Erasmus+ 2021-2027: New priorities and opportunities

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Empowering European Higher Education

Commissioner Mariya Gabriel

The European strategy for universities and the proposal for a Council recommendation on transnational cooperation “will benefit the entire higher education sector, first and foremost our students. They need modern transnational campuses with easy access to mobility abroad to allow for a truly European study path and experience. We stand ready to join forces with the Member States and higher education institutions across Europe. Together we can bring closer education, research and innovation in service to society.”
A European shared vision to support all types of higher education institutions to adapt to changing conditions across all their missions

Priority areas for transformation based and clear objectives

Concrete actions at EU level to enable and support the sector

Synergies with actions and national reforms

Endorsed by EU Member States
5 April 2022
Four key objectives

1. **Strengthen the European dimension in higher education and research**
   
   Bringing transnational cooperation to a higher level contributes to a culture of excellence and inclusion, a true European identity, and global competitiveness and attractiveness.

2. **Consolidate universities as lighthouses of our European way of life**
   
   - **Strengthen quality and relevance for future-proof skills**
     
     In a fast changing environment, universities need to strengthen their capacities to equip young people, lifelong learners and researchers with the right competences and skills.
   
   - **Foster diversity, inclusiveness and gender equality**
     
     More institutional changes are needed for universities to become places of truly equal opportunities.
   
   - **Promote and protect European democratic values**
     
     Universities need to be places of freedom: for speech, thought, learning, research.

3. **Empower universities as key actors of change in the twin green and digital transitions**
   
   Develop skills, competences and technological innovation for the green and digital transition.

   Universities are key actors for the green transition and for a more sustainable world. We need to make 'connected universities' a reality.

4. **Reinforce universities as drivers of Europe’s global role and leadership**
   
   Universities are instrumental in building Europe’s connections with the world.
Four flagship initiatives

Expand to **60 European Universities with more than 500 universities by mid-2024**, with an Erasmus+ indicative budget totalling EUR 1.1 billion for 2021-2027.

Explore common criteria leading to a potential **European label for joint programmes**, to be piloted as of 2022 under Erasmus+. Later on, the possible design and delivery, on a voluntary basis, at national, regional or institutional level, of joint degrees at all levels, based on these co-created European criteria, could be envisaged.

Examining the need for and feasibility of institutionalised cooperation instruments, such as a possible **legal status for alliances of higher education institutions**: pilot as of 2022 under Erasmus+ the implementation of existing European instruments.

Widening the implementation of the **European Student Card initiative**.
Recommendation for national reforms and European support

Full implementation of existing instruments and exploring avenues for new ones

Support all higher education institutions and enhance the coherence of European higher education systems

Reinforce European transnational cooperation by building bridges

Recommended by Member States
5 April 2022
Erasmus+ programme

Student mobility for studies
1987

Staff mobility for teaching
1997

Student mobility for traineeships and staff mobility for training
2007

Celebrating starts here! 35 years

Erasmus+ Enriching lives, opening minds. 1987-2022 European Commission
Erasmus+:
Enriching lives, opening minds.

70% mobility
30% cooperation projects
€ 28.4b budget
10m participants
# Budgetary evolution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>KA1 higher education mobility</th>
<th>KA2 cooperation partnerships</th>
<th>European University alliances</th>
<th>Erasmus Mundus</th>
<th>Alliances</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Call 2020</strong></td>
<td>965 million EUR</td>
<td>136 million EUR</td>
<td>120 million EUR</td>
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<td><strong>Call 2021</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Call 2022</strong></td>
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<td>81 million EUR</td>
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**CALL 2022**
Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027 priorities underpinned by ECHE commitments

Priorities:
- More digital
- Greener
- More inclusive
- More civically engaged

ECHE commitments:
- By undertaking the necessary steps to implement digital mobility management in line with European Student Card Initiative.
- By promoting environmentally friendly practices in all activities related to the Programme.
- By encouraging the participation of individuals with fewer opportunities in the Programme.
- By promoting civic engagement and encouraging students and staff to get involved as active citizens before, during and after their participation in a mobility or project.
Erasmus+ specific priorities for cooperation projects in higher education

- **Interconnected**
  - Different cooperation models
  - Automatic recognition
  - Implement Bologna principles and tools

- **Innovative**
  - Modular courses
  - Micro-credentials
  - Reduce skills mismatches
  - Sustainable development

- **Inclusive**
  - Increase access
  - Mobile student support
  - Gender Balance
  - Flexible career pathway
  - Civic Engagement
Erasmus+ specific priorities for cooperation projects in higher education

**Excellence**
- Reward and incentives
- Innovative Pedagogies
- Entrepreneurial partnerships

**STEM/STEAM**
- STEAM approach
- Women in STEM fields and reduce gender stereotypes in STEM

**Digital and Green**
- European student card initiative
- Digital skills
- Sustainable learning
Erasmus+ cooperation opportunities

Partnerships for Cooperation
- Mobility projects
- Cooperation Partnerships

Partnerships for Innovation
- Alliances for Innovation
- Forward Looking Projects

Partnerships for Excellence
- Erasmus Mundus
- European Universities

Ambitions → Long-term Strategy
Impact of KA2 Strategic partnerships

2014-2020
KA2 Strategic Partnerships, 2014-2020

A total number of
• 1943 projects
• 487 000 participants and
• 11 600 organisations
Strategic partnerships (2014-2020) - topics

Projects Topics

- New innovative curricula/educational methods/development: 1,260
- ICT - new technologies - digital competences: 609
- Open and distance learning: 389
- International cooperation, international relations, development: 278
- Research and innovation: 203
- Entrepreneurial learning - entrepreneurship education: 202
- Quality and Relevance of Higher Education in Partner: 178
- Inclusion - equity: 178
- Pedagogy and didactics: 170
- Cooperation between educational institutions and businesses: 161
Erasmus+ Countries with largest shares of **total participating** organisations in KA2 projects, 2014-2020

- Spain: 9.0%
- Italy: 8.9%
- Germany: 7.4%
- United Kingdom: 5.5%
- Poland: 4.8%
- Portugal: 4.6%
- France: 4.5%
- Netherlands: 4.4%
- Belgium: 4.4%
- Greece: 4.2%

Erasmus+ Countries where largest shares of **applicant organisations** come from

- Poland: 8.9%
- Germany: 8.4%
- Spain: 8.0%
- United Kingdom: 6.9%
- France: 6.4%

- **63.1%** of participating organisations were HEIs
- **6.4%** were NGOs
- **5.2%** were SMEs
Erasmus+ helps universities become more innovative and inclusive

80% of universities are more digital, inclusive & connected to the labour market thanks to Erasmus+ cooperation projects.

2/3 of universities say their Erasmus+ cooperation projects contribute to increased social inclusion & non-discrimination in higher education.

Source: Erasmus Impact Study 2019
Strategic Partnerships help institutions to establish new cooperations outside of HE. The highest share of new cooperations established as part of the SPs is with public authorities and enterprises (both 36%).

SP coordinators report important impacts in the areas of teaching methods and curricula development. The most frequently reported impacts (more than 80% of respondents) are:

- in the introduction of more international perspectives into the curriculum
- the development and teaching of modules with partners from other countries
- The use of learning in multidisciplinary groups and teaching
- making use of material from open educational resources, such as massive open online courses

90% of SP’s objectives included the development or improvement of teaching methods, while 50% included curriculum development in their objective.
Impact of strategic partnerships on teaching

Figure 144. Impact of participation in SPs on the use of teaching methods

Source: Erasmus Impact Study 2019
KA2 Cooperation
Partnerships
2021-2027
Partnerships for Cooperation

• **Increasing quality** in the work and practices of institutions

• **Building capacity** of organisations to work transnationally and across sectors

• **Addressing common needs and priorities**

• Supporting change, transformation, innovation and **tangible and transferable results**
New KA2 lump sum model for Cooperation Partnerships

• Handbook for beneficiaries published on 3 February 2022
• Application and management simplified – less work for applicants
• The single lump sum is a contribution to all costs related to the implementation of eligible activities:
  • project management, learning, teaching and training activities, meetings and events, deliverables
• Applicants (with their project partners) choose between pre-defined amounts according to the activities they want to undertake and the results they want to achieve
• Proposals must describe the activities that applicants commit to carry out with the lump sum amount requested and must submit a budget summary respecting the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness as well as provide information on “key-success factors” of the project
• Successful implementation → grant paid / Partial implementation/poor quality → grant reduction
KA2 application details

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<th>Action</th>
<th>Single lump sum level</th>
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<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Single lump sum level</td>
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<tr>
<td>120.000 EUR</td>
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<td>Cooperation partnerships</td>
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IMPORTANT:

• If the budget of a proposal is considered inadequate, there is no possibility to "downgrade" the proposal to a lower lump sum amount: the proposal will just not be selected!

• Each project shall include a standard **work package for project management** and additional work packages for project implementation (maximum 20% of the budget)

• If, at final report stage, the overall project score is sufficient (i.e. higher than 70), but the score of one or more work packages is not sufficient (i.e. lower than 70), a specific grant reduction shall be applied only to those work packages, based on a scale.
KA2 Alliances for innovation
Alliances for Innovation

**Developing entrepreneurial mind-sets and new skills**

**Lot 1: Alliances for Education and Enterprises**

- Merging the classical SSAs with the KAs of the previous programme
- Sectoral or Cross-Sectoral
- Labour Market and non-labour market
- HE, VET, Enterprises (business, but also e.g. non-profit enterprises)
- Skills, but also entrepreneurial mind-sets and social entrepreneurship

**Lot 2: Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills**

- Gather skills intelligence: where are the skills gaps, skills shortages, which are emerging occupational profiles?
- Develop a sector skills strategy
- Develop & deliver vocational training programmes and qualifications for occupational profiles
- Design a long term action plan to be rolled out at the national and regional levels
- Use of EU tools e.g. EQF, ESCO, EQAVET

European Commission
Lot 1: The Alliances for Education and Enterprises

• Call 2021 currently under evaluation – 300 applications!!! Results February 2022.

• New Call 2022 Published on 24th November 2021 (deadline for applications 15/09/22)

• 30 million EUR in 2022
  • 1 million EUR – two year projects
  • 1.5 million EUR – three year projects

• 4 Programme Countries, Minimum of 8 full partners

• Partnership: 3 labour market bodies (e.g. a business); 3 education or training providers

• In each proposal there has to be a minimum of one HE institution AND one VET provider as full partners
Lot 2: Ongoing **Blueprint** Alliances projects

2017
- Automotive
- Maritime
- Space geo-observation
- Textile
- Tourism

2018
- Additive Manufacturing
- Construction
- Maritime shipping
- Steel

2019
- Bio-economy in Agriculture
- Batteries for electro-mobility
- Defense technologies
- Digitalisation of energy value chain
- Energy intensive industries
- Microelectronics

2020
- Blockchain
- Cultural heritage
- Cybersecurity
- Rail supply
- Work integration social entreprises
- Software services

More details on ongoing Blueprint projects in the Erasmus+ project results platform
Lot 2

• New Call 2022 Published on 24th November 2021 (deadline for applications 15/09/22)
• 32 million EUR in 2022
• 4 million EUR – four year projects
• 8 Programme Countries, Minimum of 12 full partners
• Partnership: 5 labour market bodies (e.g. a business); 5 education or training providers
• In each proposal there has to be a minimum of one HE institution AND one VET provider as full partners
Erasmus+ Teacher Academies and Jean Monnet Actions
What are Erasmus Teacher Academies?

- A new Action in the new Erasmus+ Programme: 25 Erasmus+ Teacher Academies projects by 2025.
- As part of the Erasmus+ Key Action 2 (Partnerships for Excellence) 10 projects are expected to start at the beginning of 2022.
- Projects creating networks of initial teacher education and continuous professional development providers and other relevant stakeholders.
- Cooperation on key EU priorities such as digital learning, sustainability, equity and inclusion.
- Develop joint learning offer for student and serving teachers with strong European dimension and through innovative and practical collaboration.
- Develop learning mobility (virtual, physical and blended) as part of teacher learning.
- Contribute to policy development and sustainable collaborative networks.
Jean Monnet Actions

• Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence
  • Proposed and hosted by HEIS, can involve several faculties and external organisations
  • Focal points of competence and knowledge on European Union subjects
  • Application deadline 1 March 2022

• Jean Monnet Networks in Higher Education
  • At any HEI in the world, two options

  1. **A network focusing on a specific internal EU policy topic.** Requires a minimum of 12 higher education institutions from 7 different EU Member States and non-EU countries associated with the Programme.

  2. **A network focusing on foreign policy issues addressing one specific priority.** Requires a minimum of 12 higher education institutions with at least 6 participants from non-EU countries not associated with the Programme and funded by EU external action instruments.
Measures for Ukraine
Exceptional measures for support to Ukraine

• The Erasmus+ programme will be opened up to incoming higher education students and staff from Ukraine in mobility projects supported by EU internal policy funds

• They will have an opportunity:
  • to spend a period at a hosting higher education institution, or
  • to complete a traineeship in the host HEI or another organisation

• KA2 Beneficiary institutions of ongoing Erasmus+ projects are encouraged and supported to reallocate part of their project funds to adapt or refocus activities supporting the education challenges related to the refugee crisis.
Mobility in practical terms

- HEIs with ongoing Erasmus+ projects will be able to
  - host students and recent graduates from Ukrainian HEIs for a study or traineeship period, or
  - host teachers/staff from Ukrainian HEIs to carry out teaching or receiving training or staff from Ukrainian organisations that are not HEIs.
- The newly opened activities will be available for all who were enrolled, had graduated or were working in an HEI at the time of fleeing Ukraine.
Mobility from Ukraine to Programme Countries

• Incoming mobility activities can be fully organised by the receiving HEI, considering that HEI from Ukraine may have severe difficulties to provide support or sign agreements.

• Ukrainian participants can receive grants to contribute to their travel, accommodation and subsistence costs, while the hosting HEI can receive organisational support to organise their mobility and provide support to them.

• Receiving HEI are encouraged to facilitate the processes of application, selection, enrolment and integration of the participants.
Thank you for your attention!