



Updates from Erasmus+

UNICA IRO MEETING 2024

*Svava B Finsen
European Commission
DG EAC Unit B1 – Higher Education*

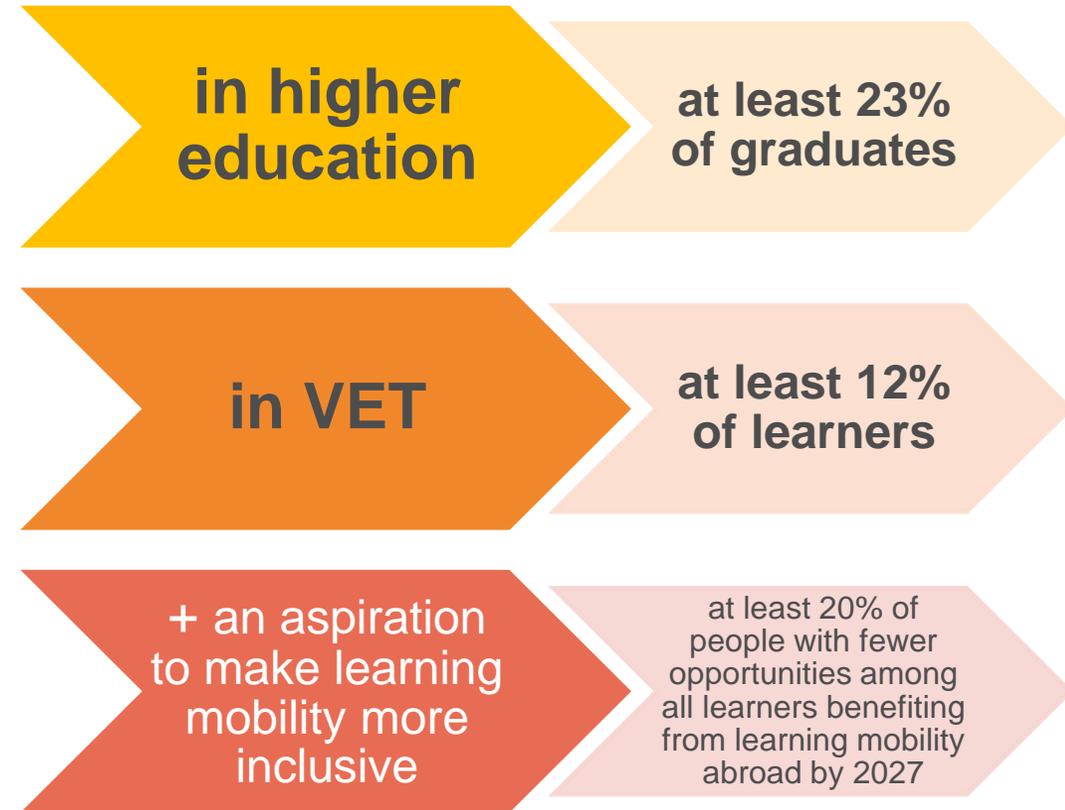
Mobility remains high on the EU agenda



Europe on the Move

learning mobility opportunities for everyone

- Enhance efforts towards making mobility a reality for all and strive to achieve EU-level targets by 2030 through the following:



Highlights for Higher Education

Making learning mobility an integral part of the higher education system

- Mobility windows – elective courses – etc

Aligns with the goals of the European degree

- Proposal that programmes have a mandatory mobility experience

Variety of mobility formats

- Diversifies the pool of participants – stepping stone

Concrete recommendations to benefit students

- Provision of information on funding and timing of payments
- Addressing student housing shortages with relevant authorities
- Welcoming environment and participation in local life

Highlights for Higher Education

Steps to achieve automatic mutual **recognition** of HE qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad

- Links to Council Recommendation on automatic mutual recognition
- Guidance and training for providers
- Consistency in decision making
- Record keeping for recognition of learning outcomes

Valuing the work of educators and staff and incorporating the work they do for learning mobility and **recognising the value of staff**

- Links to Proposal for a Council Recommendation on attractive and sustainable careers in higher education – part of HE package on European degree

European Universities

Overall state of play to date

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

A key pillar of the European Education Area

64 alliances
35 countries, including all 27 Member States

More than 560 higher education institutions

Up to EUR 14.4 Million from Erasmus+ per alliance for 4 years

Teaming up with around 2200 associated partners, including higher education institutions from Bologna Process countries

Welcome to 14 new alliances!

European Universities initiative: overview of Erasmus+ Calls



Calls 2019, 2020, 2022
44 European Universities
alliances
340 HEIs
31 countries
1200 associated partners



Call 2023
50 European Universities
alliances
430 HEIs
35 countries
1700 associated partners



Call 2024
64 Alliances
&
Community of practice



2025
No call



2026 & 2027
Possibility for
+2 year funding

(Subject to the adoption of the
2026 and 2027 Erasmus+ Work
Programmes)

Changes in 2025

Changes in 2025

- Programme Guide has not been published yet
- Maintain stability in intra-EU higher education mobility
- Opt-out from travel support removed – a few national agencies opted out of the introduction of travel support in 2024
- Introduction of the estimated number of participants with fewer opportunities in the KA131 application form
 - Reporting to Council/Parliament
 - Harmonising with other sectors
 - Capturing a fuller picture – those without financial support and staff



Increased funding – 2025 AWP

- The Erasmus+ Annual Work Programme (AWP) confirms higher funding for KA1 mobilities.
- Mobility projects for higher education students and staff (KA131):
 - 2024: 1.240.000.000 EUR
 - 2025: 1.350.000.000 EUR

+110.000.000 EUR
- KA220 HED funds decrease
 - 2024: 85.000.000
 - 2025: 73.000.000

-12.000.000 EUR

2024 Annual Work Programme: Participation in Cooperation Partnerships

- Entities from candidate countries, potential candidates, and other neighbouring countries:
 - Regions 1-3
 - Western Balkans (Region 1) Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* , Montenegro
 - Neighbourhood East (Region 2) Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus* , Georgia, Moldova, territory of Ukraine as recognised by international law
 - South-Mediterranean countries (Region 3) Algeria, Egypt, Israel* , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine* , Syria* , Tunisia

*See all caveats in the programme guide

KA2 priorities – same as last year

Priorities in the field of higher education:

- Stimulating innovative learning and teaching practices;
- Supporting digital and green capabilities of the higher education sector;
- Supporting innovation and entrepreneurial skills of students;
- Developing a STEAM approach in higher education, and foster women participation in STEM
- Rewarding excellence in learning, teaching and skills development;
- Building inclusive higher education systems;
- Promoting inter-connected higher education systems;
- Supporting higher education institutions in their cooperation with Ukrainian counterparts to respond to the war in Ukraine

New actions in 2025 Erasmus+ WP

- A **European degree Policy Lab** to develop detailed guidelines and action plans to guide the implementation of a European degree and the annual **European degree Forum** with EUR 2 000 000.
- Erasmus+ support for **European degree Pathway Projects** enabling Member States, accreditation and quality assurance agencies, and other stakeholders to engage in the pathway towards a European degree with EUR 7 000 000.
- Erasmus+ support for a **European degree exploratory action** enabling higher education institutions to design or adapt joint degree programmes compliant with the European criteria for a European degree with EUR 14 000 000.

European Student Card Initiative - ESCI

European Student Card Initiative ESCI

- The focus until the end of 2024 is on optimising the functioning of the **Erasmus Without Paper (EWP)** Network. This entails:
 - upgrading all connected systems to the [latest version of the digital inter-institutional agreement](#)
 - supporting institutions not yet exchanging digital learning agreements to start doing so, to reach the target of [95% of learning agreements exchanged via the EWP Network](#) by the end of 2025
- Sign up to ESCI newsletter: [EUROPEAN STUDENT CARD INITIATIVE - Newsroom Subscription Form](#)

Questions: EAC-ESCI@ec.europa.eu

January – June 2025

Building on existing processes, analyse and develop network enhancements to address current technical complexity and enable

- a simpler workflow for learning and inter-institutional agreements
- a digital multilateral agreement signature process
- preparation for support to once-only data principle in ESCI
- a virtual European Student Card in the Erasmus+ Mobile App
- ongoing preparation for wide scale use of nominations and transcripts of records

July – December 2025

- support for migration to the simplified digital infrastructure and trainings for exchanges of inter-institutional agreements and learning agreements
- testing and preparation of migration to simplified digital infrastructure for digital mobility documents for inter-institutional agreements and learning agreements
- testing of nominations, and transcripts of records
- roll-out plan for wide scale use of digital nominations and transcripts of records

European Student Card (ESC)

- Successful launch of a new digital platform (the ESC-Router) that is hosted in the European Commission cloud
- Makes it easier for higher education institutions to add the ESCs elements to their existing student cards
- Brings an improved user interface, enhanced security and scalability and easier connection for higher education institutions.
- See article: [New enhanced digital platform for the European Student Card | Erasmus+](#)

Erasmus+ evaluation

Erasmus+ evaluation – from 2022 to 2024

Call for evidence

Public consultation

National Reports

Consultation activities

Final study report

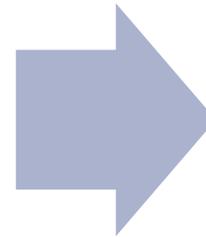
Internal consultations

End 2024 Finalising evaluation

Evaluation study

Final study report

- All evaluation questions across 5 evaluation criteria
- Conclusions & recommendations
- Building on feedback from stakeholders workshop
- Currently being finalised



Evidence base for
preparation of
**Commission's evaluation
report**

Adoption date for the Commission report is planned **1st quarter 2025**

Summary of interim mid-term Erasmus+ evaluation

Preliminary findings of the Erasmus+ evaluation:

Broad support for the objectives, structure and actions of Erasmus+

Clear added value of the programme

While budget has increased over the years, it is still not enough (even less so due to inflation)

Resilience during crises (COVID, war in Ukraine) despite temporary participation decrease

Efficient and proportionate management structure (with direct and indirect management)

IT tools lag behind

Towards the future programme

TOWARDS THE POST 2027 PROGRAMMES

- Horizontal & sector-specific consultations with National Agencies
- Consultations with interinstitutional stakeholders
- Open public consultation
- Stakeholders events

Planting phase

PHASE I – Preparation of the Legislative Packages

Growing phase

Blooming phase

PHASE II – From the draft legal basis to the Calls

Main deliverables by autumn 2027:
General Calls and Programme Guides 2028

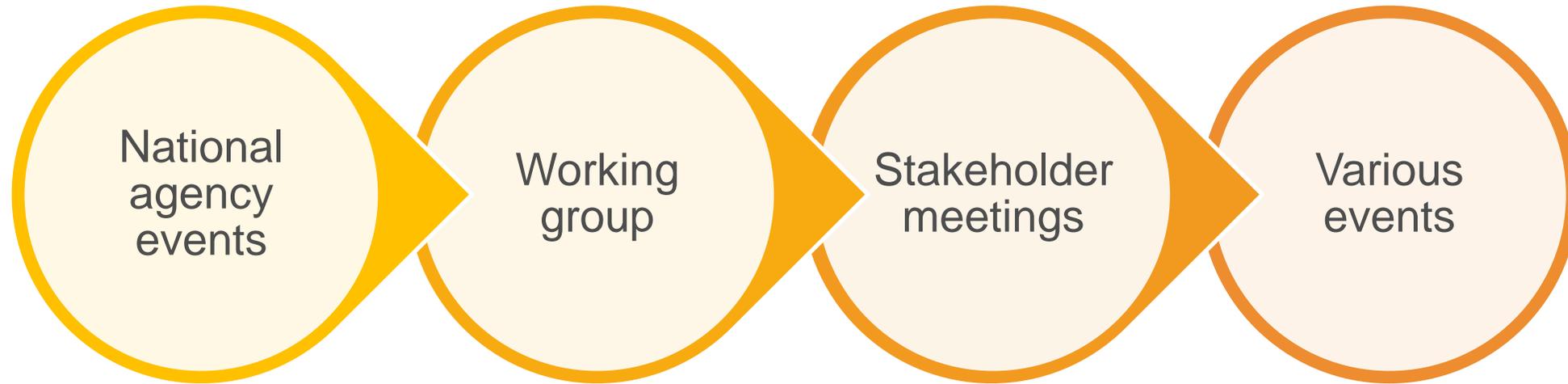
Main deliverable by mid-2025:
Draft legal Bases

TOWARDS THE POST 2027 PROGRAMMES

- Proposal for the new multiannual financial framework post 2027 is to be presented by mid 2025.
- From our side, we are gradually kicking off the work for the:
 1. Impact assessment
 2. Draft Regulation
 3. Preparation of implementation

=> Further consultations with stakeholders, complementing those of the evaluation, will be carried out in the frame of the impact assessment & the co-creation process will continue then to prepare implementation.

Consultations in the sector



ESCI considerations

Stakeholder representation in EWP governance



Recurring messages

Maintaining **stability** throughout the programming period. Stability of horizontal priorities, overall budget, grant levels across different calls, and programme rules and documents.

Further **simplify** administrative procedures, incl. documents/templates/reporting

Ensure and enhance **synergies** with other EU Programmes and instruments, and with civil society and job market stakeholders

Further **involve students** in the decision-making processes

Supporting continuity of investment in **European University Alliances**, but ensure that HEIs that do not participate in the initiative are not excluded.

Invest firmly in digital administrative tools that harmonise processes between HEIs and simplify the bureaucratic burden currently in place. **Embracing the once-only principle.**

Further develop **short-term mobility opportunities**, given their crucial role in the inclusion of people with fewer opportunities

Moving towards **common accreditation** aiming to reduce barriers for institutions wishing to participate in more than one area of the Erasmus+ Programme

Erasmus+ Budget

Current programme

- To satisfy the level of demand for learning mobility for the 2023 Erasmus+ call, **60% more budget would be needed**



Future programme

- **At least double the funding** of the current programme is needed only to maintain the level of mobility that will be reached in 2027

Enrico Letta's Report on the Future of the Single Market

April 2024

- The European Education Area will be a crucial dimension of the fifth freedom
- The blueprint for a European degree must be seen as a cornerstone in realising the fifth freedom
- The European Universities alliances existing today, supported by the Erasmus+ programme, will be central for realising this ambition

Enrico Letta's Report on the Future of the Single Market

April 2024

“ *The European Universities alliances will be central for realising this ambition* ”

It is essential that they are supported with funding that matches their essential role in the transformation of the European higher education space and the introduction of a European degree. A leap to € 10 million annually for each alliance, culminating in 600 million euros per year across the current spectrum of 60 alliances, could significantly amplify the development of joint programs across a wider array of disciplines. Such an investment, with Erasmus+ shouldering two-thirds of this augmented funding, complemented by an array of EU programs, embodies a strategic integration of European, national, and regional resources.

Mario Draghi's Report on the Future of European Competitiveness

September 2024

“ *For an ‘Erasmus for all’, its funding would need to be five times the size.* ”

Through Erasmus+, young people are empowered to acquire transversal skills. However, Erasmus+ only reaches 15% of the EU's young people today. To reach every young person in the EU, the funding of the programme would need to increase five-fold for the 2028-2034 programming period. For an ‘Erasmus for all’, its funding in the 2028-2034 programming period would need to be five times the size.

Political Guidelines

**Higher education highlights from the Political Guidelines
for the next European Commission 2024–2029**

European Commission: Political Guidelines 2024-2029

“ Tackling the skills and labour gaps

Europe needs a radical step change in ambition and action – for all skill levels and for all types of training and education. This is as important for people’s careers and prospects as it is for our competitiveness. To do so, we will establish a **Union of Skills**.



18 July 2024

European Commission: Political Guidelines 2024-2029

“ Tackling the skills and labour gaps

We will focus on improving basic skills and propose a **STEM Education Strategic Plan**. This will aim to address the worrying decline in performance and the lack of qualified teachers in areas linked to science, technology, engineering and maths. It should also **bring more girls and women into STEM education and careers**.



18 July 2024

European Commission: Political Guidelines 2024-2029

“ Tackling the skills and labour gaps



18 July 2024

We need to make sure that we benefit from all high-quality skills irrespective of where and how they were acquired. **This is why we will continue to work towards a European Degree** and will put forward a Skills Portability Initiative to ensure a skill acquired in one country is recognised in another.

European Commission: Political Guidelines 2024-2029



18 July 2024

“

It also means attracting new talents and retaining the best and brightest minds here in Europe. To do this, I want to **strengthen the collaboration between research departments, higher education and business** – notably by **strengthening our University Alliances.**

European Commission: Political Guidelines 2024-2029

“ Reuniting our societies,
supporting our young people

We will **strengthen Erasmus+** - including for vocational training - so that more people can benefit. This is key for people to develop skills and create shared experiences and a better understanding of each other.



18 July 2024

Mission Letters

Higher education highlights from the mission letters to:
Roxana Mînzatu, Executive Vice-President for People, Skills and Preparedness
Ekaterina Zaharieva, Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation

Quote mission letter Roxana Mînzatu



*You will work on the **European Education Area** to drive a common approach to skills development, learning mobility, quality and inclusiveness. You will make the most of the tools at our disposal, including by **strengthening Erasmus+**.*

*You should continue work on the **European Degree** as a flagship for quality learning mobility. You should continue work to incentivise its use, as well as stimulating skills academies and partnerships and supporting **European Universities alliances**.*

[...]

*You will develop an **Action Plan on Basic Skills and a STEM Education Strategic Plan** to address two of the most striking shortfalls.*

– European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Mission letter to Roxana Mînzatu, Executive Vice-President for People, Skills and Preparedness



Quote mission letter Ekaterina Zaharieva “

*I would like you to focus on **supporting the next generation of researchers** and help strengthen and incentivise cooperation between academic, private and public sector entities to create attractive career perspectives. As part of this, you will support the work to strengthen our **University Alliances**.*

– European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Mission letter to Ekaterina Zaharieva, Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation

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Thank you



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