

COVER NOTE

Joint amendments to the Erasmus+ proposal

18 February 2026



Education and training are fundamental to Europe's response to societal, technological and economic change. Indeed, they are a central part of the solution and a prerequisite for the EU's success.

Building on the sector's [call for an investment of at least €60 billion in Erasmus+](#) (2028 to 2034), the undersigned organisations, representing Europe's universities and higher education institutions, student organisations and stakeholders, propose a set of amendments to the European Commission's proposal on the next programme.

The amendments reaffirm the key role of Erasmus+ in developing the European Education Area alongside the Union of Skills, and contributing to the personal, educational and professional development of individuals. It must continue funding mobility and transnational cooperation as its primary mission, with a strong emphasis on quality and inclusiveness.

The amendments focus on the following priority areas. The detailed amendments to the legal text and their rationales are presented in the attached table.

1) The programme's objectives

Reaffirm support for learning mobility and institutional cooperation across all study fields as a core objective.

Erasmus+ already plays a central role in advancing the EU's wider goals of competitiveness, cohesion and resilience. It does so by supporting, through lifelong learning, the educational, professional and personal development of individuals. The proposal's increased attention to skills development in strategic sectors should build on rather than dilute the programme's longstanding strengths.

2) Budget allocation for the higher education sector

Increase the total budget to at least €60 billion and establish indicative budget allocations across education and training sectors.

Higher education institutions, including their staff and students, need to be able to plan ahead. Clear sectoral allocations also enable national agencies and institutions to sustain quality and access throughout the programming period. However, the proposed Erasmus+ budget put forward by the European Commission would barely maintain the level of activities of 2027, once inflation, the integration of the European Solidarity Corps and new initiatives are considered. Therefore, we support the current minimum budget share of 34,6% for the higher education sector, in the context of an overall budget increase.

3) Committee procedure

Reintroduce the committee procedure as an appropriate framework for member states and observers to contribute to implementation.

Allowing the committee to meet in sector-specific configurations and draw on external expertise would strengthen transparency and support evidence-based decision making.

Moreover, it will help to ensure consistent interpretation of priorities and work programmes across the different national contexts.

4) Erasmus+ scholarships in strategic educational fields

Ensure that Erasmus+ scholarships bring genuine added value to the beneficiaries without diverting resources from core aspects of the programme.

Based on the calculations done for the pilot scheme, one scholarship amounts to funding for twenty-five mobilities.

Scholarships should be awarded to study programmes with a clear innovative and transnational dimension to justify their place in Erasmus+. Inter- and multi-disciplinary approaches to study programmes should be encouraged to support competencies for a resilient and dynamic workforce that will enhance long-term competitiveness across all economic domains. We understand that policymakers see an urgency to address the shortage of skills in strategic fields and leverage the success of Erasmus+ in this context, but this should be done, where appropriate, through co-funding from the new European Competitiveness Fund (ECF). In addition, it is important that member states and stakeholders are involved in defining and reviewing the scope of the scholarships.

5) Synergies with other EU funding sources

Build more explicit synergies between Erasmus+ and other EU programmes.

In particular, synergies with Horizon Europe, the European Competitiveness Fund, and the National and Regional Plans should maximise impact and ensure coherent support across the different missions of universities. The European Universities alliances could notably benefit from synergies with other EU funding instruments to fully realise their transformative potential.

6) Third countries associated to the programme

Provide a clear and predictable pathway for the UK and Switzerland to renew their association.

We welcome the openness of Erasmus+ to the full or partial association of third countries. To safeguard and further strengthen long-standing and mutually beneficial ties between the EU, the UK and Switzerland, we propose explicit pathways for the association for both countries to the next programme.

7) International dimension

Reinforce international collaboration by offering more opportunities for mobility, cooperation and policy dialogue that serve the mutual interests of Europe and its partners.

Erasmus+ has a proven track record in fostering institutional partnerships, talent circulation and capacity building, which are of strategic importance to the EU, particularly in the rapidly shifting

geopolitical context. Therefore, a contribution of €6 billion from Global Europe would not only increase opportunities for mutual learning and trust building among the EU and its international partners but also strengthen the global impact of the programme, and enhance the EU's global standing.

8) Students and staff at risk

Systematically enhance the resilience of Erasmus+ and its capacity to support higher education institutions, students and staff in crisis situations.

This can be achieved through the flexible use of funds and programme rules. In addition, a dedicated action to support at-risk students through a scholarship scheme should be developed, alongside efforts to establish a permanent European programme for scholars with an at-risk background in the successor of Horizon Europe, building on current pilot initiatives (SAFE, MSCA4Ukraine).

Our offer to policymakers

We represent the institutions and communities that design, implement and sustain Erasmus+ on the ground and ensure its impact across Europe and beyond.

Therefore, we stand ready to actively support the co-legislators throughout the negotiations, by explaining our proposals, sharing evidence from practice and contributing constructively to the final design of the next Erasmus+ programme.

With the right objectives, governance and level of investment in place, Erasmus+ can continue to deliver at scale for Europe's talent base and global standing. We are committed to playing our full part in making this happen.

SIGNATORIES

- ACA - <https://aca-secretariat.be/>
- AURORA - <https://aurora-universities.eu/>
- CESAER - <https://www.cesaer.org/>
- Coimbra Group - <https://www.coimbra-group.eu/>
- DAAD - <https://www.daad.de/en/>
- EAIE - www.eaie.org
- ECIU - <https://www.eciu.eu/>
- ESN - <https://www.esn.org/>
- ESU - <https://esu-online.org/>
- EUA - <https://www.eua.eu/>
- EUF - <https://uni-foundation.eu/>
- EURASHE - <https://www.eurashe.eu/>
- The Guild - <https://www.the-guild.eu/>
- LERU - <https://www.leru.org/>
- UNICA - www.unica-network.eu
- UNIMED - <https://www.uni-med.net/>
- YERUN - <https://yerun.eu/>