebration of 30th anniversary of the Erasmus programme: From Erasmus to Erasmus+. From left to right: Nada Murganić, Minister for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy, Tibor Navracsics, EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Over 7 100 people were invited to mark the evolution and innovation of the Erasmus programme. The Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes facilitated preparation and promotion of each event, with highlights including national expert meetings, info days on Erasmus+ opportunities and workshops on vocational training and other specialised areas. The year's 149-event celebration of Erasmus+ culminated in a closing ceremony in Zagreb at the end of November. This event included a high-level panel discussion on the future of Erasmus+ and complemented by satellite events such as student award ceremonies, and photo and video exhibitions.



Cyprus



Launch event on 17 January 2017, at THOC Theatre – Nicosia

13 events were set up to promote Erasmus+. These events took place in different parts of the country, attracting crowds of 300 to over 14 000 participants. In May 2017, Cyprus took advantage of European Youth Week to celebrate the 30th anniversary. Throughout the week, Erasmus+ had a presence: promotional banners were placed outside Larnaca City Hall and at various Info Points. Key stakeholders in attendance were the University of Cyprus, the University of Nicosia, Eurodesk Cyprus and the educational non-governmental organisation Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology.



Denmark



EU-Commissioner Margrethe Vestager speaking about Europe and the importance of European education cooperation at our cross-sectoral conference in Copenhagen in November 2017

In November, the Danish Agency for Higher Education held the annual cross-sectoral conference on Erasmus+, in cooperation with the Erasmus Student Network, the European Commission Representation in Denmark, and several stakeholders in the field of education. The event provided a platform to discuss project highlights and case studies. Throughout the year, [a video](#) featuring the Commissioner for Competition, Margrethe Vestager, and former Erasmus+ participants was also promoted.



Finland



Main 30th anniversary event at Messukeskus Helsinki, Expo and Convention Centre on 31 August. From left to right: Mikko Nupponen (NA director), Luca Perego (Assistant to the Director General, European Commission), Irmeli Karhio (Head of Sector) and Mika Saarinen (Head of Sector)

For the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus programme, 15 country-wide events were held, with more than 15700 participants. On 8 May, the Finnish Ministry of Education and the Erasmus+ National Agency organised a joint seminar. The overarching message of the seminar was the need to reinforce the added value of the Erasmus+ experience for current and future generations. All national events were built on a thematic emphasis on youth, education, sports, and vocational training.



Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Beginning in April, 14 events took place with a record attendance of more than 3800 participants. With European Youth Week, the month of May provided an opportunity to highlight the growing interest in Erasmus+. Events were organised in cities such as Skopje, Stip, Prilep and Kumanovo. They included indoor and outdoor activities, all having to do with the 30th anniversary, the key themes and accomplishments of Erasmus, and how to encourage future participation throughout the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. These 'Erasmus+ Open Air Events' were run by the National Agency for European Educational and Programme Mobility and attracted more than 1000 visitors.



Germany

A series of dedicated Erasmus+ activities were launched throughout Germany, engaging national and regional stakeholders involved in educational institutions, and government and community organisations. The national celebrations kicked off with the official opening ceremony on 24 January. This occasion united programme participants, alumni as well as high-level political figures, including Commissioner Tibor Navracsics, to explore the past, present and future of Erasmus+. Alongside the main event, Commissioner Navracsics also held an informal discussion with a group of trainees from disadvantaged backgrounds who were able to go abroad thanks to Erasmus+. On 17-19 May, the National Agency of Pädagogischer Austauschdienst organised a conference in Bonn under the heading 'Best practice results from Erasmus+'. Over 200 participants – including stakeholders in academia, industry and policy-making – had a chance to discuss the mid-term review of Erasmus+ projects, weighing its impact on transnational cooperation.



Iceland

Gudni Th Johannesson president of Iceland, speaking at the main 30th anniversary event

On 9 November, the Icelandic Centre for Research held the National Celebration and Quality Awards Ceremony. During this anniversary ceremony, awards were specifically prepared to commemorate the day and recognise outstanding achievements in Erasmus+. For instance, the highly popular LungA art festival, funded by Erasmus+, received an honorary Erasmus+ award, which was presented by Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, President of Iceland. Through Erasmus+ partnership projects, LungA has welcomed hundreds of young people from all over the world, created the 'LungA school' and raised awareness of various social topics through the 'LungA Lab'. Around 300 participants came to celebrate Erasmus+ with the award winners – and had a slice of a commemorative cake.



Liechtenstein

Minister of Home Affairs, Education and Environment Dominique Gantenbein at the opening ceremony of the Erasmus Exhibition on 20 June

In Liechtenstein, the 30th anniversary of Erasmus was marked with a four-day national event in June. With a total of 500 participants, the national celebration involved a variety of Erasmus+ participants, alumni and associated stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education. The event was accompanied by an Erasmus+ exhibition as well as promotional materials in print and online, including a film featuring interviews with select individuals on their Erasmus+ experiences.

Throughout the year, six activities were organised throughout the country, attracting an audience of more than 500, including John Halligan T.D., Minister of State for Training, Skills and Innovation, and national stakeholders in education and training. In May, a series of focused workshops took place in five regions throughout the country. These workshops focused primarily on youth work and the European Voluntary Service. During the workshops, participants were shown a testimonial from Michael Ward who, after completing multiple European Voluntary Service placements, was chosen to be an Erasmus 30 Ireland representative. In addition to these events, the Erasmus anniversary was promoted via social media, newsletters and websites throughout the year.

Ireland



Lithuania

The Erasmus+ hot air balloon

96 events were organised throughout the country, reinforced by extensive social media and reporting coverage, ultimately reaching an audience of over 100 000. Representatives of the European Commission Representation, the Erasmus Student Network, the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour gave speeches at press conferences, high-level panels, and presentations at schools.

A special highlight of the anniversary year was the presentation of an Erasmus+ hot air balloon, which was monogrammed with the Erasmus+ logo. Taking a total of 30 trips, the hot air balloon flew above participants during different anniversary events in Vilnius such as the 'Run with Erasmus+' in May and the annual 'Culture Night' festival in June – with an estimated 45 000 people seeing it.

Capitalising on Europe Day, Luxembourg decided to make the entire month of May a celebration of Europe – bringing more than 6 000 participants of all ages together for a series of cultural events, university welcome days, and information sessions. National universities, ministries and local EU offices were involved in preparing visits, debates, concerts and more to celebrate the evolution and accomplishments of Erasmus+. On 6 July, a conference jointly organised by the Luxembourgish Erasmus+ National Agency, the Representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg, and the University of Luxembourg, was held at the Rockhal Concert Hall. This high-profile event brought together more than 200 people with organisations active in the education, training and youth fields around the issues of European citizenship. The event was enhanced by the presence of key figures: Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg; Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science; Martine Reicherts, Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture at the European Commission; as well as Claude Meisch, Minister of Higher Education and Research, Education, Children and Youth of Luxembourg. Throughout the year, testimonials by Erasmus+ participants and alumni were promoted via the Luxembourgish Erasmus+ National Agency and other national Erasmus+ web and social media platforms.



Conference at the Rockhal conference hall

Luxembourg

Malta



Picture from the 30th Anniversary celebration held at the Dolmen Resort Hotel, Amazonia in Qawra Malta

During the 15 national events, Erasmus+ was commemorated in Malta by more than 221000 participants. The European Union Programmes Agency, with the support of the Maltese Agency for Youth and Sport (*Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ*), held a day-long seminar on 'Democracy, Youth and Sport under the Transnational Cooperation Activities of the Erasmus+ Programme'. The seminar brought together 32 participants from 19 European countries to discuss Erasmus+ and promote sport activities among Europe's youth. The aim was to share success stories and boost cooperation between the youth and sport sectors.

In The Netherlands, nine events were organised, engaging more than 1000 participants in high-level seminars, thematic networking events and social media initiatives. A wide array of Erasmus+ beneficiaries and stakeholders were present as participants and promoters of these events, including national ministries and organisations working on education. One of these events took the form of a dialogue and networking session commemorating 30 years of successful international exchanges in higher education under Erasmus. Held from 18-20 April in The Hague, the event was jointly organised by the Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education and the Dutch Organisation for Internationalisation in Education. It targeted Spanish and Dutch higher education institutions, with a view to ensuring long-term future cooperation.

Another highlight of the campaign in the Netherlands was a debate on 27 June at Libanon Lyceum in Rotterdam with 80 high school students from the Netherlands, Germany, Turkey and Poland, and Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans, responsible for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. As part of the 'Made in Europe' project supported by Erasmus+, this debate gave the students the opportunity to share their thoughts on Europe directly with the First Vice-President.

The Netherlands



The Erasmus+ 30th anniversary festival took place on 7 december 2017 in de Rijtuigenloods in Amersfoort

Norway

22 events attracted 12 910 people to celebrate and provide input on the 30th anniversary of Erasmus. On 20 May, the two Norwegian Erasmus+ National Agencies collaborated with the EU delegation to Norway and were joined by around 250 guests for the 'Erasmus+ Birthday Party'. Notable speakers included the EU Ambassador to Norway, Helen Campbell, who gave the opening address. Many programme alumni, volunteers, diplomats and ministry officials joined the event, and had the chance to commemorate the Erasmus+ experience with an 'Erasmus 30 cake'. In addition to the main events of the year, the Erasmus+ National Agencies and the EU Delegation to Norway organised an Instagram photo competition, with the hashtag #mitterasmusminne.

Hundreds of events were held in Portugal throughout the year, bringing together a total of 23200 participants. During these events, and particularly during European Youth Week, 30th anniversary promotional materials and information packs were disseminated to participants and featured as part of Erasmus+ exhibitions. On 6 November, Commissioner Navracsics took part in an 'Erasmus Talks' event in Lisbon together with Tiago Brandão Rodrigues, Minister for Education, discussing the impact of the programme with 80 mainly young participants. The Commissioner stressed the difference between the opportunities offered to students in Central and Eastern Europe in 1987 and those open to them nowadays, highlighting the role Erasmus has played in bringing Europeans together while enriching their identities. In addition to many anniversary events organised throughout the year, the Erasmus+ National Agency for Education developed its own mobile app to promote Portugal as a destination for Erasmus+ participants. The 'Erasmus+ in PT' app was made available as a source of information on the Portuguese education system as well as a platform for sharing and networking.

Poland

Throughout Poland, the anniversary was marked by numerous events, with 14 taking place. The celebrations were launched on 11 January with a nationwide 'Erasmus+ Information Day' in Warsaw. Around 1000 people took part, including education experts, public officials and Erasmus+ participants. The event also engaged key stakeholders, including the Ministries of Education, Sports and Tourism, Science and Higher Education. As a souvenir of the year's celebrations, there was also a selfie competition for Erasmus+ beneficiaries.

Portugal



Romania

In Romania, 20 events took place, drawing an attendance of 5 500. One of these events was a special Erasmus+ teen's race. Roll-ups and banners were created for the Bucharest Half Marathon in May. Key stakeholders involved in the events included Europe Direct, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.



Slovenia



The roundtable for the Valorisation conference on 15 November



Slovakia

The main event celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus+ programme took place on 26 September, at the Radisson Blue Carlton Hotel in Bratislava

More than 6 800 attendees joined for a series of around 15 events. On 9 May, an information tent dedicated to the Erasmus anniversary was opened in the centre of Bratislava's historic district. In the context of 'Europe Day 2017' the public event was attended by approximately 5 000 visitors and provided a venue to promote other initiatives in the city organised by Eurodesk, the Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia, the Slovak Youth Institute, and more. Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of the European Energy Union, participated to a Live Facebook event on 28 September 2017.

More than 1 800 key Erasmus+ stakeholders and supporters of the programme joined in a total of 16 events to discuss its progress and future expansion. On 6-8 March, the Erasmus Student Network and International Cooperation Department of the University of Maribor organised an event under the motto 'Gremo ven' ('Let's go out!'). With more than 300 participants, the event consisted of an 'experience fair' which enabled current and prospective Erasmus+ students to share experiences. The two-day programme included workshops and various activities including information sessions on Erasmus+.



Sweden

State Secretary Erik Nilsson hands out Erasmus actor of the year award to the Norrköping municipality at Europe House

In Sweden, a total of 69 events were held and attended by more than 5 600 participants. Some of these were co-organised in the framework of annual European events, along with multipliers across the country. For instance during European Youth Week 2017, the Swedish Council for Higher Education coordinated a two-day conference on the Erasmus+ theme of student mobility in higher education. The event was attended by 200 participants, most of which were staff and student counsellors from Higher Education Institutions. The conference was supported by the European Commission Representation in Sweden as well as multipliers throughout the country.

Another venue which provided an opportunity to promote the programme's anniversary was 'Bok&Bibliotek', Scandinavia's largest cultural event held in Göteborg on 27-29 September. While not an Erasmus+ event, prizewinning author Nina Burton took the opportunity to discuss how the ideas of Erasmus of Rotterdam have been promoted by the European Union.



United Kingdom



Martine Reicherts, Director General for Education and Culture, European Commission, chats to two of the young Erasmus+ participants at the UK's Erasmus+ 30th anniversary exhibition launch in London

Five events were held in the United Kingdom for the 30th anniversary, ranging from a Learning Networks event, to an event in the Welsh Assembly, and even a photo competition, streamed live on facebook. More than 1000 participants were involved.

On 10 October, Director General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission Martine Reicherts helped to launch the 30th anniversary 'Shaping Futures' exhibition, and commemorative book, which resided in the British Council London headquarters for three months. Martine also celebrated the anniversary with 180 delegates at the annual conference the next day.

ENRICHING LIVES, OPENING MINDS – THE IMPACT OF ERASMUS+

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30 YEARS AND COUNTING

The Erasmus+ programme has established itself as a driver of positive change in European and international education, training and youth systems. Through its legacy, the programme has also changed the way we see education and training, as well as the youth and sport sectors – through multi-disciplinary initiatives that promote personal, cross-border and life-long learning. Throughout 2017, the 30th anniversary campaign showcased and explored these accomplishments through different themes and personal stories relating to education, training and informal learning, as well as key social, economic and cultural developments.

YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY

Erasmus+ opens the door to a world of employment opportunities. Whether helping people find a job in a new country or sector, or building upon knowledge relevant to a participant's field, there is proof that the programme improves prospects for a successful career. In fact, mobile higher education students are twice as likely to have a job one year after graduation compared to their non-mobile peers. Volunteering also boosts participants' chances of finding a job, as 75% of employers value such experience.

Youth employment has also been reinforced through innovative Erasmus+ partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses, known as Knowledge Alliances. These projects bring together, among others, universities, business schools, large enterprises, SMEs, local and regional governments and civil society organisations. From 2014 to 2016, more than 2600 projects of this kind were funded to strengthen cooperation between the education and training sectors and the labour market.

Professional networks established during Erasmus+ experiences also spark innovative employment ventures and entrepreneurship – from start-ups to research projects, and everything in between.

«
'Having an international experience and speaking different languages are key factors to join a big global company.'

*Esther Berrozpe Galindo,
 President of Whirlpool in Europe and the MENA region, Spain —
 Higher Education student mobility*



'After all school is real life and real life is school; you never stop learning.'

*Claudine Dostert, Luxembourg —
 School Education project coordinator*



Erasmus+ helps you get a job



Erasmus+ alumni double their chances of employment a year after graduation

HIGHER EDUCATION



1/3 of Erasmus+ trainees are offered jobs in the company where they worked

HIGHER EDUCATION



Erasmus+ alumni tend to find their first job faster and earn 25% more

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



3/4 of employers say volunteering is a + for job seekers

EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Source: Agence Erasmus+ 2010, European Commission 2014 and 2015. © European Commission, 2017



SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION

The Erasmus+ programme is in many ways a reflection of Europe’s diverse society and rich heritage. An Erasmus+ experience not only provides a chance to discover a new culture first hand, it also builds bridges between people and places.

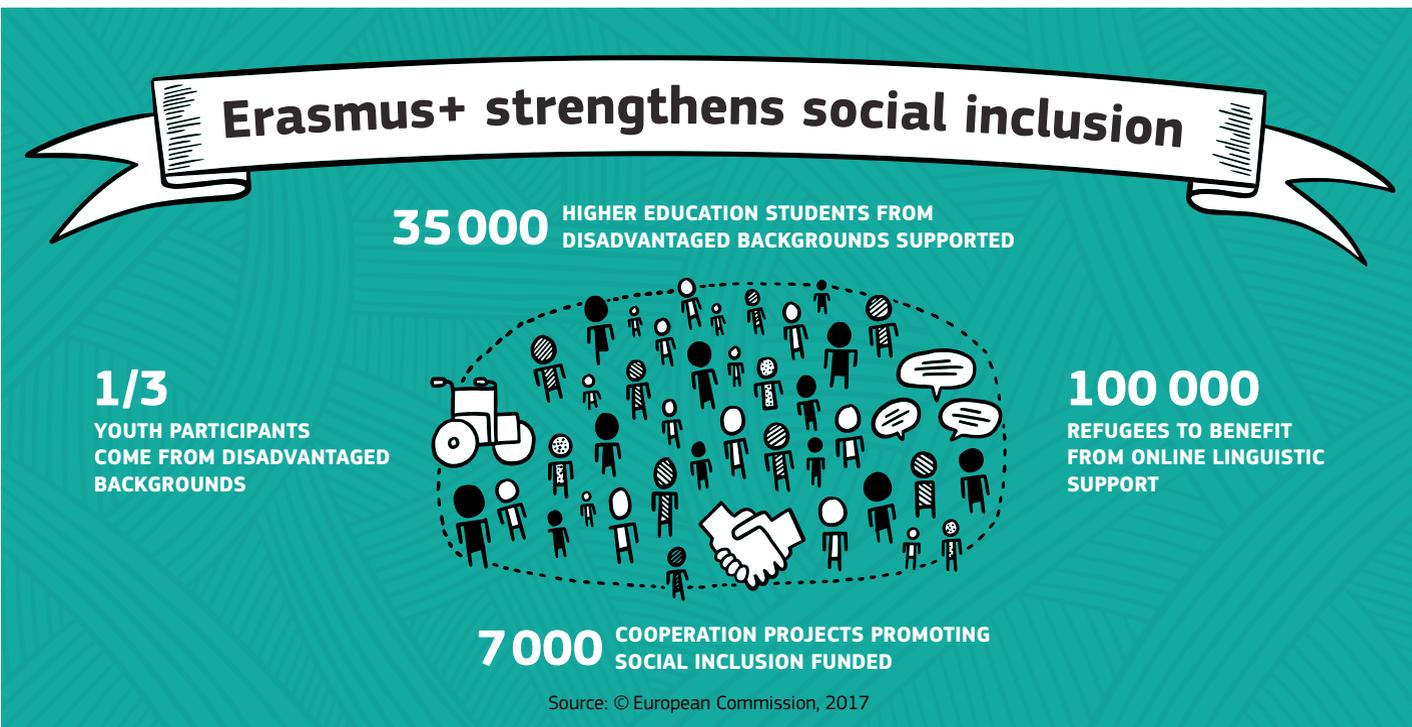
Over the past 30 years, a major component of the programme’s evolution has been widening engagement and inclusion of participants from all different backgrounds, including those facing certain mental, physical or financial obstacles. Today, the programme offers more opportunities than ever – whether for volunteers, vocational education trainees, students, or adults at any age. In 2014 and 2015 alone, more than 35 000 students from disadvantaged backgrounds took part in higher education exchanges, while another 120 000 participated in youth mobility projects.

The programme has also been made more accessible via online collaborative platforms such as *eTwinning*, the *Electric Platform for Adult Learning Europe* and the *School Education Gateway*. With the launch of Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support in 2014, language education has become a prominent tool for integration. It has, for example, been providing free online courses to 100 000 refugees since 2016 to help them integrate into their host communities.



‘When I arrived in Belgium I didn’t speak any French or English at all. I only spoke Paschtu and Dari. Now I can participate in trainings, do sport, talk to my team. If I didn’t speak French, I couldn’t live here, it would be too hard. Now I can live well here, I can speak French, find work, I can have a girlfriend.’

Mohammad Maher Ibrahim, Afghanistan — Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support in Belgium



‘By working with young disabled people, I was engaging with people I had never really been in contact with before. I realised that when we help others, the entire society benefits. I truly felt, and still feel, that I can contribute to a happier and more inclusive society.’

Carina Autengruber, Austria — Erasmus+ volunteer





FREE MOVEMENT: BRINGING EUROPE TOGETHER

Coinciding with the 30th anniversary of Erasmus, the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome was also celebrated in 2017. Thanks to the Treaties of Rome, we now experience a Europe without borders; a Europe which allows for the free movement of people, and facilitates work and study abroad. Since the launch of Erasmus student exchanges in 1987, Europe has become more open. For the 9 million people who have gone abroad supported by Erasmus+ and its predecessor programmes, life in a Europe with closed borders is almost unimaginable. The Erasmus+ generation identifies not only with a given city or country, but also with Europe. All this is possible thanks to the decision made in 1957 to promote free movement in Europe.



‘Cultural exchange is very important, to see how things are done in other parts of the world. My restoration business is now full of different flavours and facets. It’s about variety, and I think variety is great!’

Einar Nilson, Restorative craftsman, designer and media personality, Norway — Vocational Education and Training in Italy



‘70 years ago we didn’t have free movement. The fact that we can travel to another country – and often use the same currency, makes us feel we are, indeed, united.’

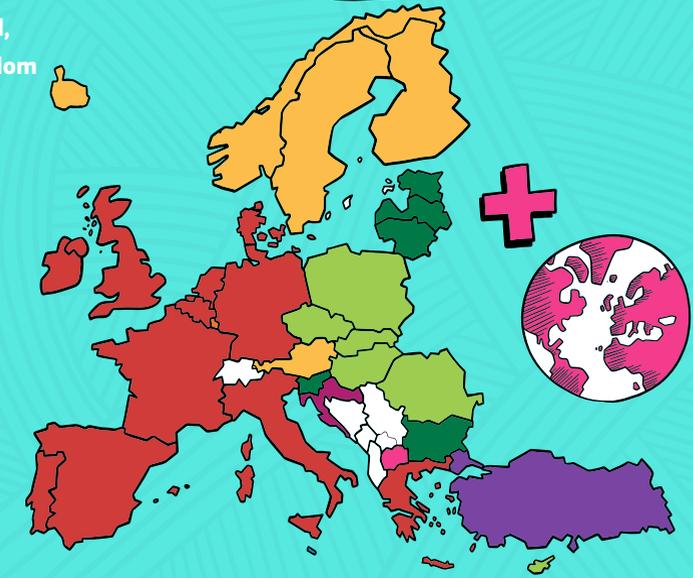
Diogo Picarra, Singer and songwriter; winner of the Idolos TV singing competition in 2012 — Higher Education student mobility



When did the first ERASMUS student go abroad?

- 1987** Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom
 - 1988** Luxembourg
 - 1992** Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden
 - 1994** Liechtenstein
 - 1998** Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia
 - 1999** Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia
 - 2000** Malta
 - 2004** Turkey
 - 2009** Croatia
 - 2014** The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Erasmus+ open to the world**

Source: © European Commission, 2017



‘If you get to know people of different nationalities with different cultures, different traditions, it’s so obvious that you will not think of them as your enemies. It reduces xenophobia, ignorance; it just opens your mind to the diversity of the world.’

Thora Arnórsdóttir, Media personality and a 2012 presidential candidate, Iceland — Higher Education student mobility





PROMOTING ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND SOLIDARITY

For the past 30 years, Erasmus+ and its predecessor programmes have brought people together and promoted solidarity – not just among students but in communities more broadly. The programme allows groups to learn from and grow with each other, whether through higher education, youth exchanges, school partnerships or collaboration in various fields and projects.

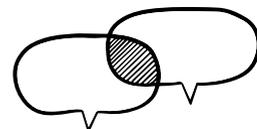
There are many ways in which the Erasmus+ programme can get people socially engaged, whether by volunteering, participating in trainings, or by getting bright new ideas from different experiences. A testament to this: among participants in youth exchanges, 4 out of 5 report that they are more likely to participate in society; and 81% of mobile higher education students say they voted in the 2014 European Parliament elections, compared to 30% of young people in general.

The Erasmus+ generation works for the change it wants to see in Europe. With new developments in 2017 – such as the European Solidarity Corps and the launch of the online Erasmus+ Generation Meeting Point – they have more opportunities than ever to get involved.



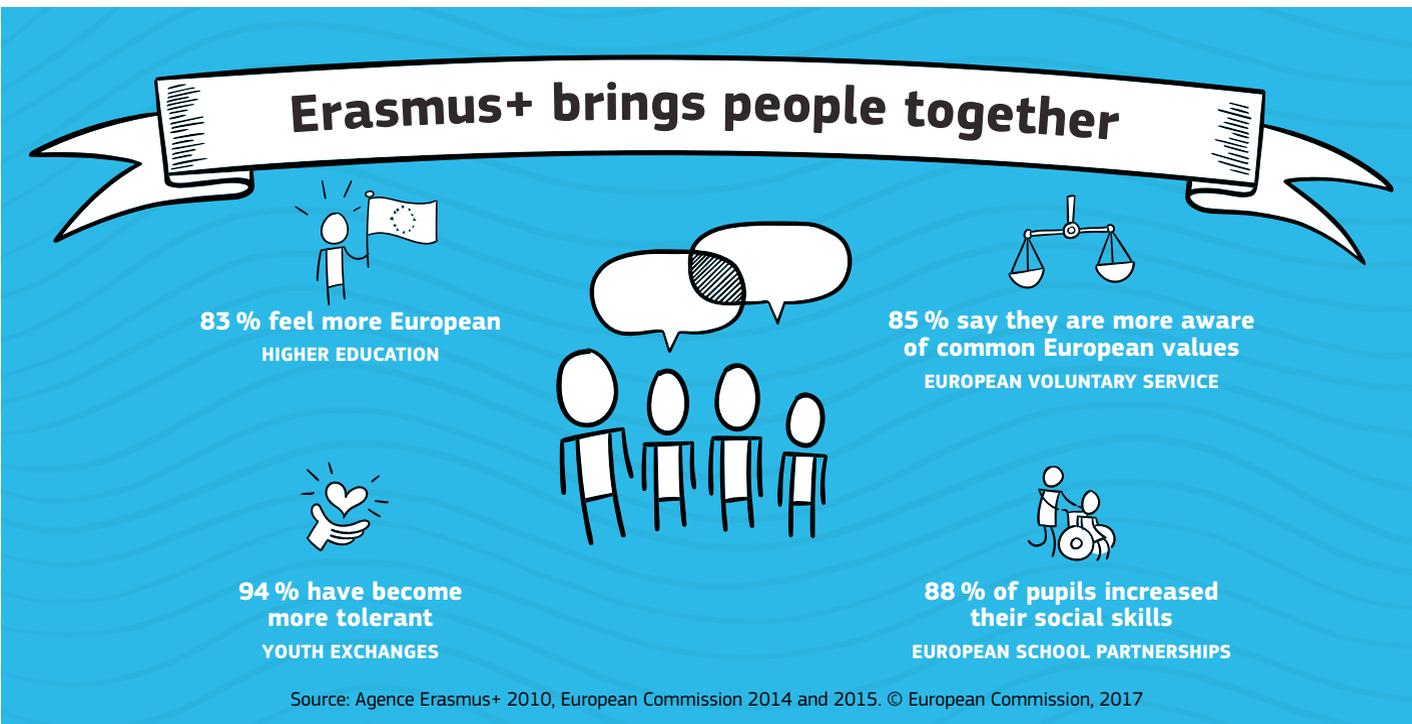
‘Erasmus+ is about creating awareness and citizenship. Here in Europe, it has been incredibly difficult to destroy the psychological walls that have existed between nations, but programmes such as this make it possible to talk about real European citizenship.’

Dr Pablo Biderbost, Founding partner & general coordinator of ‘Bringing Europe Closer’ project — Youth mobility



‘Being a citizen obliges us to actively take care of our community. By doing voluntary work you add a whole new dimension to your life.’

Patrycja Ceran, Mountain volunteer search & rescue member, Poland — Vocational Education and Training



‘Many elderly people – it doesn’t matter whether it’s in Germany or Lithuania – are increasingly lonely. That’s why it’s important to care for them and to give them thought-provoking ideas.’

Elfriede and Arno Eckhardt, 63- and 66-year-old Erasmus+ volunteers, Germany — Adult Education project





QUALITY IN TEACHING AND LEARNING: TRAINING THE TRAINER

Our teachers and trainers can also gain from exchanges that foster long-term pedagogical innovation. This supports the teachers and trainers themselves, but also benefits their fellow colleagues and learners, and society more broadly.

Through formal and non-formal learning initiatives within Europe and abroad, Erasmus+ encourages exchange and empowerment in teaching, training and youth work. Its positive impact can already be seen, particularly in terms of staff mobility and cross-organisational collaboration. In fact, more than 90% of directors of higher education institutions view staff mobility as an effective means of boosting best practices and knowledge acquisition among teachers and students.

Erasmus+ cooperation projects have provided a platform for a multicultural discussion about teaching methodology. This focus has inspired advancements in applied learning and project management skills for 89% of participating organisations.

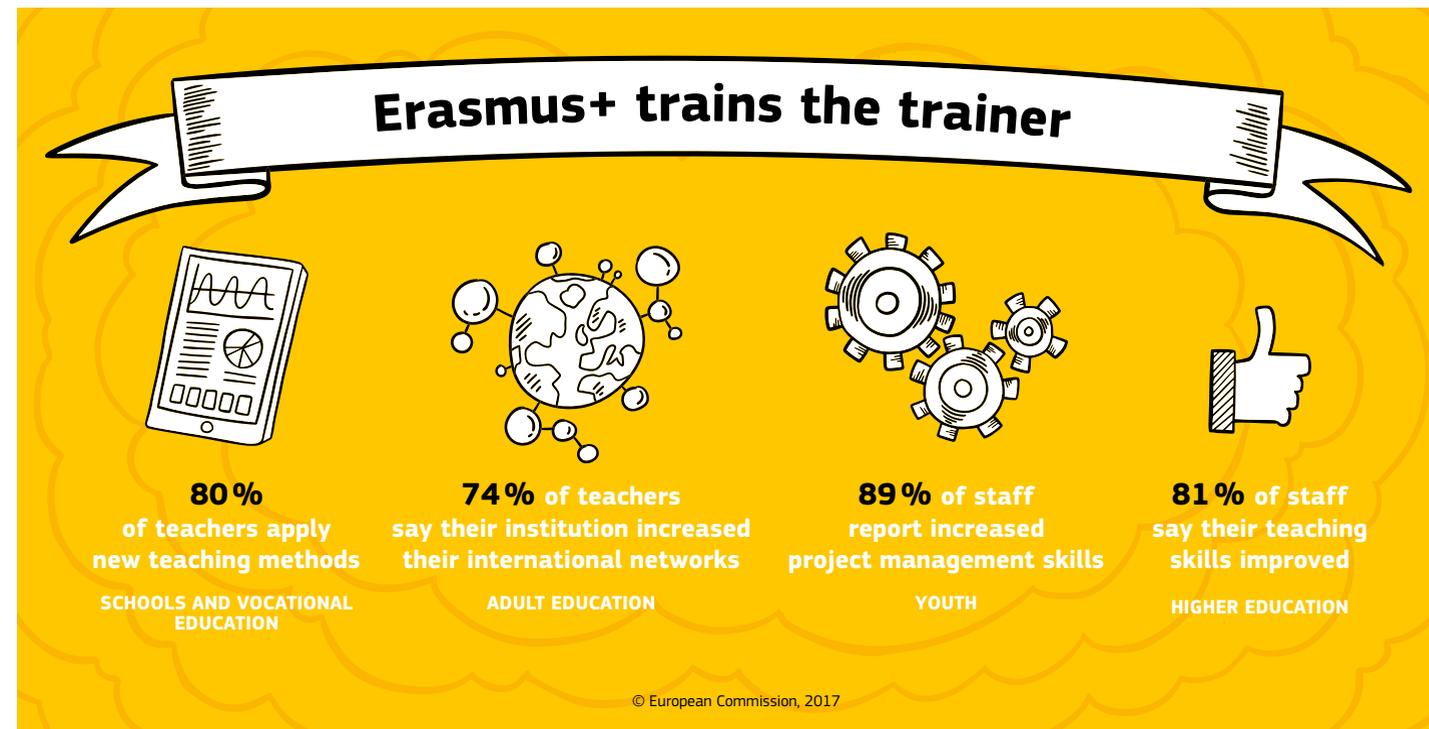
‘I really appreciated this opportunity because I could speak with representatives from different European countries about the topics I was teaching at the time, not just from an academic standpoint, but from a person-to-person perspective.’

Maja Makovec Brenčič, Slovenian Minister of Education, Science and Sport, Higher Education



‘Improving quality culture ultimately means giving students a better education and better job options for the future.’

Margrieta Kroese, Project coordinator of QUAL4T2, The Netherlands — Vocational Education and Training



‘Today, science knows that the big questions like “is there life on Mars?” or “what is the origin of life on Earth?” cannot be answered by one discipline alone. That’s why our project focuses on fostering interdisciplinary cooperation in the field of astrobiology.’

Wolf Geppert, ‘European Astrobiology Campus’ project, Estonia and 8 other countries — Higher Education

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In line with the United Nations [2030 Sustainable Development Goals](#), the Erasmus+ programme contributes to a greener, more equitable and fair society. Ensuring that Europe can continue to grow and improve in a viable way is crucial for our future. This is why Erasmus+ supports education, training and volunteering for a sustainable economy.

Economic growth needs to be sustainable, and high-quality education that is accessible to all is key to achieving this: providing people with forward-looking skills, fostering entrepreneurial mind-sets and encouraging creativity and innovation.

Teaching the next generation how to take care of the planet and the economy is fundamental to the prosperity of the continent. This is why Erasmus+ supports teaching exchanges and programmes that will help us build a better future.



‘Sustainable development can only exist if there’s good quality education made available for everyone. It’s not only about teaching sustainability, the fact that we promote excellence in education and that good-quality education is made available to all, especially to those in disadvantaged groups, is a way to effectively tackle societal issues and help build a sustainable economy.’

*Tiago Brandão Rodrigues,
Portuguese Education Minister
and Erasmus alumnus*



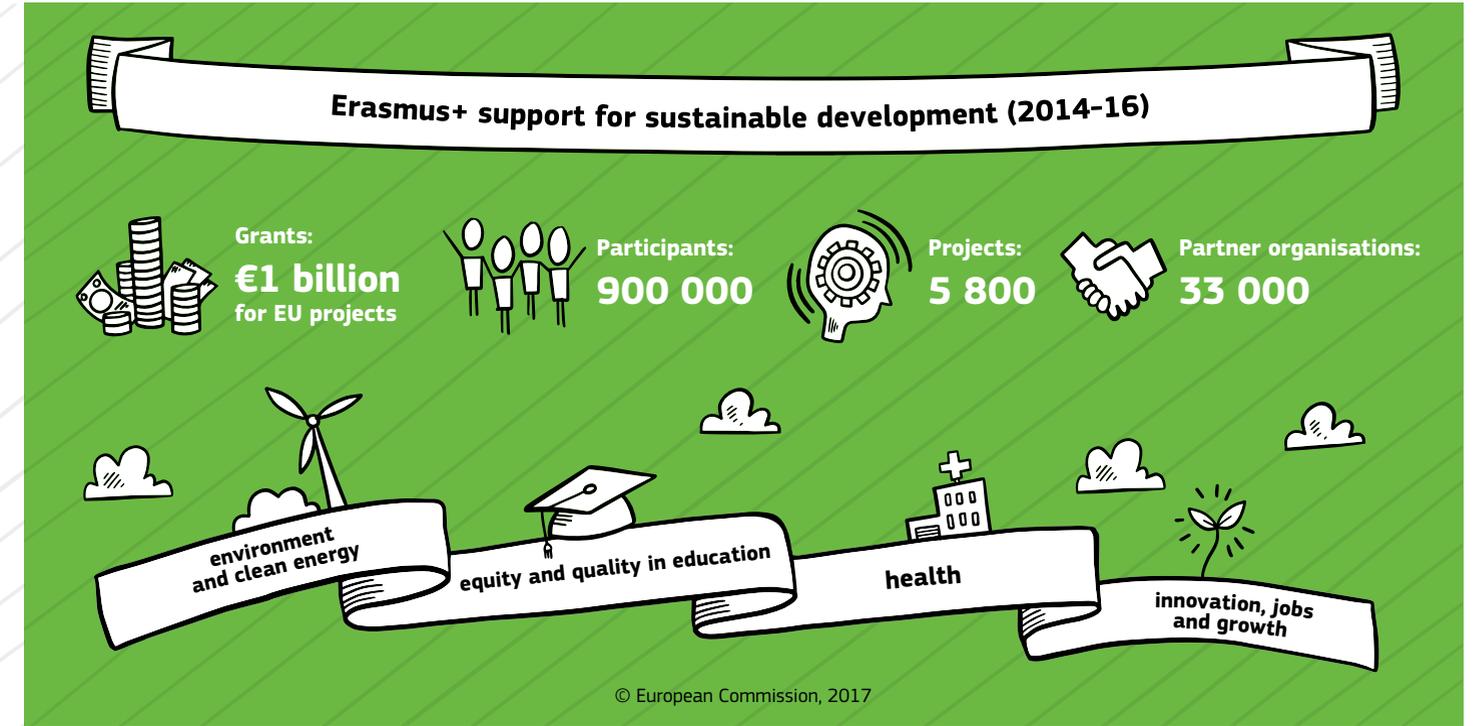
‘If we want to talk about sustainability and good environmental behaviour, then we need to focus on the next generation.’

*Hariklia Tsalapatas, Software engineer of ENVKIDS, Greece —
School Education project in Czech Republic,
Greece, France, Sweden and Norway*



‘Sustainable Europe is not something that is just going to happen. It’s a goal that we have an obligation to follow. It requires finding creative solutions to problems and a strong will to implement them.’

*Ivo Opstelten, ESSENCE project, The Netherlands —
Higher Education*





ERASMUS+ IS WORLDWIDE

Erasmus+ goes way beyond Europe. In fact, the programme is driving international cooperation. What started in 1987 as voluntary cooperation between 11 European countries has developed into a unique global network.

It is not only individuals who reap the benefits: universities and youth organisations from partner countries also benefit from the transfer of ideas and expertise that help build the skills and capacities we need to embrace the challenges of a globalised economy.

The direct contact between people that Erasmus+ projects create are a perfect match for the EU's foreign policies, which aim to improve Europe's standing and relations with the rest of the world.

With about 17% of the Erasmus+ budget going towards projects and scholarships with a worldwide focus, the period stretching from 2014-2020 will see this funding support 180 000 students and staff moving between Europe and the rest of the world; 1 000 capacity building projects for higher education; and 30 000 scholarships for students worldwide to take part in Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree programmes.

'Before getting the grant to improve the situation in which we live in, it was a dream that seemed hard to reach.'

« But when I got the grant, I discovered that nothing is impossible. »

*Tateh Lehbib Braica, Algeria —
Higher Education student mobility in Spain*



'You learn about what is going on in other parts of the world, but there are things that you will take back with you that you wish to see happening in your country.'

*Geline Alfred Fuko, Tanzania —
Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Italy, Hungary, Germany*



Erasmus+ is worldwide (2014-20)

**30 000
scholarships
for Erasmus Mundus
Joint Master Degrees**

**300
Masters
programmes**



**180 000
staff and student
exchanges**

**20 000
University
agreements**

© European Commission, 2017

'In global projects, we gain a true cultural understanding, broaden our perspectives and create personal bonds with people. By this kind of cooperation, we can make the world a better place.'



*Gratian Mihailescu, Romania —
Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Italy, Hungary, Serbia*

OPENNESS TO OTHER CULTURES

Erasmus+ provides people with the competences needed to lead independent, fulfilling lives. It helps them find their place in our societies and develop a sense of a European identity – an identity that complements our national, regional, local identities.

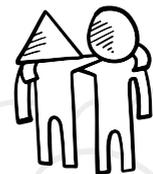
Self-confidence, adaptability, openness, mutual understanding, and solidarity are only a few examples of what can be gained through an Erasmus+ experience. When people have the opportunity to meet others – to exchange ideas, volunteer and learn new things – they often find similarities that create lasting bonds. At the same time, they have the opportunity to acknowledge differences and learn to look past them.

With Erasmus+, openness is not only a value, it has become a reality. The programme has shaped a new generation of European citizens by opening up numerous opportunities. It even leads to the creation of new families that bring together different nationalities: more than 33% of former Erasmus+ higher education participants have a life partner with a different nationality – compared to only 13% of graduates without an Erasmus+ experience.



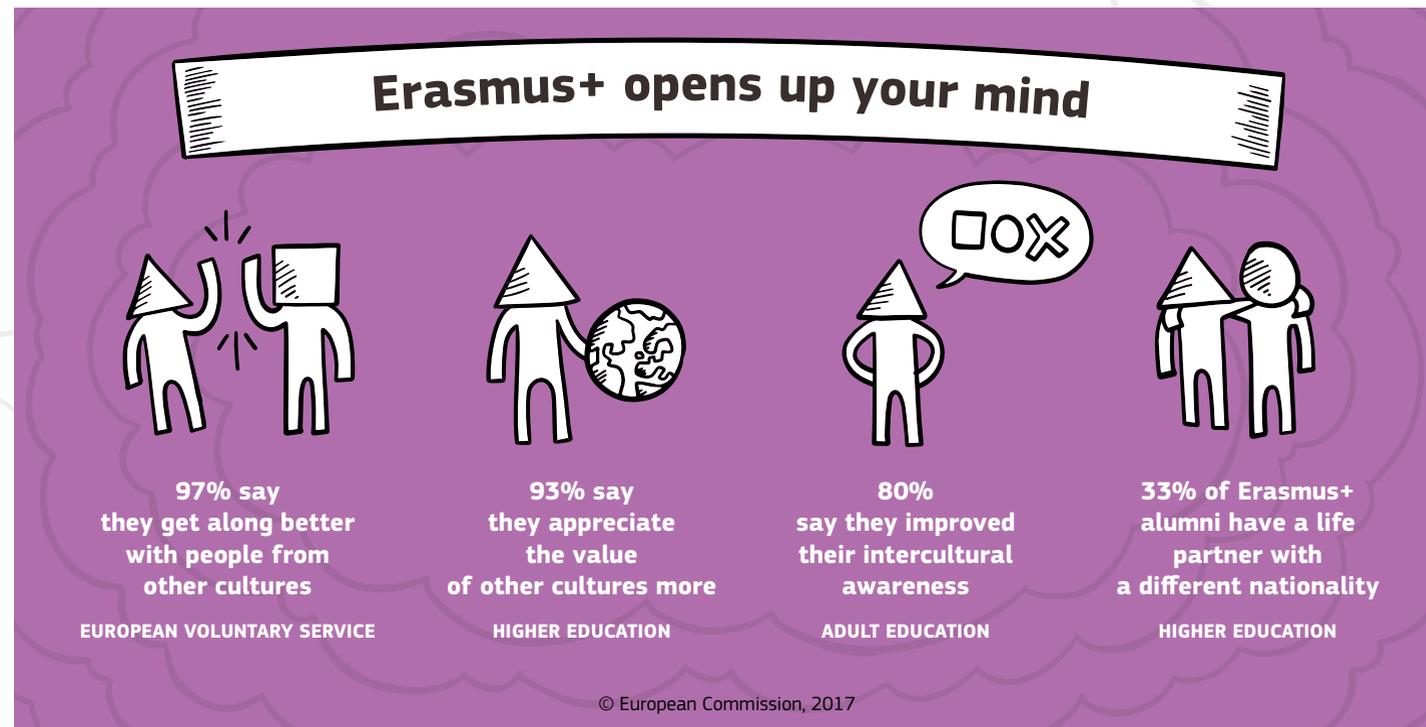
'If I have a performance in another country, I never think of being stopped from going there. You should be able to go wherever you want.'

Grete Paia, Estonia — Higher Education student mobility



'To all youth out there: Be open to new possibilities. Don't hold back because of prejudices and stereotypes – be the one who breaks them instead.'

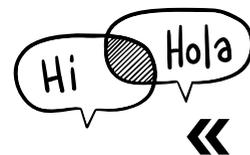
Lusiana Mailaj, Albania — European Voluntary Service and Youth Exchange in 9 countries



'Each experience abroad marks me, I always fully observe small details... I note that in Europe we are not so different. We like good food and we like to drink, laugh, dance and sing.'

Lukas Jezeršek, Chef de Cuisine and co-owner of Jezeršek Catering, Slovenia — Vocational Education and Training





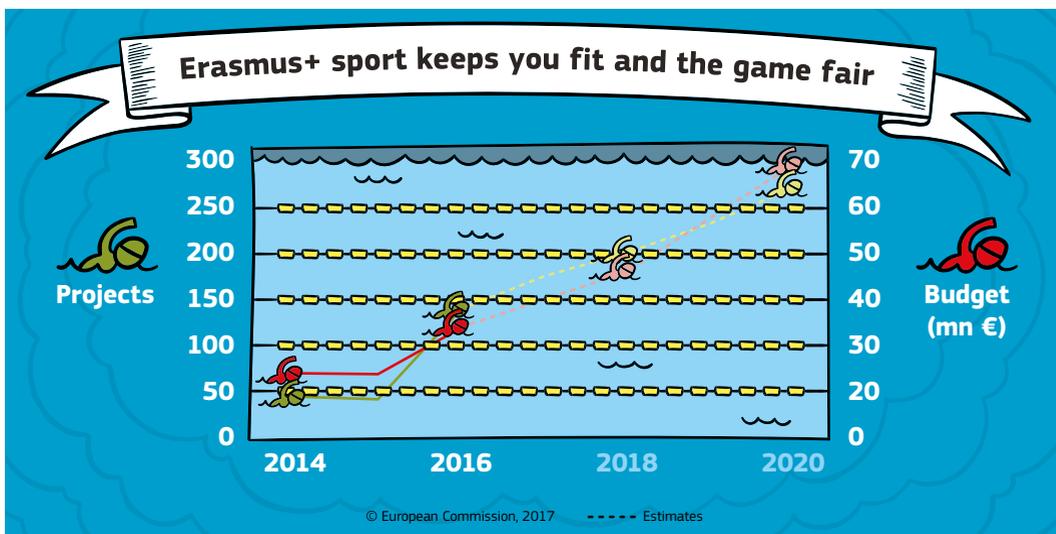
‘When you play, you see how everyone can help you in different ways. It’s about respect. You realise that differences are just different ways of doing things. This is why I think sport helps so much to open minds.’

Rosita Herreros Ossorio, Spain — School Education project



LANGUAGES AND SPORT: ENHANCING ERASMUS+ EXCHANGES

Did you know that 9 out of 10 Erasmus+ participants say that their experience has helped improve their language skills? Or that there were more than 140 sports projects funded by Erasmus+ in 2016? Language learning and sport activities are key elements in promoting intercultural exchanges in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme. Through language learning, people experience cultural nuances, while physical activity and working towards common goals are great ice breakers.



‘Learning languages is for your brain what sport is for your body. It gives you an energetic boost, wakes you up mentally, speeds up an intellectual process.’

*Elizabeth May,
Double Olympian Luxembourg*



‘Learning a language is not just theoretical; it enables you to understand the culture of a country.’

*Svetlana Rashkov-Ninova, Project manager of Welcomm,
The Netherlands – School Education*



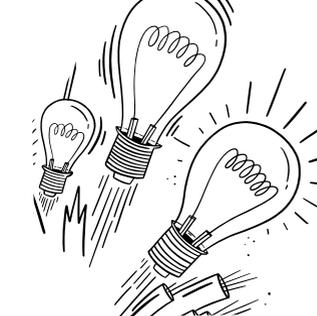
Erasmus+ contributes to language learning in many ways. Its Online Linguistic Support tool gives users the opportunity to test their foreign language skills and follow an online course to build on their language skills. So far, about 1 million students, volunteers, trainees and refugees have benefited.

In 2014, sport joined the Erasmus+ family. Sport projects bring together coaches, athletes and supporters from different backgrounds during and after games. Being part of a team encourages both physical activity and friendships. In addition to promoting dual careers for athletes, Erasmus+ sport projects are designed to tackle threats to the integrity of sport (such as match-fixing or doping), improve good governance, foster tolerance and social inclusion of participants.



THE ERASMUS+ GENERATION DECLARATION

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SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ERASMUS+ TOGETHER

On 13 June 2017, debates on the future of Erasmus+ were held at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. To continue the discussions, Commissioner Tibor Navracsics launched the Erasmus+ Generation Online Meeting Point, an open space for the 9 million Erasmus participants to have a say on the future of the programme. Within a few months, the Meeting Point had reached over 10 000 registered users, showing a great interest in shaping the future of Erasmus+.

To help guide the discussions, six key topics were identified based on the main points raised in the debates on 13 June: societal challenges, the skills gap, civic engagement, inclusion, the global dimension and simplification. Furthermore, 34 former participants – one from each Erasmus+ programme country, and one representing the international dimension of the programme – were nominated by Erasmus+ National Agencies to moderate the online discussions and help consolidate the ideas into concrete proposals. These discussion leaders come from a wide range of educational and professional backgrounds, covering all sectors of education, training and youth in Erasmus+; and age groups, the youngest being 22 and the eldest one 63 years old.

Between 19 September and 31 October 2017, the Erasmus+ Generation and the 34 discussion leaders engaged in online discussions, putting forward proposals, commenting and voting on ideas for the future programme beyond 2020. During this short period, more than 1 800 additional people registered on the Erasmus+ Generation Online Meeting Point; the number of those registered reached a peak of over 16 000 by the end of October. More than 2 500 people were active during the discussions. Overall, users came from 147 countries and from very different backgrounds, ensuring a diverse and inclusive debate.

The result of this ambitious initiative is The Erasmus+ Generation Declaration, a set of 30 concrete proposals that reflect the Erasmus+ Generation's vision and priorities for the future of the programme beyond 2020. The Declaration was presented to Commissioner Navracsics and other EU decision makers as part of the official closing of the anniversary year on 30 November in Brussels.

This Declaration goes beyond a set of ideas. It demonstrates how open dialogue and inclusive debates can shape a generation's future – and what Europe can achieve thanks to the creativity and dedication of its people.

TACKLING SOCIETAL CHALLENGES FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Unequal opportunities, migration, and climate change are examples of issues that will continue to affect our society. The history of Europe tells us that seclusion and nationalism are not the way forward. Shared problems need shared solutions. Sustainable shared solutions are based on trust, and trust is built on personal relations. Continuous efforts and a constructive framework are the foundation we need to create this trust. The Erasmus+ programme is one of those frameworks, and one that has had tremendous success with life-enriching impacts.

1. To promote a sense of European citizenship and community, the programme should provide special support to universities, schools, vocational education and training institutions and organisations involved in adult education and youth and sport activities which work on curricula and non-formal activities underpinned by European values. Such beacons of common values would serve to promote a European identity among institutions and local communities.
2. To build generational bridges and enhance social cohesion, Erasmus+ should offer opportunities for young people and senior citizens to engage jointly in volunteer work, as well as support other activities that help foster a more direct contact between participants and society as a whole.
3. To make Europe a more welcoming and inclusive society, the programme must help equip teachers, youth workers and coaches who work with migrants and refugees with competences to support the integration, education and employability of these groups.
4. To help citizens navigate the overload of sometimes unreliable information in the digital age, media literacy should be added as a horizontal priority for cooperation projects to integrate critical thinking and media education in their activities.
5. To ensure sustainable development in Europe and beyond, climate change should be included in the horizontal priorities of each Erasmus+ Key Action. Project proposals that apply green project management practices should receive additional points in the evaluation process.

BRIDGING THE SKILLS GAP THROUGH DIVERSE LEARNING

To strategically tackle the skills gap and maximise learning outcomes, Erasmus+ should fund a wider range of participants and activities and better coordinate, reinforce and communicate the actions it supports. Erasmus+ should work hand in hand with other EU programmes tackling similar issues such as skills enhancement; entrepreneurship and innovation; employability; active and life-long learning; and validation of both formal and informal learning.

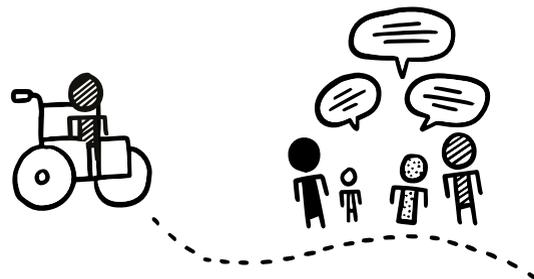
6. More funds should be allocated to the mobility of teachers and trainers to allow for greater exchange of innovative pedagogies and best practices in work-based learning and the development of 21st century skills.
7. We need to develop an approach to life-long learning that allows people of all ages and at all stages of their professional development to be re-trained and up-skilled. The programme should involve more employers by offering opportunities for traineeships and work-based learning, where staff from enterprises can provide and take part in training, teaching and work-based placements.
8. Even more should be done to ensure that the programme recognises and values soft skills such as adaptability, cultural understanding, critical thinking, and problem solving and communications skills as much as formal learning outcomes. The opportunity to develop such soft skills should be available to all Erasmus+ participants at all stages of their personal and professional development.
9. There should be more opportunities for short-term mobility combined with the use of virtual mobility, such as digital courses and virtual cooperation, not only to enhance participants' practical and intercultural skills, but also to foster an entrepreneurial mindset.
10. The programme needs to encourage Erasmus+ participants to integrate more into their host locations to develop language and intercultural communication skills. This could be achieved by giving participants the chance to be hosted by a local person or family.

ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT FOR INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN CIVIL SOCIETY

Erasmus+ aims to engage participants in civil society and empower them in their personal, professional and citizenship development. The future programme has to increase this dimension in order to ensure sustainable effects not only for individuals, but for society as a whole. Civic engagement should not be a side effect of the programme but a clear dimension of it with mechanisms incorporated within the programme to support it.

11. The European Civic Education dimension of Erasmus+ needs to be further developed to foster a sense of European identity and commitment to common European values at all educational levels, by addressing democracy, human rights, solidarity and respect for the rule of law.
12. The programme needs to support non-formal learning projects at the national and local level that have a clear European dimension and focus on developing skills for civic engagement and participation in democratic life.



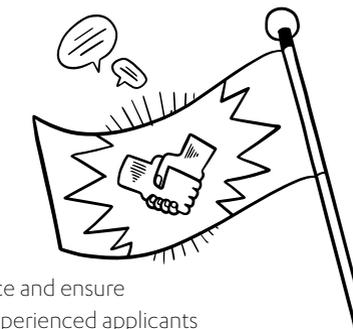


- 13.** Through youth work and Structured Dialogues, the programme should increase opportunities for youth and groups typically not involved in policy development so they can better shape policy, not only by engaging them in consultations, but also in co-decision-making processes.
- 14.** A common platform of alumni networks, coordinated nationally and internationally, should be created to enable and encourage Erasmus+ alumni to build on their experiences and get involved in civic initiatives.
- 15.** Volunteering organisations need to be further supported to adequately host, send, recruit and train volunteers of all ages for both local and international engagement.

FOSTERING INCLUSION TO PROMOTE COMMON VALUES

The importance of inclusion is widely acknowledged and many countries have taken progressive steps to ensure that human rights are fully respected. Despite this, people in many parts of Europe keep facing various disadvantages: from economic and social challenges, to physical and mental disabilities, which hinder their chances of participating in Erasmus+. The programme must react by being more inclusive, not only towards disadvantaged groups, but also towards smaller organisations that may find it harder to access the programme.

- 16.** The programme should offer funding for Erasmus+ ‘ambassadors’ to visit underrepresented rural areas and explain to people the benefits of taking part in Erasmus+ and encourage them to embrace mobility opportunities.
- 17.** Erasmus+ should in the future include a specific budget for institutions that enables them to provide a support structure for participants from disadvantaged backgrounds and guide them through a successful Erasmus+ experience.
- 18.** To make the programme truly inclusive, we need to guarantee higher financial support for disadvantaged students and learners.
- 19.** The programme should offer small organisations opportunities to organise small scale projects to match their capacity for participation – and it should have proportionate application procedures.



- 20.** To help new organisations with Erasmus+ administrative procedures, provide guidance and ensure local representation, regional Erasmus+ contact persons should be appointed, such as experienced applicants and coordinators.

AN ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMME BEYOND EUROPE FOR STRONGER, MORE SUSTAINED GLOBAL IMPACT

Although Erasmus+ is open to the world, some communities are under-represented. Erasmus+ needs to face up to this challenge and foster more cooperation with the rest of the world by encouraging and sustaining partnerships not only between European and non-European higher education institutions and youth organisations, but also schools, adult, sport and vocational education and training organisations, as well as businesses.

- 21.** The international dimension of Erasmus+ should be opened up to include all sectors of education, training, youth and sport. Partner organisations should be encouraged to incorporate Erasmus+ into their internationalisation strategies.
- 22.** The programme should reach out to less involved partner countries through an increased budget, specialised training and alumni networks. To maximise the outreach, both programme and partner countries should be subject to the same rules, so that the latter do not have tighter limitations than the former and to make it easier for newcomers to join.
- 23.** We need to support capacity building in the developing world to enable countries to implement educational programmes that encourage sustainable practices, ethical governance, food security and innovation.
- 24.** The programme should allow European NGOs to apply for funding through a centralised process independent of the place where they are based to ensure wider impact and outreach of their programmes and projects both within and beyond Europe.
- 25.** The United Kingdom should be kept in Erasmus+ as a symbol of strong and global collaboration.

THINK BIG – BUT MAKE IT SMART AND SIMPLE!

Erasmus+ provides the best framework for intercultural learning, while opening up opportunities to develop innovative ideas and share common European values. Therefore, Erasmus+ has to be accessible and inclusive. This calls for clear and simple structures, targeted actions as well as simple tools and more information, communication and support.

- 26.** European charters for school, youth and adult education organisations should be created that, once awarded, entitle them to a simplified application and reporting procedure, mirroring what exists in higher education and vocational education and training.
- 27.** The programme should integrate and ensure compatibility of all IT tools for easy access and secure exchange of information. The Online Linguistic Support should be fully integrated with the Erasmus+ Mobile App and opened up to all Erasmus+ participants.
- 28.** E-applications and reports need to be simple and user-friendly, avoid repetitions and be editable by all project partners. A community help-desk should be created where good practices and examples are shared among peers. Participants' feedback on hosting organisations and courses should be collected and used to provide an easily accessible information database for future Erasmus+ participants.
- 29.** The programme should provide for greater budget flexibility in granted projects by enabling transfers within budget according to needs so that beneficiaries can fully use allocated funding.
- 30.** Whenever possible, national legislation should facilitate the implementation of the Erasmus+ framework and remove any legal barriers to it.

THE ERASMUS+ GENERATION BELIEVES IN THE POTENTIAL OF ERASMUS+ TO CREATE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR EUROPE – LET'S GIVE THE PROGRAMME THE FUNDING IT NEEDS TO ACHIEVE ITS FULL POTENTIAL!

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Bulgaria	Rosen Petkov
Chad	Monfort Tougouyo Ngada
Croatia	Tomislav Pavlović
Cyprus	Georgia Argyrou
Czech Republic	Gabriela Medwell
Denmark	Mikkel Max Jorn
Estonia	Natalja Klimenkova
Finland	Marja K. Martikainen
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Zoran Ilieski
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Germany	Dorit Fauck
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Hungary	Péter Holicza
Iceland	Freyja Haraldsdóttir
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Slovakia	Miroslav Hajnoš
Slovenia	Tea Jarc
Spain	María Isabel Vidal Moya
Sweden	Karin Helmersson
Turkey	Bilge Kagan Ozdemir
United Kingdom	Mark M. Anderson

THANK YOU TO THE ERASMUS+ GENERATION AND TO THOSE WHO LED THE ONLINE DISCUSSIONS in the programme countries and beyond

AND COME VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE ERASMUS+ STORIES ABOUT ENTHUSIASTIC PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS FROM ACROSS EUROPE AND BEYOND.

Select country

ALL COUNTRIES

<p>Gary Diderich – 37 – Luxembourg</p>  <p>Youth – Spain, 2008-09</p> <p><i>"The Erasmus+ experience has deepened my understanding of all kinds of people from different backgrounds. This has continued to help me in my work, as I deal with lot..."</i></p> <p>read more</p>	<p>'Holy Spirit' project – Ireland</p>  <p>School Education – Ireland, 2016-18</p> <p><i>"Our teachers are now better trained and engaged, and it is noticeable that last year's results from our first-year class were the best ever."</i></p> <p>read more</p>	<p>Maja Makovec Brenčič – 47 – Slovenia</p>  <p>Higher Education – Cooperation among universities from 30 countries, 2009-12</p> <p><i>"I am a staunch advocate for teachers as a key factor in quality education that responds to the needs of students..."</i></p> <p>read more</p>	<p>'European Astrobiology Campus' project – Estonia</p>  <p>Strategic Partnership in Higher Education – Estonia, Finland, France, United Kingdom, Iceland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, 2014-17</p> <p><i>"Today, science knows that the Big Questions..."</i></p> <p>read more</p>
<p>PEOPLE project – Slovenia</p>  <p>Knowledge Alliance in Higher Education – Slovenia, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, 2016-19</p> <p><i>"You have to engage with people and meet them where they are, instead of being..."</i></p>	<p>Borderline Boardgames – Norway</p>  <p>Erasmus+ Youth Project – 10 countries (Norway, Hungary, United Kingdom, Lithuania, Portugal, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, Greece), 2014-16</p>	<p>Jose Tomas Pastor Perez – 43 – Spain</p>  <p>Adult Education – Slovenia, 2016-18</p> <p><i>"Students need to learn to effectively communicate, to express themselves, to process information, to be active citizens, to..."</i></p>	<p>QUAL4T2 – The Netherlands</p>  <p>Vocational Education and Training – Denmark, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain, 2016-19</p> <p><i>"Improving quality culture ultimately means giving students a better education and better..."</i></p>

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Erasmus+

ENRICHING LIVES, OPENING MINDS FOR 30 YEARS

30

YEARS

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