

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS: INTERNATIONALISATION THROUGH ERASMUS+



EUROPEAN UNION



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INCLUSION EDUCATION

ERASMUS+

The Erasmus+ programme has been enabling stays abroad with the aim of studying, traineeship, teaching, continuing education and further training, as well as implementation of cooperation projects in Europe and around the world, for over 35 years.

ERASMUS+ NATIONAL AGENCIES

Appointed by the European Commission and the competent national authorities, the Erasmus+ National Agencies are responsible for the implementation of Erasmus+ in EU Member States and third countries associated to the programme.

SALTO INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

SALTO (Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities) is a network of 11 resource centres that support implementation of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. SALTO Inclusion and Diversity is hosted by the Croatian Erasmus+ agency and is committed to making the Erasmus+ more inclusive and diverse in the field of education and training.

USEFUL LINKS

- [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#)
- [Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy](#)
- [Erasmus+ National Agencies](#)
- [SALTO Inclusion and Diversity \(Education and Training\)](#)

ERASMUS+ FACTS AND FIGURES

- The Erasmus+ programme budget in the programme period 2021 and 2027 amounts to a total of over €26 billion, 70% of which will support mobility opportunities, while 30% will be devoted to cooperation projects and policy development activities.
- In 2021, a total of €1,013.6 million was allocated to 3,998 projects and 8,110 beneficiary organisations across Europe in the field of higher education. Contracted projects involved more than 280,500 participants, 8% of which were learners with fewer opportunities. More info can be found in the [annual Erasmus+ reports and country reports](#).

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY - A PRIORITY IN THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

Promotion of inclusion and diversity is, alongside digital transformation, environment and fight against climate change and participation in democratic life, among horizontal priorities of Erasmus+ in the current programme period. The European Commission and the Erasmus+ National Agencies are dedicated to bringing programme opportunities closer to participants with fewer opportunities and are making a major contribution to enhance equality in all fields of education and training through introduction of new programme features and mechanisms. To reinforce the inclusive dimension of the programme, the European Commission developed Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy, a document that defines specific inclusion-related objectives and describes Erasmus+ inclusive measures.

Additional financial support for participants

Within the scope of the Erasmus+ programme, higher education institutions (HEIs) can engage in project activities and pursue mobility opportunities worldwide. Pursuant to provisions outlined in the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), HEIs provide additional support (top-up) to students with fewer opportunities (e.g., participants of diverse backgrounds, including students with children, students who work, students from study fields underrepresented in mobility etc.). In addition to top-up, the programme also foresees the possibility of budgeting inclusion support for organisations (contribution to unit costs), inclusion support for participants (real costs) and exceptional costs (real costs) in order to cover the supplementary costs of participation in mobility activities which cannot be covered through top-up. When defining internal selection procedures, HEIs are encouraged to consider inclusion and diversity and provide opportunities that facilitate and widen mobility access for a wide array of individuals and student groups. In order to create a more equitable academic environment, HEIs are also encouraged to appoint Inclusion Officers to oversee their institutional inclusive efforts (awareness-raising, strategic planning, provision of support, cooperation with relevant stakeholders etc.). For more information on financing rules, please consult the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#) or contact your [Erasmus+ National Agency](#).

Flexible mobility types

To increase participation, Erasmus+ offers students the opportunity to spend short physical stays in the host country as part of blended mobility combined with virtual mobility in their home country. Additionally, under Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs), HEIs can offer teachers and students new and creative opportunities for international cooperation in education through jointly designed online and onsite courses. For full eligibility criteria, please refer to the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#).



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German Academic Exchange Service

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IMPRINT

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SUPPORT FOR HEIs

National Agencies support HEIs in implementing Erasmus+ in a variety of ways:

- provision of comprehensive advice on all Erasmus+ funding opportunities and activities;
- organisation of training and cooperation activities (TCAs) for HEI representatives;
- promotion of knowledge sharing and networking through events;
- sharing of success stories and best practices;
- monitoring and evaluation.

MAKING STRATEGIC USE OF ERASMUS+ OPPORTUNITIES

Powerful academic systems are characterised by a wide range of knowledge and experience. HEIs as key actors in society and science are both potential drivers of change as well as profiteers of inclusion and diversity. By promoting inclusion and increasing diversity at your HEI, you create an environment in which each and every individual can maximise its own potential and thus contribute to qualitative improvements in teaching, science and research. To this end, you can draw on a broad funding portfolio of the Erasmus+ programme: from individual stays abroad to cooperation projects with European and non-European partners. Erasmus+ offers various tools and programme activities to specifically support the internationalisation of HEIs at all levels.

The advantages of Erasmus+ for your HEI at a glance

- Through the strategic use of Erasmus+, you create synergies in research, science and higher education and promote the internationalisation and competitiveness of your HEI.
- Through the internationalisation experience of your students and HEI staff, you promote international networking and cooperation in your HEI.
- With more equal access to stays abroad, you promote the diverse potential of your students and HEI staff, such as young scientists with children.

TIME FOR CHANGE

Implementing new opportunities takes time, willingness and commitment to review established processes and structures and adapt them if needed.

Essential prerequisites for the successful use of the programme are:

- Networking and exchange between your International Office and Erasmus+ coordinators with relevant contact points at your HEI, such as service and advisory centres and project coordinators in departments.
- Reviewing and, if necessary, adapting internal processes and structures at HEI, such as application and selection procedures and project management.
- Providing financial and human resources for the successful implementation of the programme, e.g., to support outgoing and incoming participants.
- Increasing the provision and use of mobility opportunities in study programmes.
- Offering virtual learning formats.



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