



Erasmus+ Annual Report 2023



Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

2021-2027

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Erasmus+

Annual Report 2023

Foreword by the Commissioner



Over the decades, Erasmus+ has grown into a hallmark of the European project and one of the European Union's most renowned and well-loved programmes.

Today, it offers countless opportunities for Europeans, young and old, to learn together, explore our continent and celebrate its rich cultural, historical and linguistic diversity.

Whether through our university exchanges, work placements and internships abroad or transnational partnerships connecting schools, vocational training and higher education institutions, youth and sport organisations—Erasmus+ continues to create life-changing opportunities.

I know through many contacts with current and former beneficiaries of our programme that Erasmus+ is one of the EU's most effective tools for promoting cohesion and solidarity across our societies, while nurturing a shared European identity.

Over the past year, it has been a privilege to oversee the programme and to work to amplify its impact and learning outcomes. The results of this Annual Report speak volumes. In 2023, Erasmus+ provided more opportunities than ever for learners, educators and grassroots youth and sport organisations both in Europe and beyond.

Through its actions, Erasmus+ empowers people and organisations to connect, exchange and team up to promote common European values like equality and inclusion, while also contributing to broader priorities, including the green and digital transitions.

Building on the momentum of the European Year of Youth and with a view to the 2024 European elections, our work under Erasmus+ in 2023 focused on giving young people a stronger voice in EU policymaking and on addressing their hopes for the future.

The COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll on young Europeans, who had to put many of their aspirations on hold. We owe it to them to redouble our efforts to ensure that their voices are heard and to empower them to shape our shared future.

This report showcases the results of these efforts and the remarkable enthusiasm with which young people embrace the opportunities Erasmus+ provides.

In an ever-changing geopolitical landscape and with the urgent need to accelerate Europe's green and digital transitions, I am confident that Europe's youth will rise to the challenge and make its mark in leading Europe toward a brighter future.

Iliana Ivanova
Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

Foreword by the Director-General



As this report demonstrates, Erasmus+ continued to offer high quality learning mobility opportunities for learners and staff in 2023.

In many ways, 2023 was a year of milestones. By the end of the year, Erasmus+ approached the impressive milestone of 15 million programme beneficiaries since its inception 36 years earlier.

In 2023 we reached a total of 50 European Universities alliances, a network now including more than 430 higher education institutions working together across 35 countries.

It was also in this year that we marked the first ever Erasmus+ action to support mobility for sport coaches and other sport staff. With this achievement, Erasmus+ now has a strong role to play in providing grassroots sport organisations with opportunities to grow, learn, and build networks that span the continent.

Meanwhile, flagship initiatives like the Centres for Vocational Excellence, or the Erasmus+ Teacher Academies, continue to boost innovation and excellence in their respective fields, taking on a leading role in the digital and green transition of education and training systems. Erasmus+ has supported 41 Centres of Vocational Excellence in recent years, and the 2023 call saw a strong increase in the number of applications. As a result, we are now well on track for the target of funding 100 projects by 2027.

This Annual Report also highlights the cross-cutting green and digital priorities of Erasmus+. A crucial role in this has been played by the Digital and Green SALTs, our networks of resource centres established in 2022 and 2023 respectively, to support the development and implementation of the green and digital priorities.

2023 has also been a year of reflection, as we took a moment to assess the effectiveness and coherence of the programme with the launch of the mid-term evaluation process. The public consultation launched in the last quarter of the year confirmed the overwhelming support by stakeholders and EU citizens for the current structure, objectives and priorities of Erasmus+. To continue to monitor the performance of the programme, the work on the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework has been finalised, supplementing the legal basis of the Programme with an additional set of indicators.

This Annual Report provides many more insights into the Erasmus+ programme and the progress we made in 2023 to advance learning mobility in Europe and beyond. I invite you to read the report and explore the many opportunities that Erasmus+ continues to offer to a diverse range of people, united in their curiosity and a determination to learn.

Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen
Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture

Table of contents

Foreword by the Commissioner	5	Youth	75
Foreword by the Director-General	7	Sport	85
Table of contents	9	Jean Monnet Actions	89
What is Erasmus+ about?	11	Programme's Priorities	93
Erasmus+ Actions	15	Inclusion and Diversity	94
The four priorities of Erasmus+	19	Environment and Climate Change	99
Erasmus+ in numbers	21	Digital Transition	104
The programme in numbers	23	Democratic Participation	109
The programme in 2023	25	Glossary of terms	115
Main achievements and activities of Erasmus+ in 2023	28	Table of figures	117
Erasmus+ evaluation	29		
European Year of Skills	30		
Legacy of the European Year of Youth	31		
Support to Ukraine	32		
Europe on the Move	34		
Key figures of 2023	35		
Programme's Activities	45		
Higher Education	47		
Vocational Education and Training	57		
School Education	63		
Adult Education	70		

What is Erasmus+ about?

Erasmus+ is the EU programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021–2027 supporting both individuals and organisations.

The Erasmus+ programme is one of the European Union's most visible success stories. It builds on the achievements of 36 years of European programmes in the fields of education, training, youth and sport, covering both an intra-European as well as an international partnerships dimension.



These are key areas that support citizens in their personal and professional development. High quality, inclusive education and training, as well as informal and non-formal learning, ultimately equip young people and participants of all ages with the qualifications and skills needed for their meaningful participation in democratic society, intercultural

understanding and successful transitions into and within the labour market.

The programme aims at being more inclusive by improving participation among people that are harder to reach and increase engagement with small organisations, in particular newcomer organisations and community-based grassroots organisations that work directly with learners with fewer opportunities of all ages.

Furthermore, developing digital skills and competences in forward-looking

fields, such as tackling climate change, clean energy, artificial intelligence, robotics, big data analysis, etc. is essential for Europe's future sustainable growth and cohesion. The programme can make a meaningful contribution by stimulating innovation and bridging Europe's knowledge, skills and competences gap. EU businesses need to become more competitive through talent development and innovation. This investment in knowledge, skills and competences will benefit individuals, institutions, organisations and society as a whole by contributing to sustainable growth and ensuring equity, prosperity and social inclusion in Europe and beyond.

Moreover, Erasmus+, with mobility at its core, strives for carbon-neutrality by promoting sustainable transport modes and more environmentally responsible behaviours. In line with the European Union's priorities in making its economy sustainable, project beneficiaries are encouraged to design their activities in an eco-friendly manner and to incorporate green practices in all facets.

A particular challenge relates to the Europe-wide trends of limited participation in democratic life and low levels of knowledge and awareness about European matters and their impact on the lives of all European citizens. Many people face difficulties in actively engaging and participating in their communities or in the European Union's political and social life. This issue can also be targeted through non-formal learning activities, which aim at enhancing the skills and competences of young people as well as their active citizenship.

Supporting and facilitating the transnational and international cooperation between organisations in the fields of education, training, youth and sport

is essential to empowering people with more key competences, reducing early school leaving and recognising competences acquired through formal, informal and non-formal learning. It facilitates the circulation of ideas and the transmission of best practices and expertise and the development of digital capabilities thus contributing to a high-quality education, while strengthening social cohesion.

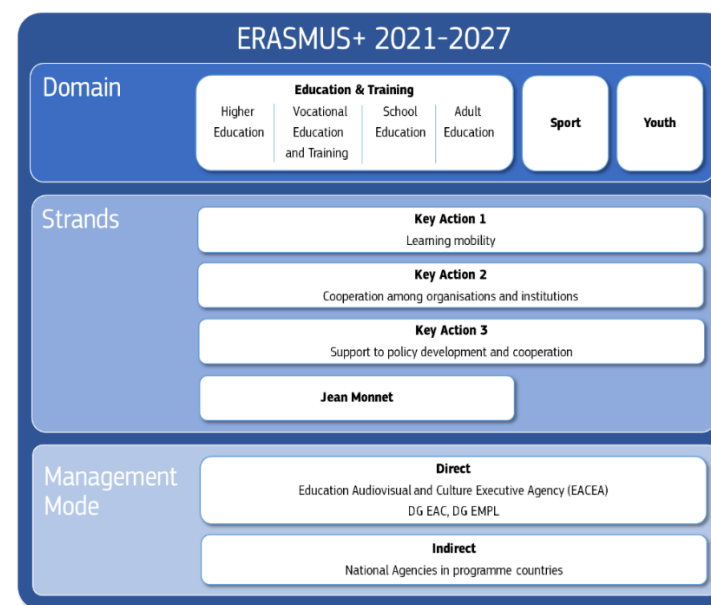
What is the structure of the programme?

Erasmus+ is structured around three Key Action strands together with Jean Monnet actions.

Key Action 1 supports mobility opportunities for all, with a lifelong learning perspective. Supporting physical learning mobility, in another country, is, and remains, the essence and the backbone of Erasmus+. Mobility can play an essential role in the development of cultural understanding, language skills, learning new pedagogies and for having a sense of belonging with peers across Europe.

The programme focuses also on supporting **cooperation among organisations and institutions (Key Action 2)** and **policy development activities (Key Action 3)** in which organisations gain experience in international cooperation, strengthen their capacities, produce innovative approaches, exchange good practices and network.

The Programme also supports teaching, learning, research and debates on European integration matters, including on the Union's future challenges and opportunities, through **Jean Monnet actions**.



The European Commission (Directorate-General Education, Youth, Sport and Culture - DG EAC) and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) are responsible for the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme. However, the Erasmus+ programme is mainly implemented through indirect management. This means that the European Commission entrusts budget implementation tasks to designated National Agencies established in each Member State and third countries associated to the programme. The Commission also entrusts some budget implementation tasks to specific international organisations.

Who can participate in the Erasmus+ programme?

Erasmus+ offers mobility and cooperation opportunities to both individuals and organisations in the fields of higher education, vocational education and training, adult and school education (including early childhood education and care), youth and sport. In practice, the programme supports individuals by funding mobility activities and cooperation, and reaches them mainly through organisations, institutions, bodies or groups that organise such activities. **Participants can therefore be either individuals** (learners or staff) **or organisations** (including informal groups and self-employed persons).

Eligible participating organisations

Erasmus+ projects are submitted and managed by participating organisations. If a project is selected, the applicant organisation becomes a beneficiary of an Erasmus+ grant and is to receive financial support for the realisation of their project.

Tools and resources available

The programme provides support to Erasmus+ participants through different tools and platforms, including its **official website**¹, the **Erasmus+ App**² and the **European Education Area portal**³.

In the section '[How to take part](#)' on the programme's website, candidate organisations can find all information regarding the application procedure.

The programme is mainly implemented in Member States and third countries associated to the programme⁴ through 55 National Agencies. At European level, some actions are implemented by the European Commission, mainly via the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).⁵

"Did you know?"

The Erasmus+ App has been developed under the 30 Years of Erasmus Campaign and is being further enhanced as part of the European Student Card Initiative. The aim of the application is to become the single point of entry for participants to access information on Erasmus+ opportunities, as well as to guide them through the processes surrounding their mobility and give them access to information and services.

<https://erasmusapp.eu/>

¹ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>

² <https://erasmusapp.eu/>

³ <https://education.ec.europa.eu/>

⁴ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-a/eligible-countries>

⁵ [2022-erasmusplus-programme-guide-v2 en 0.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

Erasmus+ Actions

Higher Education

Erasmus+ in Higher Education offers vast mobility opportunities for students and staff across Europe and the world. In addition to opportunities for physical mobility, Erasmus+ also supports blended mobility, making it more accessible to a diverse range of learners and promoting international mobility activities to third countries. The programme also funds different types of cooperation projects to help higher education institutions and organisations to pool resources and deploy innovative courses and practices, making European higher education more attractive and more competitive.

The Erasmus+ calls on the European Universities initiative deliver on one of the key flagship initiatives of the European strategy for universities, supporting the progress towards the achievement of a European Education Area⁶. The call 2023 enabled the support of 30 European Universities alliances, supporting existing alliances to consolidate and deepen their cooperation and for new alliances to start their long-term strategic journey together. The call 2023 also contributed to delivering on the Western Balkans Agenda by allowing higher education institutions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to be part of the alliances as full partners, on top of those from the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia.

⁶ The European Education Area (EEA) initiative helps European Union Member States work together to build more resilient and inclusive education and training systems. Erasmus+ has a fundamental role to the achievement of the EEA's strategic framework goals, such as

Vocational Education and Training

In Vocational Education and Training (VET), Erasmus+ supports the internationalisation of VET providers and other organisations in VET through mobility activities and cooperation projects. The programme further supports the development, transfer and implementation of innovative practices at organisational, local, regional, national or European levels.

2023 also saw new selection rounds for Capacity Building for Vocational Education and Training (CBVET) and Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE). These two initiatives allowed to select many outstanding projects to increase global cooperation to improve VET systems and to foster excellence in Vocational Education and Training among and between Member States and third countries associated to the programme and build up capacity with countries worldwide and support VET in these countries.

School Education

Erasmus+ in School Education supports the internationalisation of early childhood education and care (ECEC) providers, primary and secondary schools, teacher training institutions and other organisations active in school education through mobility activities and cooperation projects.

16 new Erasmus+ Teacher Academies were launched in March 2023, following a second selection round. They embrace multilingualism, language awareness and cultural diversity, as they develop teacher education in line with the EU's priorities in education policy and contribute

"at least 60% of recent graduates from VET should benefit from exposure to work-based learning during their vocational education and training" by 2025 and "at least 45% of 25-34 year-olds should have a higher education qualification" by 2030.

to the achievement of the European Education Area, the EU's joint vision for the education and training sector.

In 2023, there was a huge increase in interest across the programme, with many more requests in terms of participants in the school education sector (pupils and staff).

Adult Education

Adult Education in Erasmus+, covering all forms of non-vocational adult education, aims at strengthening the internationalisation and strategic development of adult education providers. The field has seen a very positive and promising development. After struggles in the first years of the current programme, budget absorption for mobility projects is improving significantly. Overall, in the adult education sector, the programme results are moving in the right direction, including when it comes to take-up of newly introduced learning mobility activities in Key Action 1.

Youth

Erasmus+ Youth supports non-formal and informal learning for young people and youth workers. In 2023, Erasmus+ youth actions continued to expand with important increases in the number of submitted and contracted applications and participants as well as an increased uptake of grants. The new actions introduced in the current programming period like **Youth participation activities** (launched in 2021) and **DiscoverEU inclusion action** (launched in 2022) have reached maturity and become increasingly popular with the target group and involved youth organisations. The introduction of accreditation, which allows youth

organisations a simplified access to funding for mobility projects on a yearly basis has become a game changer in the field through its stable source of financing, its inbuilt flexibility and simplified application and evaluation process.

Sport

In 2023, the Commission pursued the implementation of the Fourth EU Work Plan for Sport (2021-2024) which sets out the policy priorities and main actions for cooperation in the field of sport at EU level. The works of the expert group on the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continued, while the report of the expert group on greening sport events and infrastructure was published, proposing a comprehensive playbook for integrating environmental sustainability within the European sports sector. The Commission also continued the HealthyLifestyle4All initiative, which reached 180 000 Europeans and collected 103 pledges across Europe, linking sport and active lifestyles with health, food and other policies. The mapping on healthy lifestyles, which takes stock after two years of the initiative, was published in November 2023.

2023 marked the first ever Erasmus+ action to support learning mobility for sport coaches and other sport staff. This action enables staff of sport organisations, primarily in grassroots sports, to improve their competences and qualifications, and acquire new skills, by spending a period of time abroad. With more than 37 000 events and 11 million participants, the 9th edition of the European Week of Sport in 2023 was an occasion to celebrate a #BeActive lifestyle together in Erasmus+ programme countries along with the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries and regions. The Commission furthermore promoted inspiring examples of being active through its #BeInclusive and #BeActive awards.

Jean Monnet Actions

With opportunities in the field of higher education and in other fields of education and training, the Jean Monnet actions contribute to spread knowledge on European Union integration matters. For Jean Monnet open calls in 2023, 1 109 eligible applications were received out of which 391 projects were selected from 51 countries with a support of EUR 25.15 million.



Erasmus+ is the soul of Europe and our fellow Europeans need, more than ever, to have concrete opportunities to experience what the EU ultimately is and what values it promotes. This aligns precisely with the set of initiatives outlined in the recent Talent Mobility package, which aims to make the EU more attractive to talent from outside the European Union and to facilitate mobility within.

Margaritis Schinas,
European Commission Vice-President for
Promoting our European Way of Life



Erasmus+ flagship initiatives

Flagship initiatives such as the Erasmus+ Teacher Academies, the Centres for Vocational Excellence or the European Universities alliances are funded under the Partnerships for Excellence and have a leading role in the transformation of education and training systems and delivering on the European Education Area objectives.



ULYSSEUS



Coordinating organisation:

**UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA,
Spain**

EU Grant:

€12 800 000

Ulyseus joint vision for 2030 is to have developed an excellency-recognized, internationally attractive, open to the world, persons-centred and entrepreneurial European Universities alliance for the citizens of the future. The Ulyseus alliance integrates eight diverse universities, including partner from Montenegro. From the North to the South, from the oldest to the youngest, from comprehensive to specialized business and technical universities, from established, research-based universities to experts in entrepreneurship and academic innovation, this diversity is Ulyseus core strength. Ulyseus uses a STEAM approach, to their joint educational activities. They combine specific and interdisciplinary training with high level green & digital skills, languages, critical thinking, creativity, innovation, leadership and entrepreneurship as key transversal skills to provide solutions to global problems. They have set up several innovation hubs, for instance on applied artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, robotics, sustainable energy and transport and mobilities for smart cities.

Project ID: [101124733](#)



EULEP - European Learning Experience Platform



Coordinating organisation:

EUROCHAMBRES,
Belgium

EU Grant:

€3 940 376

EULEP is the European Learning Experience Platform that brings together 20 organisations from 8 countries, working together to make C-VET more attractive for lifelong learning, offer businesses new and tailor-made training modules that correspond to their skills needs in innovation oriented subjects (artificial intelligence, virtual reality and social innovation), establish or reinforce knowledge triangles at regional and national level thanks to the triangulation business - VET provider - European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH), embed VET in regional economic development strategies and reinforce its governance, putting it on a sustainable path.

The project activities target directly VET providers, companies, potential VET learners from different horizons, EDIHs, public authorities and other stakeholders involved in the VET governance process or dealing with VET more widely.

Project ID: [101056320](#)



SpicE - Special Education STEAM Academy



Coordinating organisation:

HELLENIC OPEN
UNIVERSITY, Greece

EU Grant:

€1 486 729

The project aims to enhance Primary Education Teachers' ability to implement effective STEAM instruction for protecting students with Mild Disabilities from educational and social exclusion. STEAM is used both as the means and as the purpose for enabling a much-needed shift in Special Education in Primary Education both at an in-service and pre-service level. It sought to uplift barriers for a significant number of students that are silently, slowly, and indirectly marginalised from the early stages of European school systems due to the lack of Teachers' STEAM skills and the lack of a methodological liaison between STEAM and Special Education educational models.

The goal of the project is to design a STEAM in Special Education Competence Framework (identify skills gaps and map them to existing and new job profiles), develop an Educational Programme (identify proper didactical approaches and map skills to educational goals of a curriculum), develop, pilot and evaluate the corresponding Training Programme in four pilot countries.

Project ID: [101056159](#)

The four priorities of Erasmus+

Inclusion and Diversity

The Commission has established dedicated measures to increase the inclusiveness and diversity of the Erasmus+ programme for the period 2021-2027⁷. The Inclusion and Diversity Strategy⁸ provides guidance to reinforce this dimension in the programme, and since 2022 has given a solid base for the National Agencies' inclusion and diversity plans.

Environment and Climate Change

The Erasmus+ programme is a key instrument for building knowledge, skills, and attitudes on climate change and supporting sustainable development within the European Union and beyond. It supports the green transition, for example, by promoting the incorporation of green practices in all projects. In line with the European Green Deal, the programme encourages participants to use lower-carbon transport as an alternative to airplanes.

Digital Transition

To support the digital transformation in a human-centric manner and address societal challenges such as AI or disinformation more effectively, Europe needs education and training systems that are fit for the digital age. The Erasmus+ programme can play a key role in supporting citizens

of all ages in acquiring the digital skills and competences they need to live, learn, work, exercise their rights, be informed, access online services, communicate, critically consume, create and disseminate digital education content. It also supports the digitalisation of Europe's education sector by encouraging the digital management of student mobility workflows and the adoption of interoperability standards developed in the context of the European Student Card Initiative.

Democratic Participation

The Erasmus+ programme aims to encourage citizens' participation in democratic processes and improve knowledge about the European Union. The programme aims to help participants overcome the difficulties in actively engaging and playing their part in their communities or in the Union's political and social life. Moreover, the programme focuses on raising awareness and understanding of the European Union context, notably as regards the common EU values. Based on the Public Consultation⁹ carried out in the context of the Erasmus+ interim evaluation in the last quarter of 2023, the programme horizontal priorities are confirmed as "extremely relevant" to the current needs and challenges of our society by more than 70% of the respondents.

⁷ The framework of inclusion measures of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes 2021-2027

⁸ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/implementation-guidelines-erasmus-and-european-solidarity-corps-inclusion-and-diversity-strategy>

⁹ [Erasmus+ 2021-27 interim evaluation & Erasmus+ 2014-20 final evaluation \(europa.eu\)](#)

The background of the slide features a large, light blue circle in the center, which is slightly offset to the right. This circle is set against a dark blue background that is composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent circles of varying shades of blue, creating a layered, tunnel-like effect.

Erasmus+ in numbers

The programme in numbers

The Erasmus programme was launched in 1987, only in higher education. The current programme structure was set up in 2014 to include all EU schemes for education, training, youth and sport. It is one of the European Commission flagship programmes and a success story since its beginning.

Mobility of individuals: continuous increase since 1987

At the end of 2023, the number of participants in mobility activities since 1987 reached 15.1 million.

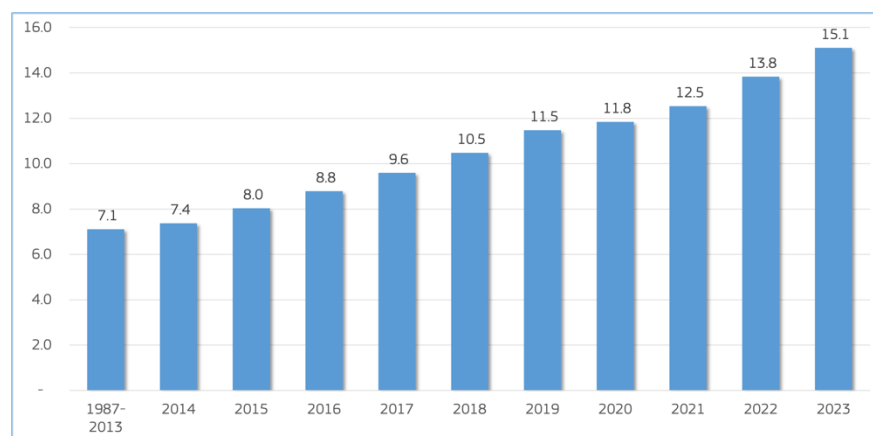


Figure 1 –Participants in mobility activities under the Erasmus+ programme and its predecessors since 1987¹⁰

¹⁰ More data are available here: “Data visualisations on Erasmus+ – Erasmus+”

¹¹ The impact was particularly strong in 2020 with around 60% fewer mobilities than the average of the previous years 2016-2019. In the first half of 2021, the respective percentage was 30%.

Leaving behind the atypical period of 2020 and the first half of 2021, when cross-border learning mobility was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic¹¹, the programme continued to be at cruising speed with close to 1.3 million participants undertaking mobility activities in 2023.¹²

¹² Over 1.2 million participants in 2022.

Projects contracted

The 2021-2027 Erasmus+ programme¹³ has been built on the success of the 2014-2020 programme and its predecessors, keeping substantial stability and continuity in the programme structure and management modes.



Figure 2 - Number of projects contracted across budget years, grants in billion

Although the programme funding was nearly doubled over the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) covering 2021-2027 period, the financial allocation changes from year to year. In 2023, more than EUR 4 billion grants were allocated to implementing projects.

Organisations involved

After the lower budget in 2021, resulting in fewer organisations being involved, 2023 continued to see an increase in the number of participations of organisations across sectors.

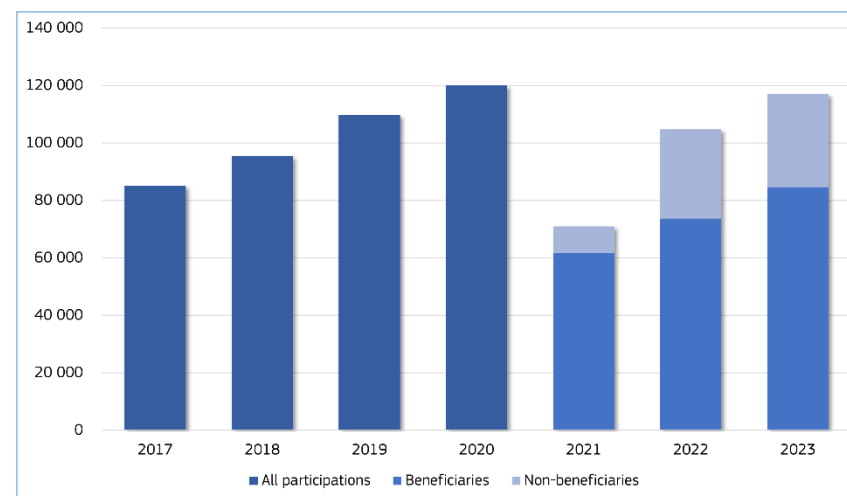


Figure 3 - Number of participations of organisations involved per year

¹³ Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth

and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 (OJ L189/1, 28.5.2021): [EUR-Lex - 32021R0817 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/817/oj).

The programme in 2023

A reinforced budget tackling new challenges

The budget for the programme is a key tool to face the increasingly complex global challenges the new decade has presented. Strengthening resilience and supporting recovery and innovation in the fields of education, training, youth and sport were high on the agenda of the intense negotiations on the EU's long-term budget at the end of 2020.

These negotiations resulted in a major agreement on an indicative envelope of **more than EUR 26 billion for the programming period 2021-2027¹⁴**, nearly doubling in size as compared to the previous seven years. In addition, the programme benefits from a **further EUR 2.2 billion from the EU's external cooperation policy instruments¹⁵** as well as contributions from EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries belonging to the European Economic Area and other non-EU participating countries.

More than **EUR 28 billion**
for the programming period 2021-2027

(EUR 26 billion from Erasmus+ budget

+

EUR 2.2 billion from External Cooperation Instruments)

¹⁴ The Erasmus+ programme budget is made of EUR 24.574 billion in current prices as part of the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 and an additional top-up of EUR 1.7 billion in 2018 prices, stemming from fines for infringements of EU competition law.

¹⁵ Neighbourhood, Development and Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA III)

The Erasmus+ budget in 2023

The programme started in an exceptionally difficult context marked by the COVID-19 outbreak, due to the mobility of learners and staff being a flagship activity of Erasmus+.

In 2023, Erasmus+ succeeded to implement about EUR 4.5 billion (including EUR 367 million from external cooperation policy instruments¹⁶ and EUR 419 million from other fund sources¹⁷).

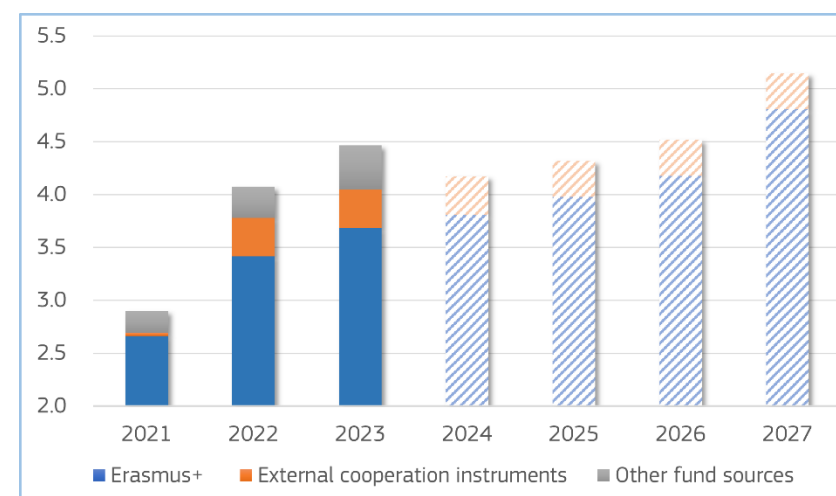


Figure 4 - Erasmus+ Financial Programming per year (billion EUR)

¹⁶ Appropriations for the 2023 financial year (EU budget)

¹⁷ Other fund sources (which include the financial contributions from the participation of EFTA and other non-EU associated countries, and used recoveries) are defined and allocated on a yearly base and therefore cannot be forecasted for the whole period.

How the budget is managed

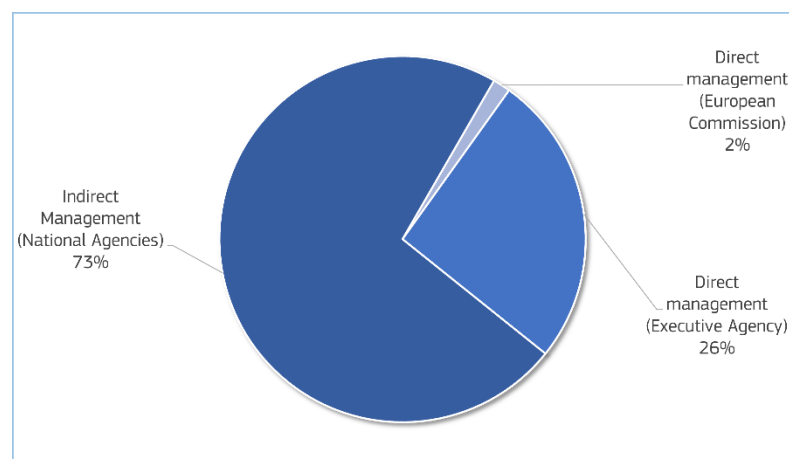


Figure 5 - Erasmus+ budget commitments 2023 per management mode

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) is responsible for the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme. It manages the budget and sets priorities, targets and criteria for the programme on an on-going basis. Furthermore, it guides and monitors the general implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the programme as well as the **direct management of certain actions (1.6%)**.

The Commission's European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) is also responsible for the implementation of some centralised actions of the Erasmus+ programme under **direct management (26%)**. However, the European Commission delegates significant implementation tasks to National Agencies established in each Member State, third countries associated to the programme and international organisations,

which means that **73% of the budget is implemented through indirect management**.

Funding distribution per sector

The actions implemented under the Erasmus+ programme are distributed in different sectors depending on the area of action. The Education and Training sector, which includes Higher Education, Vocational Education and Training, School Education, Adult Learning and Cross-sectoral (actions which cannot be classified in a particular sector) received the largest budget share, with over 74% of the commitments in 2023. The Youth sector received almost 9% for the same period. The remaining budget was distributed between Jean Monnet Actions, Sport, International Cooperation, as well as essential administrative expenditure (including financial support to National Agencies as a contribution to their management costs).

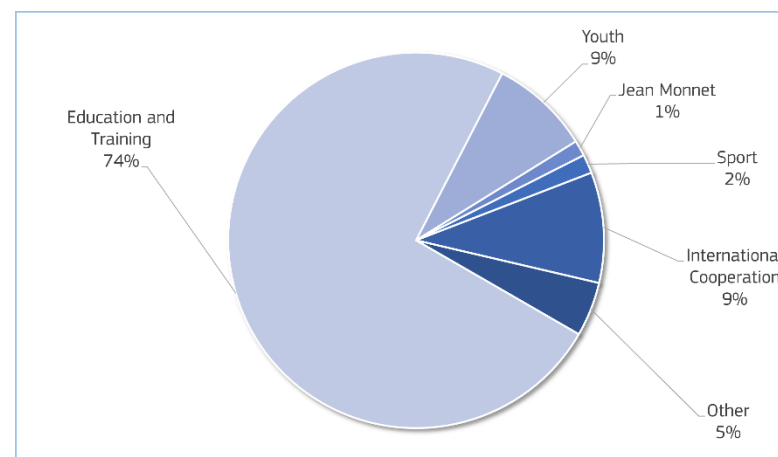


Figure 6 - Erasmus+ budget commitments 2023 per sector

Distribution per key action

As mentioned above, the Erasmus+ programme is applied through different actions, which at the same time act as indicators to assess the performance of the programme throughout its implementation. These key actions are as follows:

- **Key Action 1 (KA1):** Learning mobility of individuals
- **Key Action 2 (KA2):** Cooperation among organisations and institutions
- **Key Action 3 (KA3):** Support to policy development and cooperation
- **Jean Monnet Actions**

Following previous years' trends, the combined allocation to Key Action 1 and Key Action 2 remained stable overall with almost 80% in 2023 compared to 79% in 2022. In 2023, the budget share for external cooperation instruments represented 10%. This will remain stable until the end of the programme in 2027.

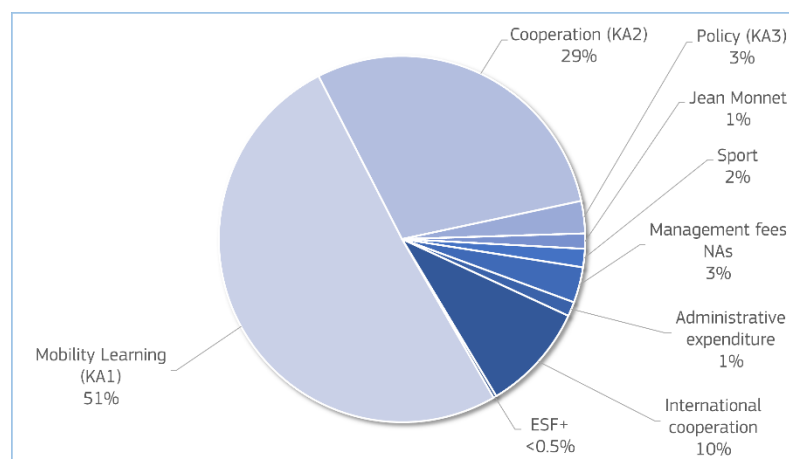
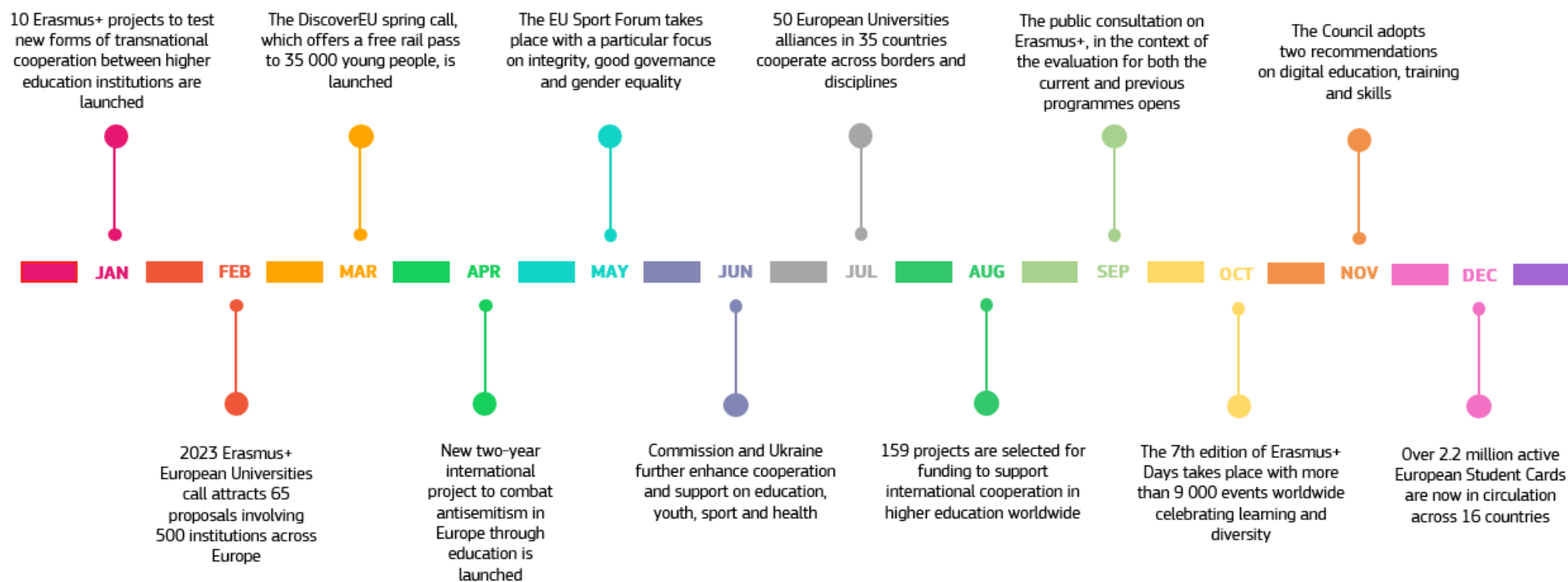


Figure 7 – Erasmus+ budget commitments 2023 per Key Action

Main achievements and activities of Erasmus+ in 2023



Erasmus+ evaluation

2023 marked the beginning of the **evaluation of Erasmus+ 2021-2027**, which is performed as combined evaluation, covering both the interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 programme and the final evaluation of the previous 2014-2020 programme, as stated in the Erasmus+ regulation¹⁸. The evaluation process started in March 2023 and reached full speed in the second half of the year.

The public consultation was launched after summer and closed at the beginning of December, collecting more than 1 200 contributions from all over the world and 66 position papers from citizens and organisations.

In parallel to the public consultation, several targeted stakeholder consultations have been conducted between September and the end of the year, with the purpose of gathering evidence on both the current and previous Erasmus+ programme from all interested parties, including non-participants, and address the five evaluation criteria (i.e. the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value of Erasmus+). The targeted consultation activities included beneficiaries' surveys, surveys of National Agencies/EACEA, surveys of experts in charge of assessing Erasmus+ projects, and about 300 interviews with key stakeholders at national, European and international level.

In 2023, national coordinators have also been nominated by the competent national authorities to coordinate the evaluation process at national level.

EU Member States and the other countries associated to the programme have been working in parallel, preparing evaluation reports on the implementation and impact of the programme at national level, to contribute to the EU evaluation.

The outcomes and recommendations of the evaluation will be an important contribution to feed into the preparation of the successor of Erasmus+ after 2027.

The new Erasmus+ monitoring and evaluation framework¹⁹ was also adopted in 2023: it supplements the indicators set up since 2021 and comes in support of this evaluation, and future monitoring, allowing a more accurate measurement of the different dimensions of the programme.



"I am a huge fan of Erasmus! I truly believe it is the best Programme of the EU, because I have seen its amazing impact on schools, teachers and students. It also helps to build bridges across nations and serves as one of the most important tools for the peacebuilding education. Its value cannot be overrated."

Anonymous



¹⁸ Article 24(2) of the 2021-2027 Erasmus+ Regulation.

¹⁹ [Commission delegated regulation C\(2023\) 6073 final](#)

European Year of Skills

The European Year of Skills launched in May 2023 significantly contributed to the further implementation of the **Skills Agenda and the Council Recommendation on Vocational Education and Training**. The topics of Individual Learning Accounts (ILA), micro-credentials, Centres of Vocational Excellence, Pact for Skills, apprenticeships, skills for the digital and green transition, skills-first approach, and the role of available EU funding featured prominently at the flagship events.

The Commission has embedded some of the above topics into Erasmus+ calls for proposals. For example, in the “forward-looking cooperation Projects” under the 2023 Erasmus+ call, to develop micro-credentials, promote attractiveness of VET, establish registries of labour market relevant and quality assured learning opportunities, which can be embedded in ILA schemes and support the Pact for Skills partnerships. **Centres of Vocational Excellence** (CoVEs), under Erasmus+ funding, are gaining momentum and a new wave of 15 projects have been awarded under the 2023 call. Also, additional Erasmus+ funding is very relevant for the European Year of Skills. For example, the projects of the national Coordinators for Adult Learning (Erasmus+ Key Action 3, 2023) also give the possibility to implement activities at national level, and promote a comprehensive approach, for example in support of the establishment of ILA schemes.

The European Year of Skills achieved significant results already in 2023 and created the basis for future efforts. Flagship events such as “The European Year of Skills Festival”, “Making Skills Count”, “The VET Week” have brought together stakeholders from across Europe to discuss shared challenges and solutions. 50 National Coordinators from 38 countries

played a pivotal role in implementing the European Year of Skills across Europe. Many set up national websites with dedicated information on skills and communication campaigns on the Year. Feedback from the National Coordinators, social partners and other stakeholders indicates that the Year has generated momentum and placed skills high on the priority list of public and private actors.

Legacy of the European Year of Youth

The European Year of Youth 2022 put young people high on the political agenda. More than 2 700 different stakeholders contributed to the objectives of the Year by organising more than 13 000 activities in 67 countries. The wide mobilisation of diverse actors in preparing and implementing the Year resulted in new partnerships at all levels, which will positively affect youth cooperation for years to come. As follow up and legacy of the Year, and in line with the 2019-2027 EU Youth Strategy, the Commission has decided to take forward 60 actions in two key areas: giving young people a stronger voice in EU policymaking and addressing youth concerns across policy areas. Initiatives include the introduction of a youth check in the Commission, strengthening of the EU Youth Dialogue, launch of EU Youth Stakeholders Group and internal Commission Youth Network.

Support to Ukraine

Erasmus+ continues to play a key role in the framework of the Commission's reactions to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine since its beginning in February 2022. The Commission immediately took action in a variety of ways to support Ukrainian pupils, students, young people, teachers, educators, and professors through the Erasmus+ programme, encouraging the mobilisation of on-going projects and of upcoming initiatives. The Erasmus+ stakeholder community was very quickly mobilised on the ground in support of the people fleeing the war and the programme showed once again its flexibility.

In 2023, the programme continued providing meaningful support to projects addressing the consequences of the war. In particular, the budget 2023 benefitted from EUR 100 million, being frontloaded from the Erasmus+ financial programming from 2027, to further boost in particular cooperation partnerships actions. As a result, the exceptional opening up of learning mobility opportunities for participants from Ukraine set up since the start of the war was prolonged and a dedicated priority was introduced for each sector under the KA2 2023 call to attract projects aiming to implement, share and promote inclusive approaches and practices targeting learners and staff fleeing the war. 116 projects who chose to focus their activities on such priority have been awarded.

Overall, 549 projects involving Ukrainian organisations were contracted in 2023. In the same period, more than 11 000 Ukrainian nationals participated in Erasmus+ learning mobilities. Furthermore, a special call for proposals worth EUR 5 million has been included under Capacity Building in Higher Education with the aim of creating an open education digital environment to offer quality higher education for displaced

students enrolled in Ukrainian Higher Education institutions, allowing them to continue their university studies. This led to the selection of a project led by the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and involving several universities from Member States. Such a digital environment will also benefit the wider Ukrainian community abroad and will be based on cooperation between Ukrainian and other European universities. In addition, an Erasmus+ dissemination action supported the printing of around half a million schoolbooks (in Ukrainian language) delivered to Ukraine in July 2023.

Following the 2023 Erasmus+ European Universities call, European Universities alliances were cooperating with almost 30 higher education institutions in Ukraine as associated partners, a token of the alliances' strong commitment to offer mobility opportunities to Ukrainian student and staff members, and to help integrating Ukrainian institutions into the European higher education landscape. Moreover, two new actions under the international dimension of Erasmus+, namely Capacity Building for Sport and Capacity Building for Youth, were opened to Ukraine, as well as to other countries of the Eastern Neighbourhood region.

Among the selected projects as Centres of Vocational Excellence in 2023, 2 projects included partners from Ukraine, the H2Excellence project on hydrogen and the WIN4SMEs - Regional and International Education Partnerships for Workplace Innovation in SMEs.



IFU – Incubating Freedom for Ukraine



Coordinating organisation:

**Fundacja Edukacyjna
Perspektywy, Poland**

EU Grant:

€400 000

The war in Ukraine resulted in the emergence of millions war refugees in EU countries. The IFU project aims to help them acquire the skills sought on the job market, in particular those in IT. The goal of this project is to prepare EU HEIs strategy helping to re-train refugees and reduce the shortage of IT specialists in the EU and post-war Ukraine. As part of the IFU, reports will be prepared on refugees' employment in PL, CZ, HU, analyses of labour market for IT staff with basic skills. Pilot training courses will be conducted by academic partners.

Based on the research and the results of the courses, a strategy will be developed for EU universities to re-train refugees from Ukraine including "micro credentials". Two dissemination conferences will be organised and video tools prepared.

Project ID: [2023-1-PL01-KA220-VET-000161474](#)

Europe on the Move

On 15 November 2023, the Commission adopted the proposal for a Council Recommendation “Europe on the Move” – learning mobilities opportunities for everyone²⁰, as part of the Skills and Talent Mobility package. The proposal built on the evidence gathered from over 1 000 inputs in response to the call for evidence, the public consultation that the Commission ran between February-May 2023. Moreover, the European Citizens’ Panel on learning mobility, held in March-April, came up with 21 recommendations in April 2023 with particular focus on inclusion of people of all age groups, enhancing language learning and the provision of information on language learning opportunities.

Dozens of targeted information and consultation events and a dedicated study on “Supporting learning mobility: progress, obstacles and way forward” were undertaken in the preparatory phase. The proposal represents a key building block of the European Education Area (EEA). It aims at making learning mobility an integral part of all education and training pathways, to boost the share of people in the EU benefiting from a learning period abroad, and to increase the share of people with fewer opportunities, including disabled persons, in learning mobility. The proposal addresses a broad range of sectors, as well as new learning patterns, including the proliferation of digital tools and more environmentally sustainable mobility, and builds on the experience gained from existing exchange programmes, most notably Erasmus+.

²⁰ [Proposal for a Council Recommendation 'Europe on the Move' - learning mobility for everyone - Erasmus+ \(europa.eu\)](#)

Key figures of 2023

Nearly **32 000** projects have been contracted, supporting more than **84 500** (beneficiary) organisations from Member States and third countries associated to the programme as applicant or partner²¹.

Close to **1.3 million** learners and staff carried out a mobility activity in 2023 (individual and group mobility).

More than 200 000 participants with fewer opportunities were supported by the programme (**15.8%** of total participants).

By the end of year 2023, and **since 1987**, over **15.1 million** people had benefited from the programme actions supporting learning mobility.

Projects funded by the 2023 budget

Most of the projects (**95%**) are coordinated by 55 National Agencies distributed across programme countries. In terms of funding, this represents almost **76%** of the budget allocated to projects being indirectly managed by the National Agencies. The programme also provides support to management costs and other initiatives such as online platforms.

The financial support of the Higher Education field is the largest funding amount while School Education concentrates the highest number of projects with more than 10 700.

This distribution is in line with the EU regulation 2021/817²² establishing the programme for the period 2021-2027 and defining the allocation of budget per action. This is adjusted in line with the changes in political priorities every year.

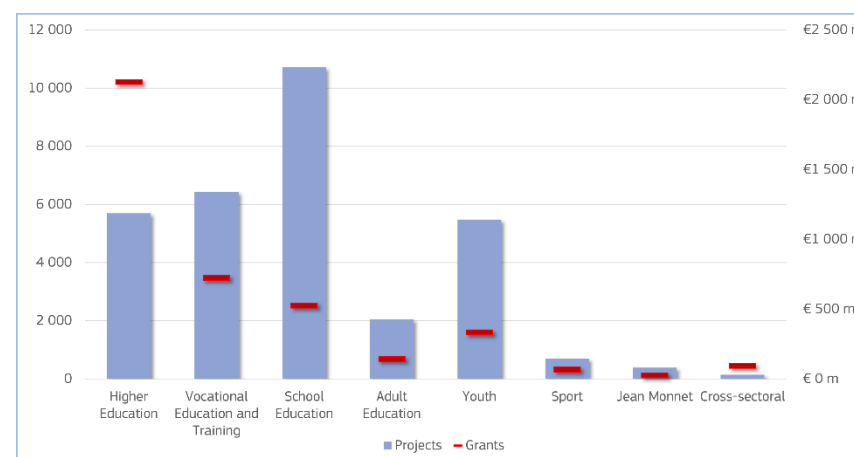


Figure 8 - Erasmus+ budget commitments 2023 per Key Action
(total project counts and grants in million)

²¹ This number shows the participations of beneficiary organisations in Erasmus+. An organisation can participate in several projects under the different actions of the programme.

²² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R0817>

Most of the Erasmus+ funded projects support learning mobility (61.5%) and cooperation (37.3%). Projects supporting policy development and cooperation and Jean Monnet Actions account for 1.2% (0.6% each action).

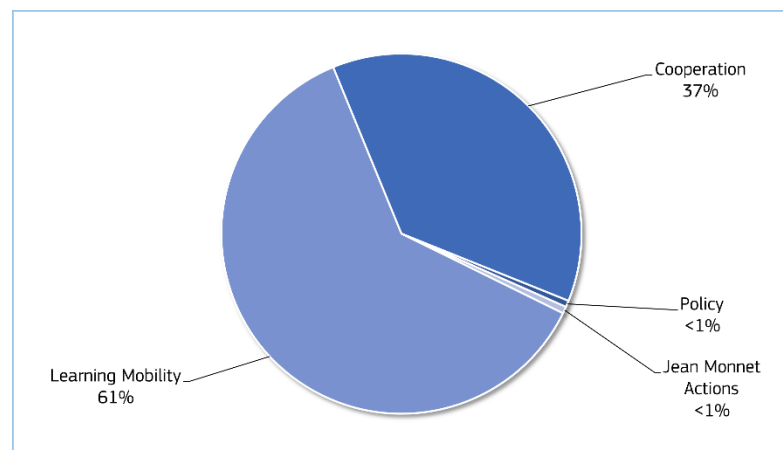


Figure 9 – Funded projects per action

Under the call 2023, co-funded mobility projects are expected to allow more than 1.3 (i.e., 1.318) million participants to take part in a mobility activity within the next few years²³.

This expected number of participants should not be confused with the number of participants in mobility activities carried out in 2023.²⁴ The latter amounts to almost 1.3 (i.e., 1. 269) million participants.

²³ A mobility project may last several years, and Erasmus+ supports participants during their entire mobility period.

²⁴ Mobility activities started between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 (projects funded under Calls 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023).

Involvement of organisations

The implementation of the programme, which is mostly known for its mobility element, would not be possible without the involvement of thousands of organisations across programme countries in all activities of the programme.

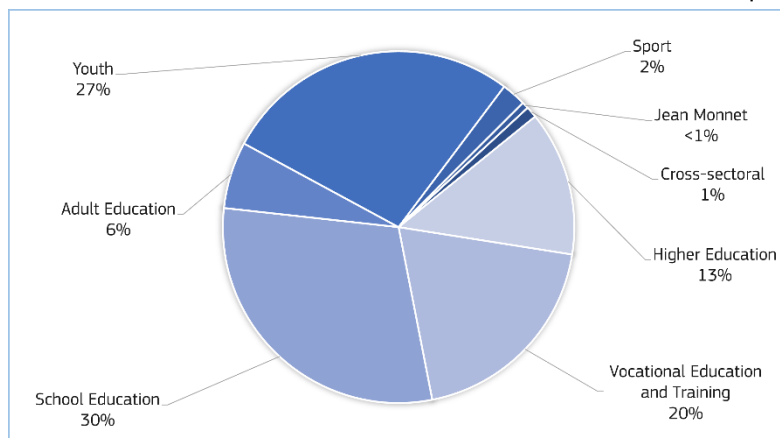


Figure 10 – Organisations participations per field

These organisations support participants with their mobility and also take part in numerous projects on cooperation and policy building in the domain of Education and Training.

In 2023, close to 63 900 unique organisations received funds from the programme.

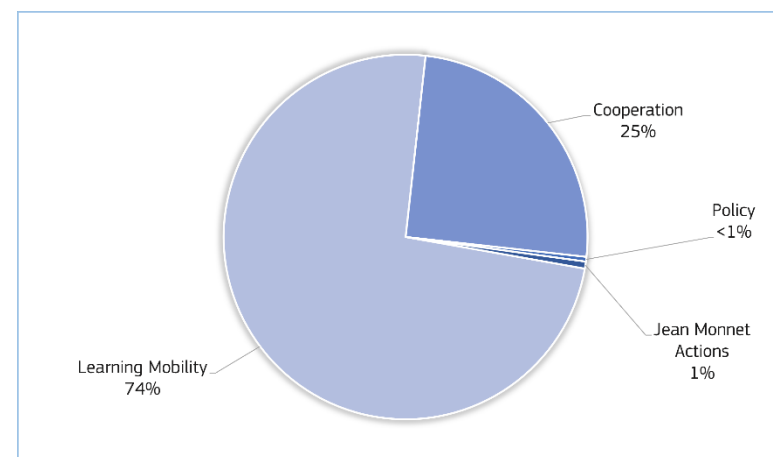


Figure 11 – Organisations participations per Key Action

The organisations involved can play different roles. The applicant organisation is responsible for the project's submission and coordination. Organisations can also take part in the programme as member of consortia partners in programme countries or partners in other countries anywhere in the world.

In 2023, Erasmus+ involved organisations from more than 180 countries for mobility activities.

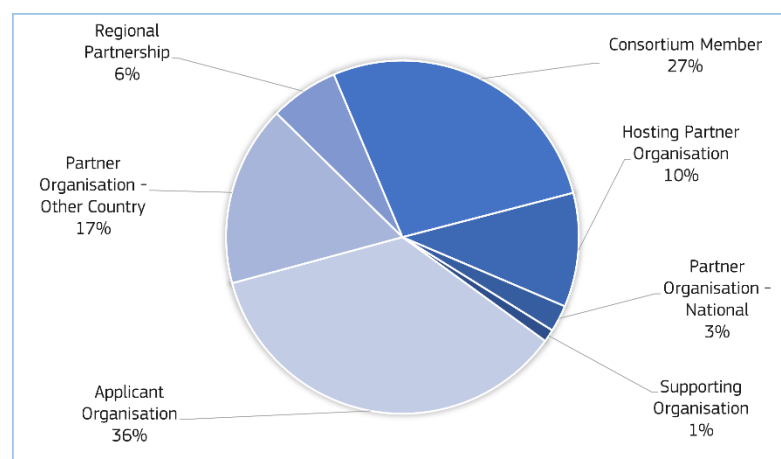


Figure 12 - Organisations per organisation role

With the current programme, the application process has been simplified to attract even more organisations. Almost half of them (43%) are part of education systems, but other types of organisations are involved.

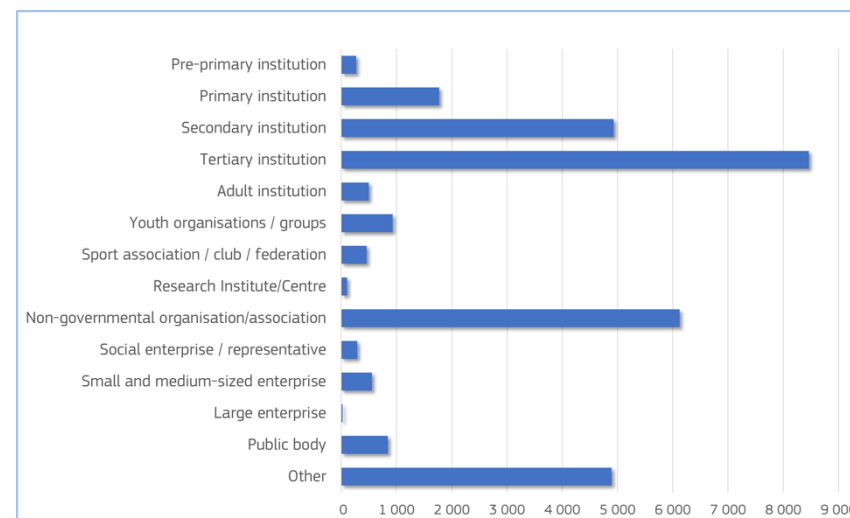


Figure 13 - Organisations per type – Applicants²⁵

²⁵ 'Other' includes: Accreditation, certification or qualification body, Counselling body, Foundation, National Youth Council, European grouping of territorial cooperation, as well as organisations which declared themselves as such at application stage. Pre-Primary,

Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and Adult Institutions include Schools, Institutes, and Educational centres.

Chart data displays applicant organisations for indirect management only.

Learning mobility: what happened in 2023

Key figures



Close to **1.3 million learners and staff** learning mobilities in 2023



16% participants with **fewer opportunities**²⁶



74% learners (26% staff)



60% women (39% men, others less than 1%)

With more than 367 100 participants and the highest budget, higher education learners represent the majority of participants who carried out a learning mobility period in 2023, followed by group mobility in schools (about 222 000 pupils) and VET (about 204 000 learners). Staff mobility amounts to nearly 319 000 participants.

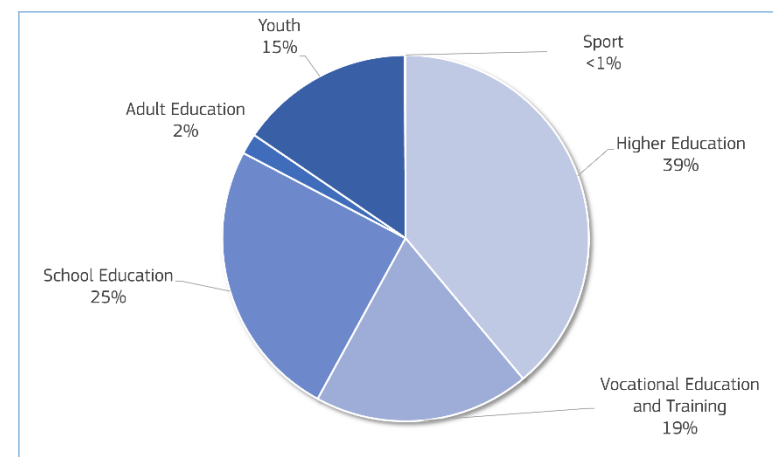


Figure 14 – Mobility in 2023 per field

²⁶ Participants with fewer opportunities, special needs, disadvantaged background, from outermost regions in mobility activities under Key Action 1.

Erasmus+ gender balance

Erasmus+ supports gender equality and encourages women to participate in mobility activities. In 2023, 60% of the provided mobility opportunities were taken up by women.

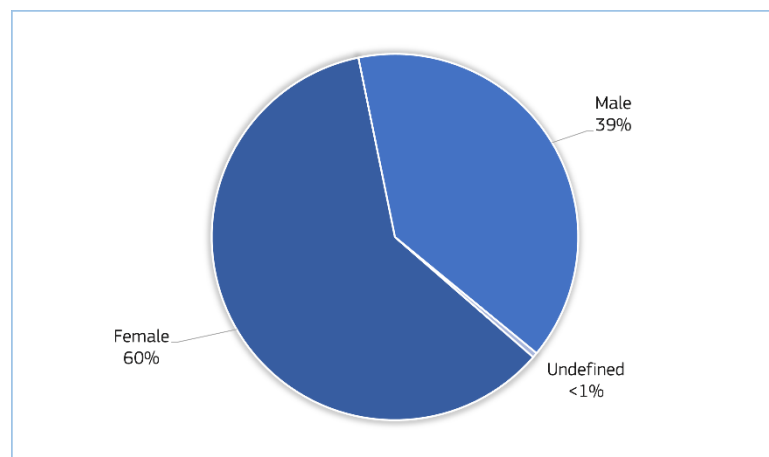


Figure 15 – Gender breakdown in Erasmus+

The gender distribution in mobility activities varies depending on the field of education, Adult Education has the highest percentage of women (70%), followed by School Education (67%), Higher Education (61%), Youth (58%) and VET (54%).

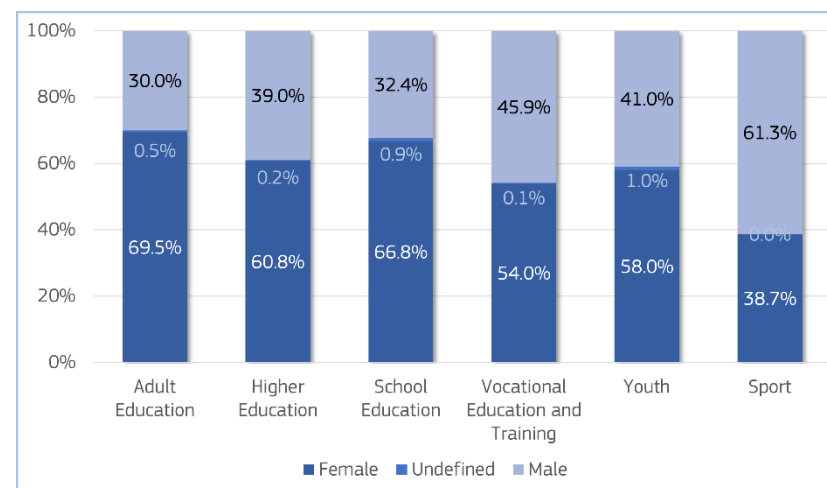


Figure 16 – Gender balance in Erasmus+ per field of education²⁷

²⁷ Mobility activities under Key Action 1 of the Erasmus+ programme.

Participants from the outermost regions

The number of participants from EU outermost regions (ORs) has steadily increased, with more than 9 130 participants (learners and staff) in mobility activities for the year of 2023. The largest number of participants is in the field of School Education (36%), followed by Higher Education (31%), Vocational Education and Training (19%), Youth (11%), and Adult Education (3%). The distribution of participants among the ORs is as follows: Canary Islands (49%), Réunion (29%), Martinique (6%), Azores, Guadeloupe, and Madeira (each 4%), French Guiana (2%), and Mayotte (1%).

Mobility activities in Key Action 1

An Erasmus+ mobility project may last several years. Consequently, participants starting their learning mobility during 2023 were supported by projects contracted between 2019 and 2023, spanning two Multiannual Financial Frameworks (MFFs).

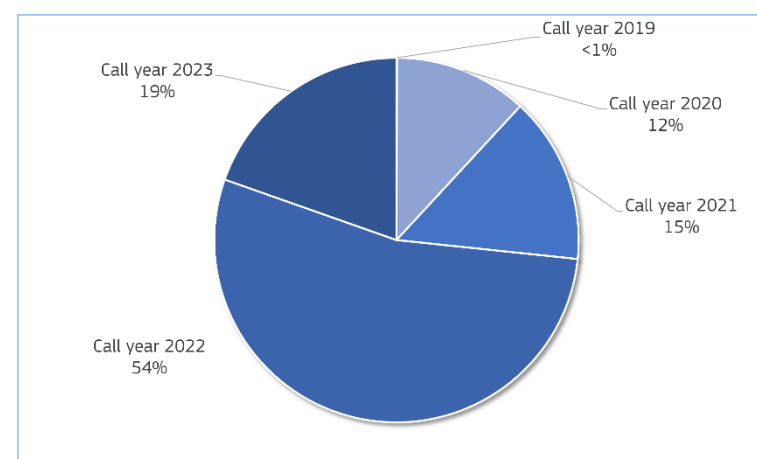


Figure 17 - Mobility funding in 2023, per call year

Upon application, organisations provide a number of expected participants for their projects. At the end of the project, the number of participants finally supported might be different from the estimation.

For simplicity, this document will always report on mobility activity using all activities taking place in 2023 merging data from various financial periods.

Where do participants go? Where are they coming from?

The programme supports mobility of learners and staff mainly across programme countries. The current programme introduced more flexibility for international mobility, the impact of which will be visible in the coming years.

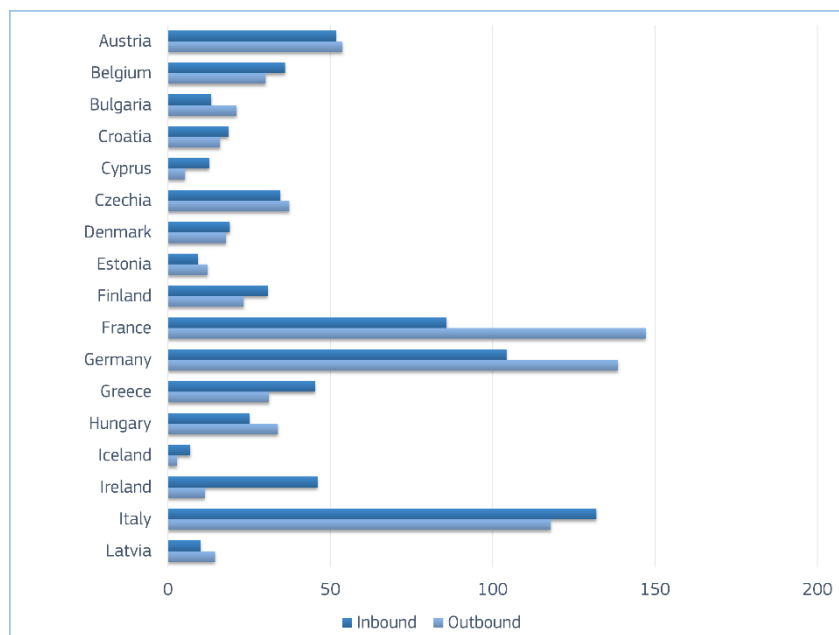


Figure 18 - Mobility flows in 2023 (thousands) – 1/2

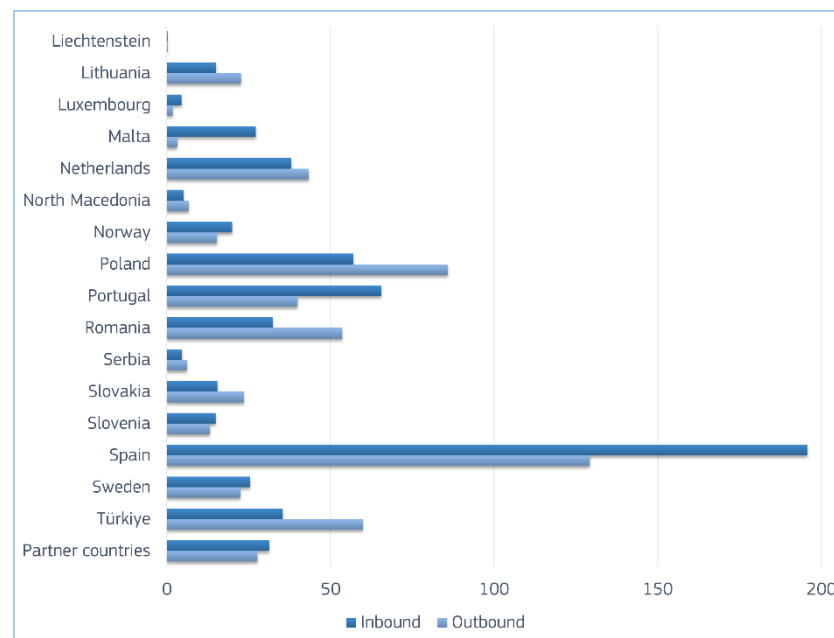


Figure 19 - Mobility flows in 2023 (thousands)²⁸ - 2/2

²⁸ Mobility periods from/to United Kingdom linked to ongoing projects from the 2014-2020 programme and later are included in Partner countries.

What do participants think about the outcomes of their learning mobility?

Every participant to a learning mobility activity has the opportunity to provide comprehensive feedback about the experience.

This valuable feedback helps the organisations, the National Agencies and the European Commission to improve the programme while providing deep insight about a programme inspiring people all over the world since 1987.

Out of participants having started a mobility activity in 2023,

97% of participants are either satisfied or very satisfied with their mobility.

99% of participants consider they have benefited from their participation in learning mobility.

98% would recommend the experience.

80% have improved their foreign language competence.

82% have increased their key competences.

62% think that they have better career opportunities, and **68%** have a better idea about their future career.

76% think that they have improved competences useful for their current work.

86% have received an academic recognition of their mobility.

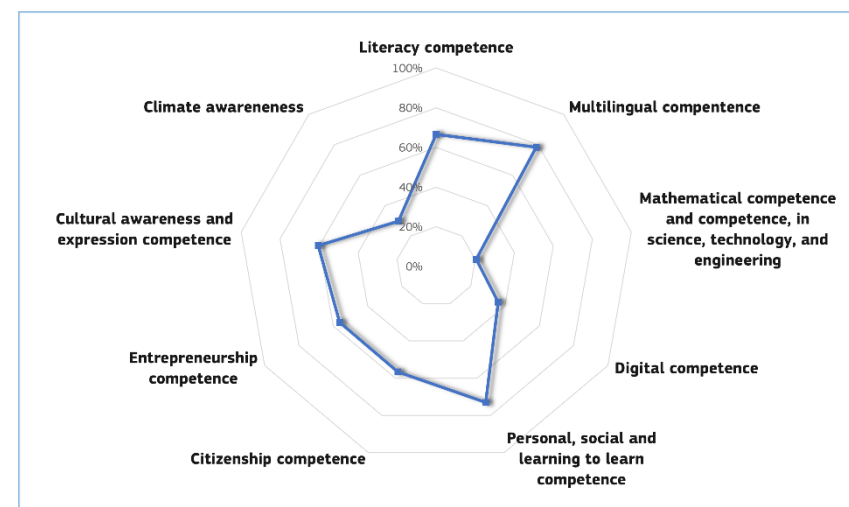


Figure 20 - Participants' feedback about their key competences improvement²⁹

²⁹ [Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning | European Education Area \(europa.eu\)](#), Climate has been separated from Citizenship competence.



Programme's Activities

Higher Education

Erasmus+ and its predecessor programmes have supported student mobility since 1987, making higher education mobility one of the top benefits of EU membership according to EU citizens.³⁰ It supports people wishing to study or train abroad and to projects fostering cross-border cooperation between higher education institutions.

Erasmus+ also fosters innovation and internationalisation in higher education, improving quality, curricula relevance, innovation in pedagogies, improving skills development, academic performance, employability³¹ and engagement with the EU, notably for learners with fewer opportunities. Approximately 90% of young Europeans believe it is important to have an experience abroad³². Accreditation to the **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)** is the entry ticket to Erasmus+, enabling higher education institutions to submit applications for **mobility and cooperation activities** for the whole Erasmus+ programme duration from call 2021 to 2027. Following applications from 2020, 2021 and 2022, approximately 5 440 higher education institutions were awarded the ECHE and thus eligible to apply to the 2023 calls.

Key figures in 2023

EUR 2 128 million³³ in contracted projects

68% managed by National Agencies



Projects funded³⁴

5 700

Beneficiary organisations³⁵

Over 11 000

Learning Mobility activities³⁶



Close to 494 000 participants



12% international learning mobility³⁷



19% learners with **fewer opportunities**

³⁰ [Standard Eurobarometer 88: Autumn 2017](#)

³¹ European Experts network on Economics of Education [EENEE_AR36.pdf](#)

³² [The European Education Area - May 2018 -- Eurobarometer survey \(europa.eu\)](#)

³³ Total Erasmus+ grants allocated to projects contracted under the 2023 budget. Policy represents less than 0.5%.

³⁴ Projects managed by the European Commission and 55 National Agencies

³⁵ Beneficiary organisations involved in the Erasmus+ projects (the number of participations).

³⁶ Learning mobility activities started between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023. Due to the implementation scheme of the programme, these activities may be funded by budget allocated to years 2019 to 2023 (a mobility project might last several years).

³⁷ Participants moving from/to third countries not associated to the Programme.

Highlights in 2023

Learning mobility of individuals – funding allocated in 2023 and mobility forecast

Through call 2023, Erasmus+ provided **EUR 1 333 million** to higher education institutions to support learning mobility of higher education students and staff. Thanks to the funds allocated in 2023, **495 500 participants** will undertake a mobility activity within the next few years – 383 500 student mobilities and 112 000 staff mobilities. These mobility activities are implemented through two actions: one action supports both transnational and international activities, while the other action has a specific international outreach ('International Credit Mobility').

When it comes to the transnational and international activities, the call 2023 resulted in **4 029 higher education mobility projects** for **443 000 students and staff** with a total Erasmus+ funding of EUR 1 126 million (an increase of around EUR 80 million compared to the previous call year). Of these projects, mobility consortia ran 184 mobility projects. Consortia are groups of institutions managing student and staff mobility together. Student mobility for studies was still the biggest activity in the Erasmus+ programme in 2023, accounting for EUR 653 million provided to fund 255 000 expected students, followed by traineeship mobility for EUR 221 million for around 102 000 expected students and recent graduates. Staff mobility received EUR 97 million of funding for 86 000 staff members who teach or receive training abroad. Finally, institutions received EUR 23 million to organise more than 3 000 blended intensive programmes that will stimulate blended student and staff mobility and the development of innovative learning and teaching methods.

For International Credit Mobility projects supported by EU external policy funds, under Call 2023, Erasmus+ continued funding allowing exchanges of higher education students and staff from/to other countries of the world. In 2023, the International Credit Mobility call resulted in **1 034 higher education mobility projects** with a total budget of approximately EUR 207 million. Thanks to the funds allocated in 2023 around **36 000 students and staff** from all over the world are expected to come to Europe and **16 000 European students and staff** are anticipated to go abroad to different third countries of the world.

Learning mobility of individuals – actual mobility activities in 2023 supported by EU internal policy funds

In 2023, 351 000 higher education student mobilities and 87 000 higher education staff mobilities were supported by Erasmus+ internal policy funds via calls 2021–2023.

Most of the mobile students in 2023 studied at Bachelor's level (60.2%), followed by 33.4% at Master's level, 2.9% at short cycle studies and 2.4% at doctoral level. The top three broad study fields were business, administration and law; arts and humanities; engineering, manufacturing and construction.

In terms of mobility activities started during the calendar year 2023 (but funded by call 2021, 2022 and 2023), the new features and priorities in the field of higher education mobility supported by internal policy funds were taken up well and progressed compared to 2022:

- **Inclusion and diversity: 17%** of higher education students and recent graduates received an Erasmus+ top-up grant in addition to their normal grant, due to persons belonging to a category of people with fewer opportunities as defined at national level. This

additional financial support helps ensure their inclusion as well as equal access and opportunities in participating in mobility activities. Overall, **19%** of Erasmus+ students were considered participants with fewer opportunities, close to the EU target (recipients of the Erasmus+ top-up grant, Erasmus+ inclusion support or a national top-up grant due to fewer opportunities).

- **Green transition: 14%** of higher education participants used sustainable means of transportation to travel to their mobility destinations ('green mobility').
- **Digital transition: 9%** of higher education students carried out a short-term blended mobility; almost 14 500 digital opportunity traineeships were undertaken to develop forward-looking advanced digital skills.
- **International dimension:** higher education projects may use up to 20% of the project funds for outgoing international student and staff mobility to any country in the world. As a result, **4%** of higher education participants went overseas (18 980 students and staff – without counting those from Ukraine), i.e. undertook outgoing international mobility. The number of carried out mobility activities to countries not associated to the Erasmus+ programme almost **doubled** in 2023 compared to 9 860 outgoing international student and staff mobilities in 2022 (3.3% share). The ten most popular destination countries in 2023 – in decreasing order – were the UK (38% of all mobilities to third countries not associated to the programme), Switzerland (9%), the United States of America (8%), Canada (6%), Japan (3%), South Korea, Mexico, Australia, Chile and Brazil. Overall, participants travelled to **134 third countries** not associated to the Erasmus+ programme (around 20

countries more than in 2022). About 2 300 incoming students and staff from Ukraine also received mobility grants.

- **Link between education and research: 2.4%** of higher education student mobilities were undertaken by doctoral candidates, including one third as the new short-term student mobility activity and two thirds as the traditional long-term student mobility.

According to **feedback** after their higher education mobility, Erasmus+ participants were generally satisfied or very satisfied with their mobility experience – mobile students at 94.5% and mobile staff at 98.7%.

In terms of **recognition** of mobility outcomes, 86.2% of the mobile students studying abroad had their credits fully and automatically recognised.

Higher education projects had a positive **impact** on participants in terms of skills and competence levels, including transversal skills, employability, social cohesion and interest in the EU and democratic engagement. Participant surveys showed that 90% of mobile students became more confident in their abilities and 93% became more able to adapt to and act in new situations. 88% of mobile students learned to better cooperate with people from other backgrounds and cultures and 82% became more tolerant towards other persons' values and behaviours. 77% of mobile students improved their competence in the language of studies or the traineeship workplace during their mobility (almost 20% were already fluent in this language). 91% of mobile staff improved their social, linguistic and/or cultural competencies during their stay abroad. Finally, 68% of mobile students became more interested in European topics.



EMAI – Erasmus Mundus Joint Master In Artificial Intelligence



Coordinating organisation:

**UNIVERSIDAD POMPEU
FABRA, Spain**

EU Grant:

€ 4 228 800

The EMAI Programme is a two-year (120 ECTS) Joint Master Degree that provides a comprehensive framework of theory and practice in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Programme, based in four European research universities, will give the students the foundational knowledge needed to explore both key contextual areas and complex technical applications of AI systems.

The four universities involved are top academic institutions representing world-leading research in Europe: Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona (Spain), Sapienza University of Rome in Rome (Italy), Radboud University in Nijmegen (The Netherlands), and University of Ljubljana in Ljubljana (Slovenia).

Project ID: [101082433](#)

Learning mobility of individuals – other sources of evidence

On policy level the Eurydice Network published the **Mobility Scoreboard: Higher education background report – 2022/2023**³⁸. The purpose of the report is to monitor progress made by European countries in promoting, and removing obstacles to, learning mobility. The report provides updated information on six scoreboard indicators in the areas of information and guidance, foreign language preparation, portability of grants and loans, support for disadvantaged learners, recognition of learning outcomes through the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and recognition of qualifications.

Cooperation among organisations and institutions

Partnerships for Cooperation

With a budget of EUR 116.5 million in 2023 (up from EUR 95 million in 2022), the National Agencies were able in 2023 to fund **352 cooperation partnerships in the field of higher education** (50 projects more than under call 2022).

Of these funded higher education cooperation projects, 24% addressed the topic of new learning and teaching methods and approaches; 21% digital content, technologies and practices; 21% new, innovative or joint curricula or courses; 18% environment and climate change; 15% digital skills and competences; 14% inclusion, promoting equality and non-discrimination; 12% green skills and 9% cooperation between educational

³⁸ <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/publications/mobility-scoreboard-higher-education-background-report-20222023>

institutions and business. While most of the top topics remained the same with a similar distribution year, funded projects addressed more green transition-related topics than in the previous call.

European Universities Initiative

European Universities – supported by Erasmus+ – are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions (9 on average per alliance), developing long-term structural and systemic cooperation, across all their missions (education, research, and innovation at the service of society) for the benefit of their students, staff and communities.

The European Universities initiative bring higher education institutions from all parts of Europe cooperate together, as never before, with the potential to bring Europeans closer together, and better understand each other. This is key to maintain peace in Europe, in a world that is more and more polarised, and in a more and more complex geopolitical world. The key added-value of European Universities alliances is also their capacity to provide students access to a richer education offer and allow students to develop a broader, future-oriented set of skills and competences across their inter-university campus, where students can get access to all courses available at each participating institution, be it on-line or physical. They bring together a new generation of Europeans to study and work in different European countries, in different languages, and across sectors and academic disciplines. Students can obtain a high-level degree by combining studies in several European countries.

Thirty (30) European Universities alliances have been selected under the 2023 Erasmus+ call, further supporting the rollout of the European Universities initiative. Together with the 20 alliances selected in 2022, this meant a total of 50 European Universities alliances funded under

Erasmus+, involving more than 430 higher education institutions from 35 countries. They were cooperating with almost 1 700 associated partners ranging from non-governmental organisations, enterprises, cities local and regional authorities, bringing innovation to Europe's regions.

The 2023 call opened the possibility to higher education institutions from Western Balkans countries, not associated to the Erasmus+ programme to participate as full partners in the call. As a result, higher education institutions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro have joined the initiative, on top of those from North Macedonia and Serbia. Also, as in 2022, alliances could involve higher education institutions from Bologna Process countries as associated partners, including from Ukraine.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters

Call 2023 received more applications in Erasmus Mundus than the previous year: 93 for Joint Masters (58 in 2022) and 146 for the Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (113 in 2022). The budget available allowed for the selection of 34 Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters and 58 Erasmus Mundus Design Measures projects in the run up to the 20th Anniversary of Erasmus Mundus. In parallel, the Erasmus Mundus Support Initiative was launched in 2023 with a series of activities to support the exchange of experiences between the projects. This included the creation of the [EM Community](#), and the annual conference on the topic of “[Awarding Joint Degrees](#)”.

Over 2 800 students from all over the world received scholarships to start their masters in the academic year 2023-2024. The following table shows the top 5 countries in number of scholarship recipients.

Ranking	Country	Results from 95 EMJMDs	Results from 55 EMJMs	TOTAL
1	Pakistan	126	68	194
2	India	126	51	177
3	Bangladesh	90	40	130
4	Mexico	82	36	118
5	Nigeria	70	46	116

Alliances for Innovation

The **Alliances for Innovation** action builds on the actions of Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skills Alliances of the previous programming period. The Alliances are organised in two lots: Lot One ‘The Alliances for Education and Enterprises’ and Lot Two ‘The Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills’. 351 applications were submitted under Call 2023. 37 projects have been selected: 32 for Lot One and 5 for Lot Two. The selection rate has slightly increased to 10,5%; this once again confirms the high interest in the call and the high level of competition.



T.E.S.T.: Technologies for STEAM Teaching



Coordinating organisation:

**UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI
SIENA, Italy**

EU Grant:

€ 320 373

The TEST. project emerged from the need to address key challenges in the field of education, particularly the urgency to modernise learning and teaching in STEAM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) through the integration of innovative methodologies and digital technologies. With the advancement of Artificial Intelligence and the growing need for digital skills in the job market, it has become essential for educational institutions to offer an education that not only conveys traditional knowledge but also promotes digital competencies, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the need for flexible teaching methods and distance learning, highlighting the importance of adaptive educational approaches capable of meeting diverse student needs.

This context motivated the application for the TEST project, aiming to develop and implement open educational resources (OER), toolkits for adaptive teaching, and to promote the effective use of digital technologies in higher education, addressing existing gaps and contributing to the training of more prepared and versatile future professionals.

Project ID: [2021-1-IT02-KA220-HED-000032085](#)

Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)

Erasmus+ **Capacity Building in Higher Education** action projects, which last from two to three years, are aimed at modernising and reforming higher education institutions and systems in third countries, developing new curricula, improving governance, and building relationships between higher education and enterprises. They can also tackle policy topics and issues, preparing the ground for higher education reform, in cooperation with national authorities. The third selection of projects in the 2021-2027 phase was made in 2023. Out of 790 applications, 161 projects were selected. These are open to ten regions, namely Western Balkans, Neighbourhood East, South Mediterranean, Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Forward-looking Projects

The **forward-looking projects** were part of the Erasmus+ call 2023. They aim to identify, develop, test and/or assess innovative (policy) approaches that have the potential of becoming mainstreamed, thus improving education and training systems. For 2023, they were organised under three lots. The first covered digital education; the second involved two priorities for vocational education and training. The third lot focused on adult education. In total, 91 applications were received and 39 projects with an overall budget of EUR 29.4 million were funded.

Policy support, platforms and tools

Erasmus+ policy experimentation projects piloting a joint European degree (label) and institutionalised EU cooperation instruments

Following a mandate received in the Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation, the Commission launched an Erasmus+ call to test new forms of transnational cooperation between higher education institutions. In January 2023, 10 pilot projects were selected and started their one year project in Spring 2023. Six of the selected projects examined, tested and facilitated the delivery of a joint European Degree (label). The label would be a step towards a European degree, spanning several EU Member States, and designed to encourage student mobility and cooperation. The label would reflect the skills and learning outcomes acquired by students who have followed a joint programme in several institutions and in several countries, in several languages, benefiting from the mobility opportunities of this programme and transdisciplinary pedagogical approaches. The other four projects allowed alliances of higher education institutions, such as 'the European Universities', to test new forms of cooperation, such as a possible European legal status for these alliances. The outcomes of these 10 projects have inspired the [Blueprint for a European Degree](#), presented by the European Commission in March 2024

Eurograduate survey

The Eurograduate 2022 survey took place in 2023, and resulted in over 100 000 replies provided by higher education graduates from the 17 countries participating. For several countries this was their first experience

monitoring graduate outcomes, including the social outcomes of higher education. Analysis of graduate experiences and outcomes on the labour market is important for guiding higher education institutions in the monitoring and improvement of their programmes and teaching methods. Such information is also very relevant for quality assurance purposes and helps future students to make better choices for their studies and career plans.

HEInnovate

HEInnovate continued to be a popular platform for higher education institutions (HEIs) to assess their own innovation and entrepreneurship capacities. Over 1 800 HEIs have so far used the tool to evaluate and enhance their performance. HEInnovate continued to run a series of workshops and Train the Trainers sessions for practitioners. There are also regular webinars on topics linked to higher education and innovation which are well attended. In 2023, a revised version of the HEInnovate website was launched, including in particular recommendations for action as a follow-up to the self-assessment.

Higher Education for Smart Specialisation (HESS IV)

Work on **HESS IV** with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) continued throughout 2023, attempting to enhance links between the capacity of higher education with regional innovation eco-systems and develop smart specialisation strategies. In 2023, the JRC finalised research on human capital in European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) and Skills for Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3).

Three EU initiatives (European Institute of Innovation and Technology HEI Initiative, European Universities and Knowledge Alliances) supporting the contribution of higher education to territorial development were also analysed to determine the extent of their impact. The increasing integration of HEIs into territorial policymaking has been a clear result across the three initiatives. They contributed to the systemic transformation of universities, strengthening institutional capacity and the alignment of the different HEI missions. Greatest impact resulted from ex-ante preparation and mapping against local strategies, challenges and skills needs. A closing event was held in December 2023.

Education and Innovation Practice Community

In 2023, the **Education and Innovation Practice Community** - in partnership with the OECD - continued to cultivate the competencies needed to drive innovation and foster the digital and green transition through webinars, international peer-learning workshops, analytical reports and innovation bulletins. This community consists of around 1 000 members (including all EU countries), bringing together higher education institutions with businesses and policy makers to discuss education for innovation, as foreseen under the New European Innovation Agenda. It consists of three strands of work: (i) higher education and school innovation (finalised in 2023), (ii) programme innovation in higher education, (iii) adult learners' upskilling and reskilling for innovation.

Education and Innovation Summit

On 27 June 2023, the second edition of the **European Education and Innovation Summit** entitled "Nurturing Europe's talents, shaping the future" took place in Brussels in a hybrid format. It successfully gathered

more than 200 participants onsite, around 800 online, and it generated an impressive interest on social media accounts, reaching over 1 million people. The summit was designed as a forum to discuss challenges and progress towards the objectives outlined in the New European Innovation Agenda and the European strategy for universities. It also provided opportunities to share best practices, build bridges and strengthen cooperation amongst the education and innovation communities including the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), HEInnovate, the European Universities alliances, and the Education and Innovation Practice Community.

European Student Card Initiative

The **European Student Card Initiative** (ESCI) facilitates student mobility by digitising and standardising data exchanges across higher education institutions and establishing a single European student identity for cross-border access to student services in the European Education Area. The uptake of its key components –the Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) network, the Erasmus+ Mobile App and the European Student Card– has continued to increase through 2023. By the end of 2023, higher education institutions (HEIs) had increased the digital exchanges of learning agreements and inter-institutional agreements significantly. This is the result of community efforts and several support measures undertaken during the year, including the publication of new user guides, support of relationship managers, debugging workshops and other measures. The Erasmus+ App was updated with an improved user experience for students.

ESCI represents a shared effort by Europe's higher education community to digitise and modernise core processes whose impact goes beyond the

management of student mobility. This is reflected in the testimonials shared by *Erasmus Without Paper Champions*. This group of 49 higher education institutions across 26 countries was set up in December 2023 to showcase good practices in exchanging information through the EWP network and overcoming the challenges associated to the digital transformation³⁹.

In 2023, a governance structure was established around the European Student Card to collect structured input on the most relevant functionalities, services and card technology for students, higher education institutions, card issuers and service providers.

During 2023, the cooperation with the Digital Officers in Erasmus+ National Agencies and National Authorities was enhanced, with a first physical meeting since the pandemic taking place in Brussels in June. With the introduction of the EWP Stats Portal and more providers reporting data in 2023, the trends in the usage of the ESCI components are now being monitored more effectively and in real time. This is crucial to ensure adequate uptake of current digital standards and to pave the way for the digitalisation of additional processes. This reduces administrative burden in higher education institutions and establishes the necessary conditions for the widening of the initiative, in line with the European strategy for universities⁴⁰.

³⁹ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/european-student-card-initiative/ewp/champions>

⁴⁰ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2022%3A16%3AFIN>

⁴¹ An active card means that the card has been issued with both the hologram and a QR code linking to the ESC-Router.

Overview of trends in the usage of the ESCI components

ESCI component	Total by end 2022	Total by end 2023	Percentage change
European Student Card			
Active cards issued ⁴¹	1 387 149	2 303 003	+66%
Countries where active cards are issued ⁴²	12	16	+33%
Card issuers issuing active cards	169	242	+43%
Erasmus Without Paper Network			
Higher education institutions connected	2 981	3 342	+12%
Inter-institutional agreements approved ⁴³	50 162	152 253	+203%
Learning agreements approved ⁴⁴	69 562	185 027	+165%
Erasmus+ Mobile App			
Total downloads	197 487	218 546	+11%

The table presents cumulative data as reported by the EWP stats portal, app stores and the ESC-Router.

⁴² The figure for 2022 includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain, Albania, Andorra, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The four new countries by the end of 2023 are Greece, Latvia, Poland, and Portugal.

⁴³ Approved by both higher education institutions.

⁴⁴ Learning agreements approved by the sending and receiving institution as well as by the student.

Vocational Education and Training

In the field of Vocational Education and Training (VET), the Erasmus+ programme aims at supporting the implementation of the Council Recommendation on vocational education and training, the Osnabrück Declaration and the Copenhagen process, the European Education Area and the European Skills Agenda. It contributes to the personal and professional development of participants through the funding of a **wide range of mobility activities**, including job shadowing and professional development courses for staff, but also individual short- and long-term mobility activities for VET learners and apprentices.

Through the implementation of partnerships for cooperation, participating organisations and institutions gain experience in European/cross-border cooperation, strengthen their capacities, exchange good practices and produce high-quality innovative deliverables.

Finally, the initiative on **Centres of Vocational Excellence** (CoVEs) aims to support the gradual establishment and development of European skills eco-systems contributing to regional development, innovation, and smart specialisation strategies as well as international collaboration in developing a variety of services for the partners of the projects, going beyond the traditional role of VET.

Key figures in 2023

EUR 723 million⁴⁵ in contracted projects

98% managed by National Agencies



Projects funded⁴⁶

Over 6 400

Beneficiary organisations⁴⁷

Over 16 400

Learning mobility activities⁴⁸



More than **241 000** participants



85% of participants are **learners/apprentices**



17% learners with **fewer opportunities**

⁴⁵ Total Erasmus+ grants allocated to projects contracted under the 2023 budget.

⁴⁶ Projects managed by the European Commission and 55 National Agencies.

⁴⁷ Beneficiary organisations involved in the Erasmus+ projects (the number of participations).

⁴⁸ Mobility activities started between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023. Due to the implementation scheme of the programme, these activities may be funded by budget allocated to years 2019 to 2023 (a mobility project might last several years).

Highlights in 2023

The year 2023 was characterised by a continued expansion of the programme in Vocational Education and Training, leaving the COVID-19 crisis completely behind, with prominent increases in the number of submitted and contracted applications and participants as well as an increased uptake of grants. The success of the programme in the sector is shown by the demand for mobility in VET increasing significantly, leading to a higher competition among applicant organisations. It shows a potential for significant additional growth in upcoming years, provided the available budget will grow to support and sustain such a growth.

Learning mobility of individuals

Overall, more than EUR 518 million were contracted for 5 656 mobility projects (Key Action 1) in Vocational Education and Training, with expected 191 000 participants in contracted projects (80% learners, 19% staff) out of a total of 343 000 participants requested in applications, representing a 56% approval rate. Compared to the previous year, the number of participants requested in project applications increased by 36%, much faster than the available budget, and led to higher competition and lower share of participants in contracted projects. With this, around 12 500 VET providers have become beneficiaries of Key Action 1, including 6 800 as consortium members, showing once again the attractiveness and usefulness of consortia for strategically facilitating access to the programme and promoting mobility as the norm rather than the exception.

The number of short-term learning mobility activities of VET learners has increased from around 125 000 mobility activities contracted under call year 2022 to around 142 000 activities contracted under call year 2023,

representing an increase of over 13%. Regarding long-term learning mobility of VET learners (ErasmusPro), the number of forecasted participants has remained stable between call years 2022 and 2023 – at slightly below 10 000.

Overall, 24% of all contracted learners in VET in the call year 2023 are learners with fewer opportunities, remaining at the same level as in 2022.

Apprentices continue to play an important part in mobility for VET learners: among the over 181 000 realised mobilities for VET learners started in 2023, more than 50 000 (or over 27%) were apprentices, roughly in line with the percentages in 2021 and 2022 and an increase from the predecessor programme, where the percentage was usually around 22-23% of all learner mobility activities.

Learning mobility of VET staff has seen another strong increase from 28 000 to more than 36 000 contracted participants from 2022 to 2023. The most popular activity type is job shadowing, accounting for more than 23 000 participants in contracted projects (a share just above 65% of all staff mobility activities). Courses and trainings keep on growing as well, accounting for more than 11 000 contracted staff participants (almost 31% of the total). Teaching and training assignments remain around 1 500 contracted participants, with a share of 4%.

The international dimension of VET continues to attract interest among VET providers: the number of mobility activities of VET learners and staff from accredited organisations to countries which are not associated to the programme (worldwide) has remained stable at slightly above 10 000 participants. Similarly, the number of carried out mobility activities to countries not associated to the Erasmus+ programme continues to grow,

from only 26 in 2021 to 1 941 in 2022 and 4 804 in 2023. The ten most popular destination countries in 2023 were the United Kingdom (32.2% of all mobility activities to third countries not associated to the programme), Switzerland (7.8%), Canada (5.7%), the United States of America, Morocco, Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Africa, Japan, Albania, and Kenya. In total, participants went to 88 different third countries not associated to the Erasmus+ programme.

In October 2023, the annual application call for accreditations, resulted in 2 078 applications and 776 new accreditations being awarded to 719 individual VET providers and 57 consortium coordinators. The interest in new accreditations has been growing steadily, showing the attractiveness and success of the scheme.

In 2023, 4 444 out of the 4 933 accredited organisations (90%) used their accreditation to apply for Key Action 1 funding. They have received almost EUR 450 million in grants. Opportunities remained open for VET providers that prefer to apply for small projects of a limited duration. The short-term projects for mobility of VET learners and staff are designed as a stepping-stone into the programme. Under call 2023, 1 211 short-term mobility projects were contracted (out of 3 514 submitted, representing an approval rate of 34%), receiving nearly EUR 69 million in total funding. The overwhelming interest with once again drastically increased number of applications, together with the limited budget for Key Action 1 led to the threshold for approved short-term projects becoming higher and the approval rate decreasing from 47% in 2022 to 34% in 2023.

Cooperation among organisations and institutions

Partnerships for Cooperation

With the **Partnerships for Cooperation** (Key Action 2), sector specific priorities increase clarity and the pedagogic approach in linking these priorities with project proposals.

Key Action 2 partnerships saw an increased interest in 2023 along with a higher budget available. However, the growth of submitted projects (+57%) and grants (+59%) was far higher than the growth of budget (28%). Overall, 686 partnerships were contracted for co-funding in 2023 (out of 3 416 submitted, a success rate of 20%), with lump sums of approximately EUR 115 million. These data include the results from two types of partnerships:

- **Small-scale partnerships** provide opportunities to facilitate the access of newcomers and smaller organisations with shorter projects and an overall smaller scope. The demand increased by 53% compared to 2022 (from 980 to 1 496 submitted projects). 358 small-scale partnerships were contracted with over EUR 20 million in co-funding, utilising 81% of the budgeted funds. The total requested amount for small-scale partnerships was over EUR 85 million, which shows considerable interest for this action.
- **Cooperation partnerships** enable large cooperation projects over a longer period of time. Interest has increased by 61% in this action (from 1 191 to 1 920 submitted projects), likely due to longer projects ending and reapplying. 328 cooperation partnerships were contracted with over EUR 94 million in co-funding, representing 105% of the budgeted funds. The total

- requested amount for the cooperation partnerships was over EUR 529 million, which shows that there remains a considerable interest for this well-established action.

Key Action 2 partnerships for cooperation are essential to achieve the programme priorities. In the field of Vocational education and training, 221 contracted partnerships addressed digital transformation, 204 addressed climate change / environment, 197 addressed inclusion and 70 addressed civic engagement. Apart from the previously observed high interest in digital transformation as a more naturally appealing topic to VET, we observe an increased interest also in the other three horizontal priorities compared to previous years. Many projects focused additionally on the specific field priorities, the top priority in both types of partnerships were *'Contributing to innovation in vocational education and training'* and *'Adapting vocational education and training to labour market needs'*.

Capacity Building in the field of Vocational Education and Training (VET)

A new action was launched in 2022, the Capacity Building for Vocational Education and Training (CBVET) aiming at developing cooperation between EU Member States or countries associated to the programme and VET stakeholders in several regions of the world. This action supports multilateral partnerships of organisations active in the field of VET in EU Member States or countries associated to the programme, and those from the Western Balkans, Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood, Sub-Saharan Africa as well as Latin America and Caribbean. They aim to support the

relevance, accessibility and responsiveness of VET institutions and systems in these regions and countries of the world as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development. In 2023, out of 162 applications, 68 projects were selected, covering these six regions.

Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)

The initiative on **Centres of Vocational Excellence** aims to be a driving force for reforms in the Vocational Educational and Training (VET) sector, ensuring high quality skills and competences that lead to quality employment and career-long opportunities, meeting the needs of an innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy as well as to social needs, and contributing to increasing the attractiveness of VET. Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) bring together a wide range of local, regional and national partners from different countries. Together they co-create 'skills ecosystems' that contribute to regional development, innovation, industrial clusters, and smart specialisation strategies, as well as to social inclusion. They also support the diffusion of innovation and applied research, especially among SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) and in the context of digital and green transitions.

The Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) are 4-year projects, and each project can receive up to EUR 4 million. The initiative supports "upward convergence" on VET excellence through transnational partnerships, increasing the quality and effectiveness of VET in the participating regions and setting inspiring standards in the broader international community. Partnerships can involve countries with well-developed vocational excellence systems, as well as other in the process of developing similar approaches. The partners involved provide opportunities for initial training of young people as well as the continuing up- and re-skilling of adults, through innovative, flexible and timely offer of training that meets the needs of a dynamic labour market.

In the 2023 call, 109 applications were received. This was an increase of 43% compared to 2022, when 76 applications were received. The total available budget was EUR 55.7 million. 15 Centres of Vocational

Excellence projects were selected for co-funding. The 2023 selected CoVEs cover a broad range of sectors and topics, such as hydrogen technologies, offshore energy, climate smart agriculture, construction, tourism, inclusion, biodiversity and the battery sector and involve 403 organisations from 27 countries.

Since the launch of the initiative in 2019, the programme has co-funded 53 Centres of Vocational Excellence across Europe (5 in 2019, 7 in 2020, 13 in 2021, 13 in 2022 and 15 in 2023).

Alliances for innovation

Lot 1 of this action, the Alliances for Education and Enterprise, aims at **fostering cooperation and flow of knowledge** among higher education, vocational education and training (both initial and continuous), and the broader socio-economic environment, including research and business. The 2023 selection round was very successful (see section on Higher Education).

Projects under Lot 2 of this action, Alliances for sectoral cooperation on skills (“Blueprint Alliances”) gather skills intelligence, elaborate sectoral skills strategies, revise, or define new, job roles, revise or develop related training programmes and design long-term plans for the roll-out of the project results. Following the Erasmus+ call for proposals 2023 five Blueprint Alliances in the sectors Aerospace & Defence, Digital, Health, Mobility-Automotive and Textiles-Clothing-Leather-Footwear were selected and support the related ecosystem-based Large Scale Partnerships (LSPs) under the Pact for Skills. In total, all 25 ongoing Blueprints are cooperating with all existing 20 LSPs in all 14 industrial ecosystems.

Forward-looking projects

Forward-looking projects are large-scale projects that aim to identify, develop, test and/or assess innovative policy approaches that have the potential of becoming mainstreamed, thus improving education and training systems. The topic relating to VET concerned two priorities: Micro-credentials for employability and Improving attractiveness of Vocational Education and Training (VET) through partnerships and networks of VET providers. The 2023 selection round was successful in terms of applicants’ interest. A total of 12 projects focusing on micro-credentials and 3 projects dedicated to enhancing the attractiveness of VET were selected. As an example of a project addressing a sectorial priority, there is one project with a special focus on apprenticeships – Supporting Traineeships and Employment Apprenticeship through Micro-credentials (STREAM) - which aims to define a set of competencies that VET trainers and company mentors should have in order to plan and manage quality work-based learning experiences.

National VET teams

Most National Agencies have set up their own national team of VET experts that support the programme’s implementation on this field. The added value of this initiative is clear. Throughout the year 2023, these teams have carried out different activities such as training courses for beneficiaries, studies on priority topics, or have developed pedagogical guidelines and other kinds of useful materials.



Promoting knowledge-sharing culture in Learning organisations



Coordinating organisation:

**Starptautiska
Kosmetologijas koledža,
Latvia**

EU Grant:

€ 294 244

The KNOWLO project aimed to integrate new innovative practices in educational organizations by providing a comprehensive system that integrates a collection of specific tools and a supportive methodology known as the "7 Steps of Transformation" to facilitate the evolution of any type of educational organisation into a SMART Learning Organisation.

The KNOWLO partnership wants to develop a brand-new framework for SMART learning organizations! This methodology will help teachers, trainers, and management staff to become a learning organization and use their current potential to the fullest. The comprehensive Self-evaluation tool for VET schools/educational organizations will guide users in learning from each other, sharing best practices, and constantly improving. The project aims to achieve easy access to personal & organizational progress by developing a SMART self-evaluation tool!

Project ID: [2021-1-LV01-KA220-VET-000029991](#)



SMACITE - Boosting the technical and non-technical skills and competences



Coordinating organisation:

**PANEPISTIMIO PATRON,
Greece**

EU Grant:

€ 1 340 436

The project aims to address the skills gap of Smart Cities technicians and engineers, by designing and testing a vocational education and training program that is based on a novel and multi-disciplinary curriculum combining digital skills on Smart Cities enabling technologies, with soft, entrepreneurship and green skills. The main project beneficiaries are Smart Cities technician and engineers either from the public sector (i.e. municipalities) or enterprises providing Smart Cities solutions, as well as HEI and VET students interested in Smart Cities.

The project will create an ecosystem for the co-design and co-development of an innovative curriculum and technology-enhanced learning tools for the upskilling/reskilling of Smart Cities technicians and engineers.

Project ID: [101052513](#)

School Education

In the field of school education, the Erasmus+ programme aims to strengthen the internationalisation and institutional development of schools in all programme countries as well as to implement EU political priorities in line with the European Education Area. It also supports personal and professional development of participants through the co-funding of **mobility activities for pupils and staff**, and partnerships with relevant institutions.

With regard to learning mobility for school pupils and staff, a wide range of activities, such as job shadowing and professional development courses for staff, individual and group mobility for pupils, invited experts and hosting of teachers and educators in training are supported by the programme.

Through the implementation of **cooperation projects**, participating organisations and institutions gain experience in international cooperation, strengthen their capacities, exchange good practices and also produce high-quality innovative deliverables. Apart from developing capacities of organisations, cooperation projects contribute towards achieving the priorities and objectives set on a yearly basis by the European Commission.

Key figures in 2023

EUR 525 million⁴⁹ in contracted projects

100% managed by National Agencies



Projects funded⁵⁰

Over 10 700

Beneficiary organisations⁵¹

Over 25 100

Learning mobility activities⁵²



Close to **314 000 participants**



71% of participants are **learners**



13% learners with **fewer opportunities**

⁴⁹ Total Erasmus+ grants allocated to projects contracted under the 2023 budget.

⁵⁰ Projects managed by the European Commission and 55 National Agencies

⁵¹ Beneficiary organisations involved in the Erasmus+ projects (the number of participations)

⁵² Mobility activities started between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023. Due to the implementation scheme of the programme, these activities may be funded by budget allocated to years 2019 to 2023 (a mobility project might last several years).

Highlights in 2023

The year 2023 saw once again drastic increases in interest in the school education field, in terms of mobility project applications and of mobility activities of learners and staff. The success of the programme in the sector is shown by the drastically increasing demand for mobility in school education, leading to an increased competition among applicant organisations and thus a lower share of approved project applications. It shows a potential for significant additional growth in coming years, provided that the available budget grows significantly to support and sustain such a growth.

Learning mobility of individuals

Overall, more than EUR 388 million were contracted for 9 726 mobility projects (Key Action 1) in school education, with over 268 000 contracted participants (68% pupils, 31% staff) out of a total of 545 000 submitted participants (49% success rate). The number of submitted participants increased by 94% (almost double the number of 2022), and much faster than the available budget, thus leading to higher competition between projects and a lower approval rate. Around 20 500 schools have become beneficiaries of Erasmus+ Key Action 1, including 11 000 consortium members, showing once again the attractiveness and usefulness of consortia for strategically facilitating access to the programme and promoting mobility as the norm rather than the exception.

The programme saw an important increase in the numbers of requested and approved group mobility activities for pupils, with around 168 000 pupils (compared to 128 000 in 2022) forecasted to participate in this activity type (representing 92% of all pupil mobility activities).

Individual short-term learning mobility of pupils, saw a minor increase from 9 290 in 2022 to around 10 372 participants in contracted projects in 2023.

Regarding individual long-term learning mobility of pupils, the number of participants in contracted has increased by around 25% between call years 2022 and 2023 (from 2 850 to 3 569). Considered as a priority activity of the Erasmus+ programme, long-term pupil mobility benefits from strengthened support: EUR 500 for organisational support per participant and EUR 300 per participant for language learning training and materials.

Overall, 20% of all contracted learners in school education in the call year 2023 are learners with fewer opportunities, a slight increase compared to 2022.

Compared to 2022, in 2023 learning mobility of staff has increased from more than 73 000 to more than 84 000 participants in contracted projects. Courses and training are the most popular type of activity, accounting for more than 50 000 staff participants in contracted projects (almost 60% of the total). However, we observe an important increase in job shadowing, now accounting for more than 33 000 participants in contracted projects (a share of 39%). Teaching and training assignments remain quite limited at around 1 000 participants, less than 2%.

In October 2023, the annual application call for accreditations resulted in 6 711 applications for new accreditations, out of which 2 558 have been awarded to 2 401 individual schools and 157 consortium coordinators. The interest and demand in accreditations keeps growing fast, showing the attractiveness and success of the scheme.

In 2023, 6 897 out of 7 592 accredited organisations (91%) applied for Key Action 1 funding using their accreditation. They have received EUR 305 million in grants.

Opportunities remain open for schools that prefer to apply for small projects of a limited duration. The short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff are designed as a stepping-stone into the programme. Under call 2023, 2 829 short-term mobility projects were contracted (out of 8 586 submitted applications) and have received close to EUR 83 million in funding. The increase in the number of applications led to the quality threshold for approved application becoming higher and the approval rate decreasing from 48% in 2022 to 33% in 2023.

Cooperation among organisations and institutions

Partnerships for Cooperation

The **Partnerships for Cooperation (Key Action 2)** saw a once again increased interest in 2023 (+42% submitted projects). However, the available budget only increased at a lower pace, resulting in the number of contracted projects increasing slightly. Overall, 995 partnerships were contracted co-funding in 2023 (out of 7 079 submitted, a success rate of 14%), with lump sums totalling over EUR 139 million. These data include the results from two types of partnerships:

- **Small-scale partnerships** provide opportunities to facilitate the access of newcomers and smaller organisations with shorter projects and an overall smaller scope. The interest increased significantly from 2021 (from 3 519 to 4 804 submitted projects). 617 small-scale partnerships were contracted with almost EUR 35

million in co-funding, utilising 139% of the budgeted funds. The total requested amount for small-scale partnerships was EUR 272 million, which shows that there was a considerable interest for this action.

- **Cooperation partnerships** enable large cooperation projects over a longer period of time. Interest has increased by 56% in this action (from 1 454 to 2 275 submitted projects), likely due to longer projects ending and reapplying. 378 cooperation partnerships were contracted with over EUR 104 million in co-funding, utilising 94% of the budgeted funds. The total requested amount for the cooperation partnerships was EUR 588 million, which shows that the interest for this well-established action remains very high and selected projects need to be of very high quality.

Partnerships for cooperation are essential to achieve the programme priorities. In the field of school education, 250 contracted partnerships addressed digital transformation, 356 addressed climate change / environment, 381 addressed inclusion and 242 addressed civic engagement, demonstrating a good spread of partnerships across priorities. Many more focused additionally on the specific field priorities, the top priority in both types of partnership were the development of key competences and supporting teachers, school leaders and other teaching professions.

2023 also saw the implementation and finalisation of a large number of School Exchange Partnerships still ongoing from the previous programme which had been paused during the pandemic. The removal of restrictions and lifting of travel bans helped the projects and schools complete their planned activities.

Erasmus+ Teacher Academies



Erasmus+ Teacher Academies, large partnerships between teacher education institutions and other stakeholders, contribute to high-quality teacher education. They embrace multilingualism, language awareness and diversity, as they develop teacher education in line with the EU's priorities in education policy, in particular the digital and green transitions, towards the achievement of

the European Education Area, the EU's joint vision for the education and training sector. Over three years, each Academy provides teachers at all stages of their careers with learning opportunities that include mobility, learning platforms and professional communities.

On top of the 11 projects funded under the first call for proposals, 16 new Erasmus+ Teacher Academies were launched in March 2023, under the second call for proposals. They will benefit from almost €22.5 million from the Erasmus+ budget over three years to provide teachers at all stages of their careers with learning opportunities that include mobility, learning platforms and professional communities.

With a total of 27 projects in place, the target of creating 25 Erasmus+ Teacher Academies by 2025, as part of the efforts towards establishing the European Education Area, has been achieved ahead of schedule.

“

Being able to contribute to a more engaging reading and writing education is very meaningful, and joining the project has been a boost for both pupils and teachers.

Gerd Næss Barka,
Principal at Fjelltun primary school in Norway, AI Literacy Network in
Primary Education

”

Policy support, platforms and tools

In terms of policy analysis, the Eurydice report **Key data on teaching languages at school in Europe – 2023 edition**⁵³, contributed significantly to the monitoring of policy developments in the field of language teaching in European schools. It outlines the main education policies related to the teaching of languages in schools in 39 European education systems.

The European School Education Platform

The **European School Education Platform (ESEP)** is a place for the school education community – school staff, researchers, and policymakers – to share news, interviews, publications, practice examples, courses and partners for their Erasmus+ projects. It is also the home of **eTwinning**, the online community for schools to collaborate and develop national and international projects. In 2023, the platform continued to improve and develop, following its technical migration in autumn 2022. ESEP editorial content – thematic news, expert interviews, videos, publications and teaching materials – and professional development offer – webinars, short and long online training courses – focus on defined monthly themes.

In 2023 these themes were: School-community networks, Mentoring, Innovation and improvement, Parental engagement, Early childhood education, Skills matter, School segregation, Supporting gifted and talented pupils, Language teaching: boosting teachers' competence, Assessment, Rural schools, and Schools promoting mental and physical health.

In 2023 over 110 000 new users were registered on the ESEP platform, of which around 65 000 were eTwinners. 9 editions of the ESEP newsletter and 10 editions of the eTwinning newsletter were sent to registered users during 2023. The newsletter highlights the latest platform content, professional development opportunities and announcements for users.

The 2023 eTwinning annual theme was “Innovation and Education – Being Creative with eTwinning”, which was also the topic of the annual eTwinning conference held in October 2023 on the theme “Education and innovation”.

European Innovative Teaching Award

The third edition of the **European Innovative Teaching Award** was successfully implemented by Erasmus+ National Agencies, with 93 completed Erasmus+ projects from 32 programme countries awarded. The year's theme was: “Education and innovation”, with a focus on existing and emerging technologies.”. For the 2023 edition, the winning projects are divided as follows:

- 15 projects in the “early childhood education and care” category,
- 23 projects in the “primary education” category,
- 28 projects in the “secondary education” category and
- 27 projects for the “vocational education and training (VET) schools” category.

An event in Brussels rewarded school staff who carried out these projects, giving an opportunity to connect and exchange experiences.

⁵³ <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/publications/key-data-teaching-languages-school-europe-2023-edition>



Alware: The Artificial Intelligence-Aware Classroom



Coordinating organisation:

**HOCHSCHULE RUHR WEST,
Germany**

EU Grant:

€ 800 000

Artificial Intelligence and in particular machine learning has become a highly discussed topic in society. People are concerned about the enormous progress which might lead to both challenges and opportunities for the job market and for individual careers. However, Artificial Intelligence has not made it into the curricula of most countries in Europe.

This is the starting point for the Alware project: We aim at creating a ready to use solution for schools consisting of a model curriculum, learning scenarios and materials for different aspects of AI for teachers and students of grade 7-12. The project provides solutions for incorporating AI into schools which is validated and transferable as a reference for further initiatives.

Project ID: [101087136](#)



AI Literacy Network in Primary Education



Coordinating organisation:

**UNIVERSITETET I
STAVANGER, Norway**

EU Grant:

€ 400 000

AILIT will increase students' motivation for literacy and facilitate teachers' scaffolding of literacy activities by building and implementing an AI-driven game platform scaffolding students' writing and matching students' texts to student readers in other schools and countries.

The project will design digital scaffolding material for students and digital guidance material helping teachers scaffold writing as well as algorithms facilitating international circulation of student texts (recommender systems, automatic text analysis and machine translation). It will build a prototype platform where this material and these algorithms can be implemented and tested. Finally, the results will be disseminated both locally, nationally and internationally.

Project ID: [2022-1-NO01-KA220-SCH-000087617](#)

The **European Language Label** is an award encouraging the development of new techniques and initiatives in the field of language learning and teaching, as well as the enhancement of intercultural awareness across Europe. The European themes for projects applying in 2023–2024 for the European Language Label were as follows: supporting newly arrived migrants and displaced children and young people in their language learning needs; professional development of teachers to address inclusion and intercultural dialogue, in particular about the increased linguistic diversity in the classroom; support to projects addressing minorities and regional languages as a means to promote equity, social cohesion and active citizenship and language learning which supports the personal growth of adult learners. Every year approximately 50 completed projects from Erasmus+ and other initiatives highlighting innovative practices in the teaching and learning of languages are selected by Erasmus+ National Agencies for the European Language Label and awarded through national ceremonies.

Adult Education

In the field of adult education, the Erasmus+ programme aims at contributing to the implementation of the EU political priorities in line with the European Education Area and the Skills Agenda. More precisely, it should strengthen the internationalisation and strategic development of adult education providers in all programme countries, and support the personal and professional development of participants through the funding of **mobility activities** for learners and staff in adult education. In the context of Erasmus+, adult education covers all forms of non-vocational adult education.

Through the implementation of **cooperation projects**, participating organisations and institutions gain experience in international cooperation, strengthen their capacities, exchange good practices and produce high-quality innovative deliverables. Apart from developing capacities of organisations, cooperation projects contribute towards achieving the priorities and objectives set on a yearly basis by the European Commission.

Key figures in 2023

EUR 143 million⁵⁴ in contracted projects

97% managed by National Agencies



Projects funded⁵⁵

More than 2 000

Beneficiary organisations⁵⁶

Close to 5200

Learning mobility activities⁵⁷



More than 23 200 participants

20% of participants are **learners**

85% learners with **fewer opportunities**

⁵⁴ Total Erasmus+ grants allocated to projects contracted under the 2023 budget.

⁵⁵ Projects managed by the European Commission.

⁵⁶ Beneficiary organisations involved in the Erasmus+ projects (the number of participations)

⁵⁷ Mobility activities started between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023. Due to the implementation scheme of the programme these activities may be funded by budget allocated to years 2019 to 2023 (a mobility project might last several years).

Highlights in 2023

In 2021, the Erasmus+ programme introduced opportunities for mobility of learners in adult education under Key Action 1. The importance of this development is reflected in the increased budget for the adult education sector, in particular for mobility projects (Key Action 1), with an increase of 62% between 2021 and 2022.

As with any major upgrade, the launch of these opportunities has also faced various challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed down the roll-out as many mobility activities had stopped and new ones were not planned. The major budget increase from 2021 and 2022 was temporarily slowed down in 2023 (increasing only by an additional 2%), in order to leave enough time for the beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries to develop implementing capacity.

Involvement of learners in adult education and in particular learners with fewer opportunities into learning mobility activities is a process which takes time, especially for adult education providers that are inexperienced in international cooperation and lack capacity for rapid take-up.

A series of measures to address the difficulties had been discussed, fine-tuned and implemented together with the National Agencies in 2022. Limitations on profile of learners that can be involved have been removed and National Agencies have doubled-down on their promotion campaigns in the field in order to reach out to potential applicant organisations in the informal sector (for example libraries, museums, cultural centres), institutions from the formal education sector (adult education schools and learning centres), as well as more specialised organisations (NGOs, associations, etc.) working for persons with disabilities, elderly people, people at the risk of poverty or social exclusion, etc. National Agencies

continue providing tailored guidance to beneficiaries in adult education to help them take up new and more activities.

The first effect of these actions could be observed, with the number of learners in contracted projects close to doubling under the 2023 call, and all other indicators of interest and absorption showing similarly strong positive trends. The detailed data are presented in the following paragraph. Overall, the sector is developing in a very positive and promising direction and growing its share in the programme.

Learning mobility of individuals

Overall, more than EUR 57 million were contracted for 1 342 mobility projects (Key Action 1) in adult education, with more than 30 000 expected participants (28% learners, 68% staff) out of a total of 42 000 participants requested in project applications (72% approval rate). The number of participants in submitted applications increased by 68%, leading to a much higher budget absorption in the field than in the previous years (68%). Especially noteworthy is the very positive trend of the number of learners in contracted projects: it has increased by 85%, from 4 606 to 8 530. Around 2 600 adult education organisations have become beneficiaries of Key Action 1, including 1 200 consortium members, showing once again the attractiveness and usefulness of consortia for facilitating strategic access to the programme and promoting mobility.

Overall, 74% of all learners in contracted adult education projects for the call year 2023 are learners with fewer opportunities, a decrease by 8% compared to 2022 which is due to the change in the action rules that lead to a broader definition of the eligible participants for learner mobility

activities. In terms of absolute figures, both the number of learners with fewer opportunities and overall number of adult learners have increased.

From 2022 to 2023, learning mobility of staff has increased from 14 000 to more than 20 000 participants in contracted projects. The most popular activity type is courses and trainings, accounting for almost 11 000 staff participants (53% of the total). However, we observe a significant increase in job shadowing, now accounting for 9 000 participants (a share of about 45%). Teaching and training assignments remain at demand levels of around 500 participants, around 2.5%.

In 2023, 656 out of 787 accredited organisations (83%) applied for funding using their accreditation. They have received close to EUR 38 million in grants.

In October 2023, the annual call for accreditations took place, resulting in 728 applications for new accreditations, of which 309 were awarded (264 to individual schools and 45 to consortium coordinators). The interest and demand in accreditations are growing steadily, showing the attractiveness and success of the scheme and its acceptance in adult education. In the context of this sector, accreditations are an especially useful tool for helping organisations increase their organisational capacity through reliable access to annual funding.

Opportunities are also open for adult education providers that prefer to apply for small projects of a limited duration. The short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff are designed as a stepping-stone into the programme. Under call 2023, 686 short-term mobility projects were contracted out of 1 361 submitted application (an approval rate of 50%). They have received more than EUR 19 million in funding.

Cooperation among organisations and institutions

Partnerships for Cooperation

The **Partnerships for Cooperation** (Key Action 2) saw a significantly increased interest in 2023 (+51% submitted projects). However, despite an increased budget, the number of contracted projects was slightly lower than in 2022. Overall, 703 partnerships were contracted co-funding in 2023 (out of 4 848 submitted, a success rate of 14.5%), with lump sums totalling EUR 82.5 million. These data include the results from two types of partnerships:

- **Small-scale partnerships** provide opportunities to facilitate the access of newcomers and smaller organisations with shorter projects and an overall smaller scope. The interest increased by around 55% compared to 2022 (from 1 837 to 2 851 submitted projects). 504 small-scale partnerships were contracted with over EUR 28.7 million in co-funding, utilising 115% of the budgeted funds. The total requested amount for small-scale partnerships was EUR 162 million, which shows that there was considerable interest for this action.
- **Cooperation partnerships** enable large cooperation projects over a longer period of time. Interest has increased by 47% in this action (from 1 362 to 1 997 submitted projects), likely due to longer projects ending and reapplying. 199 cooperation partnerships were contracted with almost EUR 54 million in co-funding, representing 113% of the budgeted funds. The total requested amount for the cooperation partnerships was over EUR 527 million, eleven times more than the available budget, which shows that there is still a growing interest for this well-established action.

Key Action 2 partnerships for cooperation are essential to achieve the programme priorities. In the field of adult education, 137 contracted partnerships addressed digital transformation, 143 addressed climate change / environment, 356 addressed inclusion and 174 addressed civic engagement in 2023. We continue to observe a priority on inclusion, in line with the programme's objective for adult education. Partnerships also focused on the specific field priorities, the top priorities in both actions were 'Improving the competences of educators and other adult education staff', 'Creating and promoting learning opportunities among all citizens and generations', and 'Creating upskilling pathways, improving accessibility and increasing take-up of adult education'.

Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe

In 2023, the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE) experienced significant activities and developments focused on enhancing adult education and skills. The EPALE Community conference, held under the theme "Bloom! Skills for the future," was a major event. It highlighted the transformative power of education in the context of the European Year of Skills, emphasizing the importance of equipping individuals with the necessary skills to navigate societal and labour market changes.

As a major technical enhancement, the new section 'MyCommunity' was introduced on the platform. Under 'MyCommunity' users may discover the most popular recent content on EPALE. It also suggests a selection of 'must-reads' and shines a spotlight on the most active members, who may earn a digital EPALE badge.

By the end of 2023 EPALE counted some 140 000 members and received around 100 000 visitors every month.



Numeric[All] – Gamified museum methodologies for illiterate adults



Coordinating organisation:

**C.I.P. CITIZENS IN POWER,
Cyprus**

EU Grant:

€ 208 933

Numeric[All] aims to enhance learning for low-skilled adults through gamified, non-formal mathematical tools in a mobile museum format. The project seeks to boost basic educational and professional skills, improving employability for illiterate adults.

The main priority of the project is to improve and extend the supply of high-quality learning opportunities tailored to the needs of low-skilled individuals through the development of gamified, non-formal mathematical tools, consisting components of a mobile museum, with the ultimate aim of cultivating and bolstering basic educational and professional skills of illiterate adult learners. Recognizing the importance of attaining key competences and basic skills to sustain current standards of living, support high rates of employment and foster social cohesion, the EU has introduced in 2018 a framework of 8 key competences for lifelong learning, i.e. the literacy competence, the numeracy one and the digital one among others.

Project ID: [2021-1-CY01-KA220-ADU-000035154](#)



Let's change the pace: how are European trans and gender diverse children doing?



Coordinating organisation:

**THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF
PARENTS OF LGBTI+ PERSONS,
Malta**

EU Grant:

€ 60 000

The project aimed to bring together parents of trans children to share their experience, knowledge and to contribute to improving their countries' health support, following best practices which reinforce their rights to self-determination. The project was undertaken with the objective of addressing this issue by educating and empowering more parents to associate together and learn from each other. Through parents' participation and encouraging parent organizations to be formed and act more collectively, we aim to improve the social and legal situation of trans and gender-diverse children and youth across Europe.*

Project ID: [2021-1-MT01-KA210-ADU-000034033](#)

Youth

In the field of youth, Erasmus+ funds projects that support personal development, help people gain competences and increase their employability.

Erasmus+ Youth actions support capacity building of youth organisations and youth workers, and provide opportunities for organisations and public bodies for innovative types of cooperation and exchange of good practices.

International cooperation projects are developed through multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of youth in programme and third countries not associated to the programme.

Erasmus+ supports **Youth Participation** through youth-driven local, national and transnational participation projects run by informal groups of young people and/or youth organisations encouraging youth participation in Europe's democratic life.

Key figures in 2023

EUR 333 million⁵⁸ in contracted projects

91% managed by National Agencies



Projects funded⁵⁹

Over 5 400

Beneficiary organisations⁶⁰

Close to 23 000

Learning mobility activities⁶¹



More than 195 700 participants



70% of participants are **young people**



35% learners with **fewer opportunities**

⁵⁸ Total Erasmus+ grants allocated to projects contracted under the 2023 budget.

⁵⁹ Projects managed by the European Commission and 55 National Agencies

⁶⁰ Beneficiary organisations involved in the Erasmus+ projects (the number of participations)

⁶¹ Mobility activities started between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023. Due to the implementation scheme of the programme these activities may be funded by budget allocated to years 2019 to 2023 (a mobility project might last several years).

Highlights in 2023

In 2023, Erasmus+ youth actions continued to expand with important increases in the number of submitted and contracted applications and participants as well as an increased uptake of grants. The legacy of the European Year of Youth 2022 facilitated the further outreach and promotion of youth related Erasmus+ actions in 2023 and added to the potential of additional growth in coming years. The new actions introduced in the current programming period like **Youth participation activities** (launched in 2021) and **DiscoverEU Inclusion Action** (launched in 2022) have reached maturity and become more and more popular with the target group and involved youth organisations. The introduction of the **Erasmus accreditation in the field of youth**, which allows youth organisations a simplified access to Key Action 1 funding on a yearly basis has become a game changer in the field through its stable source of financing, its inbuilt flexibility and simplified application and evaluation process for Youth Exchange and Mobility projects for Youth Workers. It has provided security to the youth sector and was a guarantor of stability especially during COVID-19 times.

Learning mobility of individuals



Mobility activities in the field of youth continued in 2023 offering opportunities to more than 195 700 young people and youth workers, of which around 63 000 come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Youth Exchanges

In 2023, the **Youth Exchanges** actions brought around 82 000 young people from different countries together to exchange and learn outside their formal educational system to acquire or further develop skills, competences and European values. More than 4 300 organisations were involved, with an average of five organisations and a EUR 31 606 average grant per project.

Thanks to the format of group mobilities, and activities' short duration, youth exchanges proved to be shining example of improving the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities. This is showcased by the large number of young people with fewer opportunities who were involved in projects (close to 32 % of the participants who were granted funding).

Mobility projects for Youth Workers

This well-established action format provides **youth workers** with professional development activities and opportunities to develop key competences. In 2023, almost 33 000 youth workers had the chance to take part in transnational training courses and seminars, networking events, study visits and job shadowing. During the year, more than 930 contracted projects took place, corresponding to over EUR 29 million in grants, involving over 3 300 organisations.

Mobility projects for youth workers may include System Development and Outreach Activities in their project design. These complementary activities aim at enhancing the impact of the mobility project. Such activities contribute to the **European Youth Work Agenda** for quality, innovation and recognition of youth work and bring back the benefits of the mobilities

to the organisations involved and to the youth work field at local, national and European level. In 2023, 56 activities took up this opportunity. The topic most frequently chosen for awarded youth workers mobility projects was 'Quality and innovation of youth work', followed by 'New learning and teaching methods and approaches. Horizontal priorities were also quite well represented, with around 142 projects focusing on green topics and 145 on digital.

Erasmus accreditation in the field of youth

The Erasmus accreditation in the field of youth gives simplified access to funding opportunities under Key Action 1 - learning mobility activities in the field of youth – for organisations that plan to implement youth exchanges and mobilities for youth workers on a regular basis.

Applicants are required to lay down their longer-term objectives and plan in terms of activities to be supported with Erasmus funds, expected benefits as well as their approach to project management. The award of the Erasmus accreditation in the field of youth confirms that the applicant has appropriate and effective processes and measures in place to implement high quality learning mobility activities for benefit of the youth field.

In total, 586 accredited projects involving almost 51 000 participants have been funded in 2023 for a total grants amount of over EUR 58 million. The contracted projects included 395 Professional development activities, involving around 18 000 participants and 433 Youth exchanges, with a total number of more than 32 000 participants involved. In the activities around 37% of the participants were individuals with fewer opportunities.

Youth participation activities

The **Youth participation activities** constitute a new action format under the Erasmus+ programme for 2021-2027. The awarded projects consist of non-formal learning activities revolving around active participation of young people, and the supported activities should strengthen the participants' personal, social, citizenship and digital competences and help them become active European citizens. The action was made a flagship activity for the 2022 European Year of Youth and continued to contribute to the legacy of the European Year of Youth in 2023.

The number of received and contracted projects under the action continued to grow during the third year of implementation. Of the 1 630 received proposals, 782 were contracted, as compared to 1 086 received and 555 contracted in 2022. This will offer the opportunity for a large number of young people to design and implement their own projects with activities reaching an expected number of approximately 160 000 young people across Europe and benefiting large communities by driving positive societal change.

A total of 1 305 organisations are involved in contracted projects. 907 of those are NGOs and Youth Organisations. Just over 100 public bodies on national, regional or local level were involved, and 51 informal groups of young people.

DiscoverEU

DiscoverEU offers 18-year-olds the chance to explore Europe by train. Following its success from 2018-2021 as a preparatory action of the European Parliament, it became a flagship initiative of the Erasmus+ programme in 2022. When joining Erasmus+, DiscoverEU expanded beyond the 27 EU Member States to include six associated countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Türkiye. In 2023, over 289 000 young people applied for 71 642 travel passes across two application rounds, reflecting young people's strong interest in the action. In addition, the Erasmus+ National Agencies support organisations helping young people with fewer opportunities through the DiscoverEU Inclusion Action, with 238 projects submitted in 2023. The National Agencies also implement the DiscoverEU Learning Cycle, enhancing the educational aspect of the initiative through pre-departure and post-travel meetings, as well as meet-ups across Europe.

Virtual Exchanges in higher education and youth

Building on the 2018-2020 pilot with the Southern Mediterranean, the **Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges in Higher Education and Youth** became a fully-fledged action under the 2021-2027 Erasmus+ programme with a broader geographical coverage. Virtual exchanges foster online people-to-people activities that promote intercultural dialogue and develop soft skills. Young people gain access to high-quality cross-cultural education (formal and non-formal) without physical mobility. Moderated discussions, training courses and interactive open courses are among the activities supported. Out of 92 applications, 16 projects were selected, covering the Western Balkans, the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood as well as Sub-Saharan Africa.

Cooperation among organisations and institutions

Partnerships for Cooperation

In 2023, a new focus area was added to Key Action 2, as projects addressing the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the field of youth could receive support. The feedback from the introduction of the lump sum grants model for Key Action 2 has been overwhelmingly positive. Beneficiaries note that the lump sums simplifies the project applications and project management thereby reducing their administrative burden.

Cooperation partnerships enable large cooperation projects over a longer period of time. Of the total budget of EUR 95.65 million for cooperation partnerships in 2023, the national agencies contracted EUR 91.5 million to 388 projects. Involving 1 596 organisations, of which around 974 were NGOs and associations, all contributed to promote sector specific priorities on increasing quality, innovation and recognition of youth work and promotion of active citizenship, along with horizontal priorities on inclusion and diversity and common values, civic engagement and participation.

Small-scale partnerships provide additional opportunities to facilitate the access of newcomers and smaller organisations with shorter projects and an overall smaller scope. In 2023, the action continued to attract applicants, and national agencies contracted a total of EUR 29.2million to 516 projects. 1 323 organisations, of which around 900 NGOs and associations, are involved in the contracted activities.

The most commonly addressed priorities were the horizontal priority on inclusion and diversity, the sectoral priorities on promoting active

citizenship, and increasing quality, innovation and recognition of youth work, and finally the horizontal priority on common values, civic engagement and participation. The most frequently addressed topics were inclusion, promoting equality and non-discrimination, environment and climate change, inclusion of marginalised young people, digital readiness and resilience and quality and innovation of youth work.

Capacity Building

Capacity building in the field of Youth funds transnational cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations in EU and associated countries on the one hand, and in third countries not associated to the programme of the Western Balkans and the South Mediterranean⁶² on the other hand, that aim at raising the capacity of organisations working with young people outside formal learning. In 2023, a total of 292 project proposals were received, out of which 39 were selected for funding.

Policy support, platforms and tools

European Youth Together

European Youth Together projects aim to create cooperation, enabling young people across Europe to set up joint projects, organise exchanges and promote trainings (e.g. for youth leaders/youth workers) through both physical and online activities.

The action will support transnational partnerships for youth organisations from both grassroots and large-scale level, aiming to reinforce the European dimension of their activities, in close cooperation with young people from across Europe. The initiative supports:

- The promotion and development of more structured cooperation between different youth organisations to build or strengthen their partnership,
- Youth organisations, youth workers and the young people involved in the partnership in their initiatives to hold training sessions, showcase commonalities among different young Europeans and to encourage discussion on their connection to the EU, its values and democratic foundations. The initiative encourages projects with a diverse youth population.
- 20 projects selected under the call 2023 for proposals for a budget of EUR 7.6 million.

Training and Cooperation Activities (TCA)

Training and Cooperation Activities organised by the National Agencies aim to improve the quality of the programme implementation and to make it more strategic by building closer links with relevant elements of policy development. In 2023, more than 620 activities, such as transnational thematic activities, training, support and contact seminars, as well as national activities, evaluation and analysis activities, were planned by National Agencies in the field of Youth.

⁶² In the 2024 Call that was published in the autumn of 2023, the action was opened also to third countries not associated to the programme of the Eastern Partnership :

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, territory of Ukraine as recognised by international law

2023 saw also the continued development of the long-term activities (LTA) carried out by the National Agencies. Currently, 14 long-term strategic projects are run by National Agencies for Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps, aiming to support the youth sector.

Other forms of long-term activity are the RAY research-based analysis and the recurring trainings organised by the National Agencies. The RAY Network contributes to quality assurance and quality development in the implementation of the European youth programmes, to evidence-based and research-informed youth policy development in the youth field in Europe, to the recognition of non-formal education and learning in the youth field as well as to the dialogue between research, policy and practice in the youth field.

The European Youth Portal

The **European Youth Portal** (EYP) offers both European and national information and opportunities that are of interest to young people aged 18-30 (35 for Humanitarian aid volunteering under the European Solidarity Corps) who live, learn and work in Europe. Information focuses on how to 'Get involved' and 'Go abroad' and provides a direct access to EU initiatives targeting young people as well as to a section dedicated to the EU Youth Strategy.

The Portal is currently available in 29 languages. In 2023, the number of page views came up to more than 41 million, whereas the number of visits was more than 10 million. This shows that the European Youth Portal is highly appreciated by its visitors.

The European Youth Portal is home to the European Solidarity Corps (including the Humanitarian Aid Strand) and DiscoverEU. Through the

portal, young people can join the Corps, and apply to the DiscoverEU application rounds. In 2023, two DiscoverEU application rounds took place, in April and in October

EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027

The implementation of the framework for European cooperation in the youth field – the **EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027** – continued, boosted by the 2022 European Year of Youth and based on the EU Work Plan for Youth 2022-2024, focusing on the overarching thematic priority '*Engaging together for a sustainable and inclusive Europe*'. Erasmus+ is the main EU level instrument for the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy. Notably youth participation activities, DiscoverEU and youth worker mobility under KA1 support the 'engage' and 'empower' pillars of the Strategy. Cooperation partnerships under KA2 contribute to the quality and innovation of youth work systems, linked to the European Youth Work Agenda under the 'empower'-pillar. KA3 supports youth policy development and key instruments of the EU Youth Strategy such as the EU Youth Dialogue, mutual learning activities, civil society cooperation, the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership and knowledge-building and evidence.

In 2023, work on the interim evaluation of the EU Youth Strategy intensified, with the support of an independent study including consultations and analysis. A public consultation ran on the Commission's 'Have your Say'-portal in April-August 2023, which generated valuable input from stakeholders, young people and the general public.

In 2023, the Commission continued contributing to the implementation of the **European Youth Work Agenda** (EYWA), established by the Council in its 2020 Resolution. The Sub-Group on Youth Work (SGYW) closed its

work which began in 2021 and presented during 2023 the report “[Proposal for the development of a dedicated youth work platform - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)”. The main aim of this SGYW was to accompany and advise on the process of creating and implementing an open and multilingual dedicated European digital platform on youth work in close cooperation with the youth work community of practice, to share information, knowledge and good practices, engage in cooperation and peer-learning.

In 2023, the **EU Youth Coordinator**, Biliana Sirakova, led efforts on integrating the youth perspective across Commission policy fields of relevance to young people. She was responsible for the functioning of the internal Commission Youth Network and the European Year of Youth national coordinators and stakeholders group, which both continued to meet until the end of Year of Youth activities (31 April, 2023). In 2023, Biliana coordinated work linked to the follow up and legacy of the Year of Youth presented as the Commission Communication on the European Year of Youth 2022 and the way forward. The EU Youth Coordinator undertook 111 outreach activities (speaking engagements at conferences, meetings with young people and stakeholders, interviews). She moderated policy dialogues between young people and Commissioners and actively promoted EU opportunities to young people. The Coordinator contributed to the steering the EU Youth Dialogue as member of the European Steering Group of the Dialogue.

The **EU Youth Dialogue** process is the main participatory tool of the EU Youth Strategy for young people, where young people and youth organisations debate with policy and decision makers, as well as experts, researchers and other relevant civil society actors. It is based on work-cycles of 18 months with an overall theme corresponding to the overall priorities of the EU Youth Strategy and the European Youth Goals. At

national level, the EU Youth Dialogue is organised by National Working Groups that are in charge of conducting consultations and activities in their country with young people, youth organisations and policy makers.

2023 saw the end of the 9th cycle, held under the French-Czech-Swedish Trio Presidency 1 January 2022-30 June 2023. The thematic priority was “Engaging together for a sustainable and inclusive Europe” and therefore directly connected to the Youth Goal 3: Inclusive societies and Youth Goal 10: Sustainable and Green Europe. The Swedish presidency adopted Council conclusions on the social dimension of a sustainable Europe for youth, as well as a resolution on the outcomes of the 9th cycle.

The 10th cycle, held under the Trio Presidency Spain – Belgium – Hungary, started on 1 July 2023. The thematic priority chosen by the Trio Presidency is “We need Youth” linked to Youth Goal 3 Inclusive societies. The Spanish Presidency published Council conclusions on the rights and wellbeing of young people and on mental health.

SALTOs (Support, Advanced Learning and Training opportunities)

SALTOs, a network of resource centres, support the National Agencies, the Commission, as well as organisations and partners involved in the Erasmus+ Youth programme and youth work development through expertise, non-formal learning resources, information and training for specific thematic and regional areas. In 2023, SALTOs were key to the success of several events and activities.

In addition to the existing three regional SALTOs (Eastern Europe and Caucasus, EuroMed and South-East Europe) and three thematic SALTOs (inclusion and diversity, participation and information, and training and

cooperation), the two new SALTOs launched in 2022 (SALTO Digital in Helsinki and SALTO Green in Bordeaux) became fully operational in 2023.

It is important to underline that these new SALTOs cover both Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. Furthermore, since the extension in October 2022 of the tasks and mandate of the SALTO Participation and Information to the field of education and training, the four horizontal priorities of the programme are now fully supported by SALTO Resource Centres across all programme fields.

SALTO Awards

SALTO Awards⁶³ is an annual contest of innovative youth projects in several nomination categories. The 4th edition of the contest was organised in collaboration with the SALTO network. More than 200 projects were nominated in the following 5 categories: Digital Transformation, Inclusion & Diversity, Environment & Fight Against Climate Change, Participation in Democratic Life, and Solidarity & Volunteering. Additionally, a special mention prize was announced at the end of the ceremony to highlight a project for its “Competence Development” dimension. These projects stimulate youth engagement related to the field of youth work, inclusiveness, enable digital transformation and participation and promote solidarity as well as sustainability. The best 15 projects featured at the SALTO Awards Ceremony in Lublin, Poland, on 5 October 2023 in the framework of the Lublin Triangle Youth Event, the European Youth Capital 2023. The event was live streamed on YouTube, reaching a broad audience.

Eurodesk

The **Eurodesk** network offers information services to young people and to those who work with them. The network supports the Erasmus+ objective to raise young people's awareness of mobility opportunities and encourage them to become active citizens. It does this via information, support and communication activities, with a priority on reaching out to those with fewer opportunities and/or who are not yet aware of such opportunities. Eurodesk is dedicated to constantly enhance and customise its services based on the needs of youth information workers and young people. Eurodesk federates 39 national coordinators and around 3 000 local youth information providers, so called ‘multipliers’ and ‘ambassadors’, that are regional or local organisations working with young people and delivering youth information (e.g. youth centres, youth information centres, associations and municipalities). Eurodesk information and helpdesk services are instrumental in ensuring fair access to EU opportunities and therefore promoting inclusion and diversity.

⁶³ More information about the 2023 SALTO Awards winners: [The Winners of the SALTO Awards 2023 Are... - SALTO \(participationpool.eu\)](https://participationpool.eu/en/the-winners-of-the-salto-awards-2023-are-...)

Youthpass

Youthpass is a European recognition instrument for identifying and documenting learning outcomes that are acquired in projects under Erasmus+ Youth (and the European Solidarity Corps). In 2023, 202 321 **Youthpass** certificates were issued to participants of EU funded projects in the field of youth (compared to 195 989 Youthpass certificates in 2022), the highest annual number so far, significantly exceeding the pre-pandemic figures. The total number of Youthpass certificates issued as of the end of 2023 reached 1 620 855, with approximately 30% of the certificates containing a full self-assessment of learning outcomes, rather than only a certificate of participation. The new Youthpass certificates (for the 2021-2027 programmes) launched in 2022 were translated into a range of EU languages in 2023 and Youthpass for the new DiscoverEU Inclusion Action was launched.

The accessibility of the Youthpass tool and certificates was further enhanced in 2023, with Youthpass finalising the development of 'learner accounts' to provide more ownership to individual users over their learning process.

With the current programmes, the Youthpass Advisory Group was renewed to include more experts, researchers, National Agencies and young people. The group met once in 2023.



Around the World on Eight Layers - Immigrant Cultural Capital



Coordinating organisation:

**Tonlistarskoli Kopavogs,
Iceland**

EU Grant:

€ 60 000

The objectives of the project were to increase positive thinking of participants and target groups towards immigrants and make them more aware of the treasure of multiculturalism for the benefit of their society.

The implementation of the project takes place through music, where young participants meet twice, once in each participating country. After good preparation at the home school, 50 young people sit side by side, play their instruments, contemplate the impact of immigrants on music and other aspects of society and enjoy various activity together, while they built good friendship in between each other across borders. In final activity meeting is digital, shearing experience, result and impact. Those objectives were achieved very successfully and way beyond expectations.

Project ID: [2022-3-IS01-KA210-YOU-000096290](#)



CRITIDE - Critical thinking & participation as a foundation of democracy in Europe



Coordinating organisation:

**YOUTH POWER GERMANY EV,
Germany**

EU Grant:

€ 286 330

CritiDe as a project aims to raise capacities of participating organisations and their local partners, as well as youth workers, in the fields of critical thinking and activism of young people in democratic processes and development of media literacy skills.

This will be achieved through development and delivery of educational trainings for youth workers and development of educational handbooks and workshops. As a cherry on the top, educational platform containing developed practical handbooks and online learning course on how to use and adapt materials to specific needs of local communities and work of youth workers/ educators/ professors; will be developed. Platform will further provide opportunities to contact local organisations as a focal points and resource centres.

Project ID: [101051999](#)

Sport

The Erasmus+ programme promotes the **participation in sport and physical activity**, through the programme's sport actions with a view to ensuring increased participation of small-sized organisations.

In 2023, the activities relating to **Mobility of staff** in the field of sport became a reality following the first call for proposals published at the end of 2022. Supporting mobility for sport coaches and other sport staff gives the opportunity to grassroots sport organisations to exchange good practices and learn from peers through job shadowing and coaching assignments.

Encouraging a healthy lifestyle for all, promoting integrity and values in sport, promoting education in and through sport and combating violence, racism, discrimination and intolerance were the priorities for **KA2 sport activities** in 2023. The call for proposals attracted a record-breaking 1 500 proposals, a 17% increase compared to 2022. 325 projects were funded.

Capacity Building in the field of **Sport** aims to support sport activities and policies in the Western Balkans as a vehicle to promote values and build more cohesive communities. In 2023, 7 Capacity Building projects were funded.

Key figures in 2023

EUR 66.3 million⁶⁴ in contracted projects

91% managed by the Executive Agency (EACEA)



Projects funded⁶⁵
705

Beneficiary organisations⁶⁶
Over 1 890

Mobility activities⁶⁷



More than **600 participants**



100% of mobility participants are **sport staff**



10% participants with **fewer opportunities**

⁶⁴ Total Erasmus+ grants allocated to projects contracted under the 2023 budget.

⁶⁵ Projects managed by the European Commission and EACEA.

⁶⁶ Beneficiary organisations involved in the Erasmus+ projects (the number of participations)

⁶⁷ Mobility activities started between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023. Due to the implementation scheme of the programme these activities may be funded by budget allocated to years 2019 to 2023 (a mobility project might last several years).

Highlights in 2023

The 2023 European Week of Sport



The 2023 edition of the European Week of Sport was launched in Valencia, Spain, and took place from 23 to

30 September. The ninth edition highlighted sports and physical activities promoting a healthy lifestyle and as important tools for better inclusion and equality, embodying the values promoted by the European Union, offering an inclusive, innovative and engaging stage. 40 countries and regions participated to achieve an impressive total of 37 335 events.

The 2023 #BeActive campaign was launched on Olympic Day (June 23rd); the peak of the campaign being the European Week of Sport itself.

The 2023 EU Sport Forum



The annual EU Sport Forum, the main platform for Structured Dialogue between the European Commission and the

sport stakeholders, took place in Stockholm, under the Swedish presidency on 2 and 3 May 2023. It gathered over 350 participants who shared their views on current challenges and opportunities in the sport field during high level group discussions, panels, and interactive sessions. In 2023, the dialogue was structured around the key topics of gender equality, integrity in sport, good governance, and athletes' rights.

#BeActive Awards

Also in 2023, a jury selected the best and the most inspiring projects and individuals contributing to the advocacy of healthy lifestyle and sport in Europe: the #Beactive Awards supported projects and individuals dedicated to promoting sport and physical activity across Europe. A key element of the European Week of Sport, the 2023 #BeActive Awards winners were announced during the annual #Beactive awards held in Brussels on 23 November. The winners in the four categories were: Education: Patronat Municipal de Serveis d'Atenció a les Persones de Martorell (Spain), Workplace: Eversports (Austria), Local Hero: Kalin Vasilev (Bulgaria), Across Generations: Município de Vila Nova de Cerveira (Portugal). #BeInclusive Awards

#BeInclusive Awards

On 3 May 2023, the #BeInclusive Sport awards were delivered to three particularly successful organisations as champions of social inclusion in and through sport. The three winners in the respective categories are: Breaking Barriers in sport: Free Movement Skateboarding (FMS) (Greece); BE Equal: (Kajak Klub Zlatorog (Slovenia); Sport for Peace: Youth Line (Portugal).

HealthyLifeStyle4All



The HealthyLifeStyle4All initiative, continued to promote sport and physical activity for all as part of a wider effort to promote healthy lifestyles. It showcases the European Commission's commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles across generations and social groups, noting that everyone can benefit from activities that improve health and well-being. In 2023, a new publication, "Mapping on healthy lifestyles" was published. The study takes stock of two years of activity of the HealthyLifestyle4All campaign, which reached 180 000 Europeans and collected 103 pledges across Europe aimed at raising awareness of healthy lifestyles, promote easier access to sport for all, reach disadvantaged groups and develop a holistic approach to food, health, well-being and sport.

EU Work Plan for Sport

Under the Fourth EU Work Plan for Sport (2021-2024), the European Commission worked with two expert groups on the recovery from COVID-19 and Green Sport. The Green Sport expert group, composed by representatives of EU Member States, observers from the world of sport and International Institutions, published its report in December 2023, putting forward its recommendations for environmentally sustainable sports. On 30 May, the European Commission organised the first-ever Sport and innovation summit. The event, which took place in Brussels, was attended by innovators, researchers, policymakers and other sports stakeholders pushing forward the boundaries of innovation.

"Did you know?"

To promote a broad outreach, uptake and ownership of healthy lifestyles across society, the European Commission involves sport movements at national, European and international level; state authorities (ministries), cities & regions (local governments) and civil society organisations of the EU Member States, the Erasmus+ programme countries, the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans countries.

The HealthyLifeStyle4All is open to civil society, including the sport movement and beyond, national (ministries), local and regional authorities and international bodies through its pledge board [Make your Pledge | Sport \(europa.eu\)](#)



BESST – Building European Safe Sport Together



Coordinating organisation:

**EUROPEAN OLYMPIC
ACADEMIES, Germany**

EU Grant:

€ 400 000

Building European Safe Sport Together (BESST) is a project that aims to deliver the foundation for a harassment and abuse free European Sport with the aim to effectively raise the maturity of the European sport on its safeguarding readiness.

The two year project, with a very consistent dissemination process will be able to provide effective change in terms of safeguarding for the continent, based on the horizontal value of digitalization, but also inclusion, with the dissemination across a wide range of European countries with different languages, cultures, economic performance and sporting realities.

Project ID: [101090767](#)



PROMISE- steP foRward foR woMen In baSkEtball



Coordinating organisation:

**FEDERACIO CATALANA DE
BASQUETBOL, Spain**

EU Grant:

€ 400 000

The projects' general objective is to promote the inclusion and participation of girls and women in basketball at all levels of responsibilities through the design, implementation, and evaluation of a holistic intervention programme. PROMISE is fully aligned with the Erasmus+ Sport specific priority 'Combating violence and tackling racism, discrimination, and intolerance in sport (including gender equality).

The project will conduct focus groups involving all participant federations and 216 European stakeholders to assess the current situation of women in basketball, as well as the PROMISE programme methodology which will be implemented in all the 6 countries that make up the consortium. The PROMISE partnership is comprised of 7 organisations covering 6 European countries (Spain, Ireland, Kosovo, Portugal, France, and Bulgaria). It has a wide and diverse geographic coverage that is further enhanced by the participating organisations' extensive networks.

Project ID: [101090483](#)

Jean Monnet Actions

The Jean Monnet Actions constitute an integral part of the Erasmus+ programme and aim to contribute to spread knowledge about matters of European Union integration. In this context, the Jean Monnet Actions offer opportunities in the field of Higher Education and in other fields of education and training (International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 1–4), while, in parallel, they provide support to designated institutions pursuing an aim of European interest.

The Jean Monnet Actions in the field of Higher Education support teaching and research in the field of European Union studies worldwide, with particular emphasis on the promotion of the European citizenship and values as well as on the role of the EU in a globalised world. In that sense, the Jean Monnet Actions strive to function as a vector of public diplomacy towards third countries, promoting EU values and enhancing the visibility of what the European Union stands for and what it intends to achieve.

Learning about the objectives and the functioning of the European Union is an important part of promoting active citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination. Teachers and trainers are keen to expand their professional development regarding the European dimension of teaching at school, in particular on teaching about the European Union in engaging ways. This is the overall objective of the Jean Monnet Actions in other fields of education and training, in the sense of promoting a better understanding, both in general education and vocational training (ISCED 1–4), of the European Union and its values and the functioning of its Institutions.

Key figures in 2023

EUR 25.1 million⁶⁸ in contracted projects
managed by the Executive Agency (EACEA)

Projects funded
391

Beneficiary organisations
Over 500

⁶⁸ Total Erasmus grants allocated to projects contracted under the 2023 budget.

Highlights in 2023

Since its launch in 1989, the Jean Monnet Actions have supported, more than 1 000 universities around the world to offer courses on European studies as part of their curricula. More than 6 000 projects on European integration studies were created given the possibility for 300 000 students each year to learn more about Europe.

The Jean Monnet Actions in the field of Higher Education have a global scope and are open to any officially recognised higher education institution anywhere in the world. Today, the Jean Monnet Actions are present in more than 90 countries, and they are a prime EU public diplomacy tool around the world. Countries not associated to the programme are very well represented, with over twice the number of applications compared to those from programme countries in higher education.

For Jean Monnet open calls in 2023, 1 109 eligible applications were received. In total, 390 projects including 520 organisations were selected from 73 countries with support of more than EUR 25 million.

1 003 eligible applications were received for HE calls. The 341 selected projects implement EU studies-related activities during three years through Modules, Chairs and Centres of Excellence as well as six higher education networks in 55 countries worldwide. Overall, programme countries manage 51% of the awarded proposals for higher education institutions and 83% of networks.

As regards Jean Monnet in other fields of education and training, the Learning EU Initiatives, Teacher Training and School Networks actions are reserved for programme countries. In 2023, 16 countries received funds. This part represents 59% of the total available budget. The 'Teacher

Training' action received 19 eligible applications and 10 projects were selected. The "Learning EU Initiative" for its second edition received 66 eligible applications, out of which 44 were selected. Two Schools Networks involving 13 partners also benefit from financial support in 2023.

Jean Monnet Operating grants

Approximately EUR 41 million contributed to the operating grants of seven institutions, designated in the Erasmus+ Regulation, based at seven sites:

- The College of Europe, Bruges
- The College of Europe, Natolin
- The European University Institute, Florence
- The Academy of European Law, Trier
- The Institute of Public Administration, Maastricht
- The European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education, Odense
- The Centre international de formation européenne, Nice

Their 2023 activities included master programmes, summer courses, workshops, conferences, thematic working groups, research activities, data collection and analysis, and support to public authorities for enhancing reforms.



DIGI-ABCD - Digital Transformation through AI, Blockchain, Cybersecurity & Data Protection

Coordinating organisation: **UNIVERSITETI I TIRANES, Albania**

EU Grant: **€ 30 000**

Digital Transformation through Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, Cybersecurity and Data Protection in the context of EU Integration Jean Monnet Module (DIGI-ABCD) aims in promoting the development and deployment of these high impact emerging technologies in the process of Digital Transformation in Albania.

The project represents an innovative and multidisciplinary approach based on European Union values in order to accelerate the Digital Transformation while fostering awareness on data protection. The courses will be part of an innovative interdisciplinary program that will cover perspectives on EU integration from different fields such as EU studies, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Data Protection and Law.

Project ID: [101085705](#)



GreenDeal-NET - Governing the EU's Transition towards Climate Neutrality and Sustainability



Coordinating organisation: **VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL, Belgium**

EU Grant: **€ 1 000 000**

The proposed network on "The European Green Deal: Governing the EU's Transition towards Climate Neutrality and Sustainability" (GreenDeal-NET) focuses on one of the key European and global challenges. Its overarching objective is to provide a platform for collaboration and exchange on European climate and sustainability governance so as to (a) collect, share, discuss and advance relevant academic research/ teaching and (b) actively foster engagement and debate with policymakers and the broader public.

It will hence serve as an important focal point for academic work on the key geopolitical challenge of the climate and sustainability transition and its link with related societal and policy debates.

Project ID: [101085773](#)



Programme's Priorities

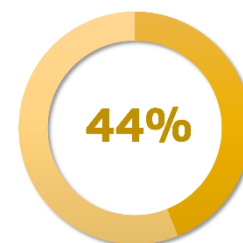
Inclusion and Diversity

Inclusion is a transversal priority of the Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027, and the improved access of the programme to people with fewer opportunities is one of its main objectives.

The programme implementing documents use a broad and encompassing definition of people with fewer opportunities, focused on addressing the barriers that different target groups may face in accessing programme opportunities. This includes people of different ages and from diverse cultural, social and economic backgrounds, people with disabilities and migrants, as well as people living in remote and rural areas. This is in line with, and supports the implementation of, the 2022 Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success.

The Commission has set up dedicated inclusion measures in the Erasmus+ programme aimed at better promoting social inclusion and improving outreach to people with fewer opportunities in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. These inclusion measures range from targeted communication, awareness raising activities and easier-to-access activity formats. Due to the bottom-up design of the programme, people with fewer opportunities and relevant organisations are able to benefit from dedicated financial mechanisms to access the programme.

2023 Key figures



EUR 673.2 million
of the 2023 budget spent for
cooperation projects supporting
inclusion and diversity



2 151

cooperation projects (48% of Key Action 2)



7 125

beneficiary organisations involved



94%

of participants declare that they have increased
their **tolerance awareness**



53%

have reached a **better understanding** of
inclusion and diversity

19%

Of Higher Education students received a top-up
grant

Highlights in 2023



In 2023, the programme continued with its commitment to reach out more to people of different ages and from diverse cultural, social and economic background, as well as to come closer to those with

fewer opportunities, including people with disabilities, migrants, those facing health problems, barriers linked to social and cultural differences, discrimination, education and training systems, geography, economic status and more.

To increase the impact of the “Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity strategy” and the related framework of inclusion measures⁶⁹ adopted by the Commission in October 2021, national agencies have been drawing up inclusion and diversity plans, to best address the needs of participants with fewer opportunities and to support the organisations working in favour of inclusion, defining dedicated measures adapted to their local, regional and national contexts.

SALTOs Inclusion and Diversity

National Agencies benefit from the support provided by the two Inclusion and Diversity SALTOs (for Youth and for Education and Training) that offer mentoring services, provide guidelines, support National Agencies by

monitoring the implementation of their respective inclusion and diversity plans, analyse the needs and challenges related to this horizontal priority and foster networking and knowledge sharing.

The two SALTOs promote inclusion and diversity by supporting individuals, organisations and National Agencies in embracing diversity through training, conferences and forums, publications and tools on inclusion and diversity, conducting and sharing relevant research, facilitating learning and cooperation between NAs and supporting the network of inclusion and diversity officers, including through the organisation of regular meetings. National Agencies are key actors in implementing the inclusion dimension of the programme, also actively reaching out to organisations active in this area.

In 2023, three meetings of inclusion and diversity officers took place over the year. Additionally, SALTO Youth Inclusion and Diversity organised the second edition of the Inclusion and Diversity Forum, an initiative focused on creating greater visibility for inclusion and diversity and building bridges between inclusion-related practice, policy and research stakeholders active within the field of EU Youth programmes.

The European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) plays an equally important role for the programme strands that are managed centrally: an Inclusion and Diversity Action Plan, building upon the Commission’s strategy and implementation guidelines, was adopted. It serves as a practical tool to ensure wider access for people with fewer opportunities through capacity building, awareness raising, communication activities, and support for applicants and beneficiaries throughout the whole project cycle. In third countries not associated to the programme,

⁶⁹ Implementation guidelines – Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy | Erasmus+ (europa.eu)

EU Delegations and – where they exist – the National Erasmus+ Offices (NEOs) and Erasmus+ Focal Points are also key in bringing the programme closer to the target groups addressed by this strategy.

In 2023, a budget of EUR 673 million was awarded to more than 2 100 cooperation projects supporting inclusion and diversity, involving more than 7 100 organisations. This represents an increase of about 18% of grant dedicated to this priority compared to 2022.

Erasmus+ gender breakdown in tertiary education

Women represent more than 60% of the Erasmus+ higher education mobility participants. The share of women in the programme varies depending on their field of education but remains higher compared to the EU27 educational systems.

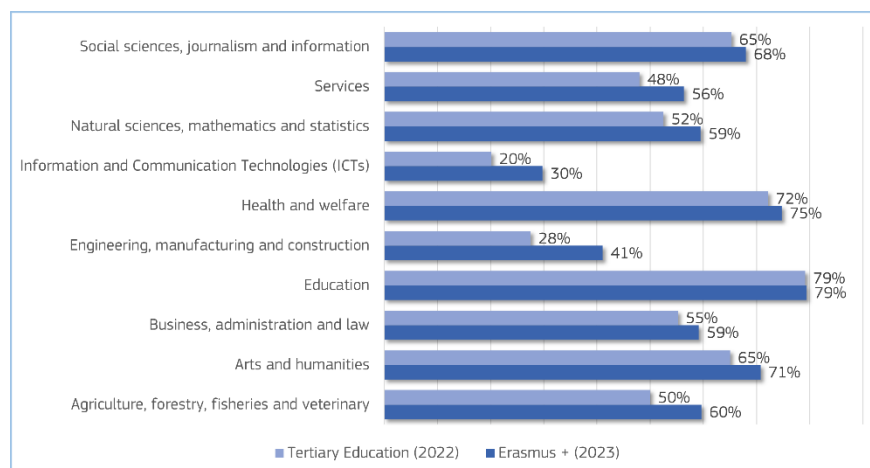


Figure 21 – Women representation in the Erasmus+ programme compared to EU27 tertiary education

Erasmus+ with fewer opportunities

The programme seeks to promote equal opportunities and access, inclusion, diversity and fairness across all its actions. Organisations and the participants with fewer opportunities themselves are at the heart of these objectives and with these in mind, the programme puts mechanisms and resources at their disposal.

In addition to providing financial support for organisations and individuals with fewer opportunities to cover any additional costs related to their participation in the programme, including additional costs for accompanying persons, the programme offers blended mobility programmes (combining physical and virtual mobility to increase programme accessibility for participants unable to participate in long-term physical mobility) and strives to ensuring equal access and adequate support in learning mobilities. The programme also offers more accessible actions for small and grassroots organisations, such as Small-scale Partnerships and Youth Participation activities – which are particularly suited to involve people with fewer opportunities – and to ensure newcomers' participation.

“Did you know?”

In order to reach out better to people with fewer opportunities, the programme builds on the following elements and steps: The framework of inclusion measures outlines a set of measures to be implemented over the 7-year period. The National Agencies interpret this European framework into the needs in their local, regional and national contexts, translating the general measures into specific actions in the ground. Finally, the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy provides practical guidance on how to implement these measures for those carrying out Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps activities.

On the policy development level, the Eurydice Network produced a report **Promoting diversity and inclusion in schools in Europe**⁷⁰. This report investigates existing national, top-level policies and measures that promote diversity and inclusion in school education. It focuses especially on learners who are most likely to experience disadvantage and/or discrimination in schools. The report highlights existing targeted policy initiatives across 39 European education systems promoting the learners' access to quality, inclusive, mainstream education.

In the field of youth, since 2022, DiscoverEU includes an action specifically targeted at young people with fewer opportunities. With this **DiscoverEU Inclusion Action**, organisations and informal groups of young people can receive support to carry out projects allowing young people with fewer opportunities to participate in DiscoverEU on an equal footing with their peers.

In the field of sport, Erasmus+ sport actions promote social inclusion, including refugees and migrants. The #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards aim to celebrate organisations which show inspiring examples of the power of sport in fostering the inclusion of disadvantaged groups. In 2022, awards were handed out in the following categories: Breaking barriers, Celebrating diversity, Inspiring change.

⁷⁰ <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/publications/promoting-diversity-and-inclusion-schools-europe>



RuralUp – Upskilling rural youth for sustainable development



Coordinating organisation:

**United We Stand,
Luxembourg**

EU Grant:

€23 676

The RuralUp project aims to enhance the key competencies of rural youth through non-formal education, with a focus on creativity, inclusion, and entrepreneurship, as the future of rural regions depends on their youth, and stimulating entrepreneurship can fuel economic growth and job creation.

The project aims to equip 24 youth workers with tools to promote Erasmus+ projects, establish high-quality non-formal projects, and foster networking among partner organizations. This initiative is critical in fostering sustainable development, driving economic growth, and ensuring the future of rural regions within the EU.

Project ID: [2023-2-LU01-KA153-YOU-000167652](#)

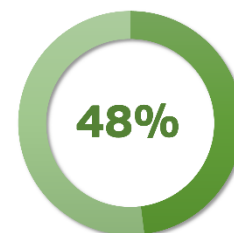
Environment and Climate Change

Supporting the green transition is one of the overarching priorities of the Erasmus+ programme. In line with the European Green Deal, the programme leads by example, through encouraging participants to use lower-carbon transport as an alternative to airplanes.

Erasmus funding is also channelled into building up knowledge and understanding of sustainability and climate action, so that Europeans acquire the world-leading competences needed to create sustainable societies, lifestyles and economies. Erasmus+ thus contributes to equipping Europeans with the necessary skills and developing innovative practices to bring about change, in line with the objectives defined in the 2022 Council recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development.

The 'Green Erasmus' dimension promotes the incorporation of green practices in all projects and supports, across all sectors, awareness raising about environmental and climate change challenges. It supports the use of innovative practices to make learners, staff and youth workers true agents of change (through actions which save resources, reduce energy use, reduce waste such as plastics, compensate carbon footprint emissions, opt for sustainable food and mobility choices, improve ocean literacy, responsibly treat waste and use marine sustainably, ocean literacy).

2023 Key figures⁷¹



EUR 721.8 million
of the 2023 budget spent for
cooperation projects supporting
environment and climate change



1 379

cooperation projects (31% of Key Action 2)



5 292

beneficiary organisations involved



23%

green travel during mobility activities in the current programme

14%

Higher Education participants use green travel

25%

School Education, Adult Education and VET participants use green travel

37%

Youth participants use green travel



32%

have **learnt about environmental, climate and sustainability** issues, and 27% have changed their habits to **become more sustainable**

⁷¹ Calendar year 2023 has been taken as a reference year for the calculation of the data on participants and green travel. Mobility activities started between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023.

Environment and fight against climate change

Environment and climate action are key priorities for the EU now and in the future. The European Green Deal⁷² Communication recognises the key role of schools, training institutions and universities to engage with pupils, parents, and the wider community on the changes needed for a successful transition to become climate neutral by 2050.

The Erasmus+ programme is a key instrument for building knowledge, skills, and attitudes on climate change and sustainable development both within the European Union and beyond. Thanks to its multidimensional nature, the programme has a broad environmental impact: it operates at many levels by incentivising sustainable travel, prioritising green projects, raising awareness about environmental issues – with a wide spectrum of actors such as citizens, educational institutions, VET providers, youth and sport organisations, NGOs, local and regional authorities, and civil society organisations.

The programme aims to increase the number of mobility opportunities in green forward-looking domains which foster the development of competences, enhance career prospects and engage participants in areas which are strategic for sustainable growth, with special attention to rural development (sustainable farming, management of natural resources, soil protection, and bio-agriculture). Moreover, with mobility at its core, Erasmus+ strives for carbon-neutrality by promoting sustainable transport modes and more environmentally responsible behaviour. Additional financial incentives are made available to participants choosing to travel with low-emission means of transport. In 2023, the share of green travel reaches the 23% of the mobilities, with a higher share achieved in the

youth field, thanks to the contribution of DiscoverEU, whose participants travel mainly by train. Among other elements, the programme also delivers on the so-called 'Blue Erasmus+' dimension, notably with project results and knowledge creation, including analyses and best practices relevant for the objective of preserving healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters.

The Education for Climate Coalition⁷³ is the community facilitated by the European Commission to support teaching and learning for the green transition and sustainable development, contributing to the European Education Area and the European Green Deal. By the end of 2023, the community had gathered over 7 000 members of all ages and learning levels, including students, educators, trainers, education stakeholders, institutions, industry professionals, and NGOs. They can participate in co-innovation labs, tackling concrete climate education challenges and actions, such as creating new teaching materials and citizen science projects.

These activities are valorised during events like the annual Education for Climate Day. In 2023, this event featured six thematic policy and practice sessions, sparking nearly 2 000 expressions of interest and generating 161 climate education activities to be shared within the community and its challenge hub. Additionally, 2023 marked the successful launch of the GreenComp community. This sub-community focuses on developing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to live, work, and act sustainably, based on the European sustainability competence framework.

Through these efforts, the Education for Climate Coalition promotes sustainability education in an innovative way, empowering people from all

⁷² [A European Green Deal | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁷³ <https://education-for-climate.ec.europa.eu/>

walks of life to contribute actively to activities in their institutions and neighbourhoods, aimed at fighting climate change and mitigating its consequences.

Environment and the fight against global warming are a horizontal priority for the selection of projects. Priority is given to projects aiming at developing competences in various green sectors, including those in the framework of the contribution from education and culture to sustainable development goals, developing green sectoral skills strategies and methodologies, future-oriented curricula, and more generally supporting active engagement for sustainable development, as well as initiatives that support the planned approaches of the participating organisations regarding environmental sustainability.

The incorporation of green practices in all facets of project implementation is part of the award criteria, encouraging participants and participating organisations to take an environmentally friendly approach when designing all project activities, regardless of the overarching theme of their project, fostering in this way discussion and learning about environmental issues.

A green contact point has been nominated in each National Agency to share knowledge and practices, and to support the work of the SALTO Resources Centre on green transition and sustainable development, established in early 2023 to improve the quality and impact of projects in the field of environmental protection, sustainability, and fight against climate change

SALTO Green

The SALTO provides support to National Agencies, the Commission, and other relevant programme actors in mainstreaming environmental protection and sustainability and fighting climate change across the programmes and supports National Agencies in building effective synergies with other EU programmes in environmental protection, sustainability, and fight against climate change. In 2023, the SALTO carried out a study on National Agencies' Green Practices, launched a dictionary of terms on the topic of sustainability, organised lunch-time webinars for National Agency staff and created a compendium compiling good practice projects and resources, among its many activities.

Moreover, the SALTO organised two meetings of the network of green contact points in the National Agencies, in order to coordinate the work on the green priority and to foster the exchange of knowledge and good practices.

Similarly, as for the Inclusion and Diversity priority in 2021, in 2023 the development of a strategy for the implementation of the green priority in the programme progressed, in close cooperation with the SALTO on green transition, and in parallel to the development of the strategy on the digital priority. Its goal is to put emphasis on the importance of this priority to all stakeholders and to help them implement it through projects as well as through the management of their organizations.



“Sustainability goals are more than just environment. It is also about poverty, justice and diversity. We think that is important, because a good life is more than just a good environment. It's important to also look at the social sustainability.”

Corien van den Broek,
Project Coordinator of the Go Digital for a Greener Future Project,
Varendonck College, The Netherlands



The DiscoverEU action, offers young Europeans aged 18 free travel passes across the continent. Travelling mainly by train, which is one of the most eco-friendly means of transport, the participants are inspired to be conscious and feel accountable for their choices while travelling, including those related to the environment and nature of the places they visit. Having made this experience, the young people are encouraged to embrace sustainable practices in their future travelling. Over 90% of participants in the post-travel survey expressed a greater preference for rail travel within the European Union after their DiscoverEU adventure.



Youth participation activities (supported youth-led local and transnational initiatives run by informal groups of young people and/or youth organisations) and Youth exchanges often choose to address the environmental protection and to make contribution to fighting climate change through their activities.

Platforms such as eTwinning and Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE) continue to produce support materials and facilitate the exchange of effective educational practices and policies for environmental sustainability.



CircuTex – Circular economy in fibrous composites and technical textiles



Coordinating organisation:

UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE VALENCIA, Spain

EU Grant:

€263 932

The project CIRCUTEX aims to enhance sustainability competencies in the field of fibrous composites and technical textiles by offering an online course tailored for higher education students.

This course will focus on the circular economy, utilizing virtual reality for a practical learning experience through a virtual laboratory. Additionally, the project will develop a roadmap for the validation and accreditation of the course (micro-credentials), contributing to policy recommendations for the uptake and recognition of micro-credentials in higher education institutions (HEIs). Primary beneficiaries include HEIs, educators, and students in engineering and textiles, with secondary beneficiaries being industry stakeholders and policymakers.

Project ID: [2021-1-ES01-KA220-HED-000032075](#)



SenGA – Seniors in Green Action – from Hands to Minds to Souls



Coordinating organisation:

Dimitry Panitza School of Politics, Bulgaria

EU Grant:

€120 000

The SenGA project aims to increase the awareness of seniors and experts working with them about sustainable development, recycling, circular economy and “green” and environmentally friendly solutions and to create educational resources, so as to support their active ageing and social inclusion.

Marketing research show that that ‘baby-boomers’ (who are now at the age of 65+) and the so called ‘Generation X’ are among the biggest consumers. They are also less aware about pollution and recycling, as usually “green” educational programmes and initiatives are focused on young people. The goal of the project is to lay the foundations of a nonformal network of “SENIOR GREEN AMBASSADORS” and peer-to-peer educators, who are aware about sustainable development and equipped with a variety of resources, exemplar activities and video case studies in the field of creative upcycling suitable for elder people.

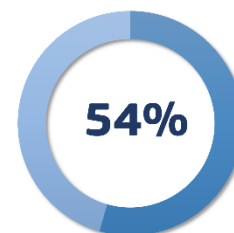
Project ID: [2022-1-BG01-KA220-ADU-000085169](#)

Digital Transition

In 2023, the Erasmus+ programme continues to play a vital part in preparing both individuals and organisations for the digital transition. It also contributed to the implementation of the Digital Education Action Plan 2021–2027 and its two strategic priorities. As it supported accessible and high-quality digital learning, it fosters the capacity of teachers, trainers and youth workers, etc. to use digital tools and content, and test and promote distance (as well as blended) learning. A significant milestone in the implementation of the Action Plan was reached in November 2023 with the adoption of two Council Recommendations: one on *the key enabling factors for successful digital education and training*, and one on *improving the provision of digital skills and competences in education and training*. The first Recommendation promotes the necessary structural reforms at national level to enable significant progress in the digital transformation of education and training. The second Recommendation addresses the need to widen the provision of digital skills and articulates the steps needed to promote digital competence development from early on and at all stages of education and training.

The programme supported education and training institutions in developing and implementing digital transformation plans, as well as in building capacity and critical understanding of how to exploit the opportunities offered by digital technologies for teaching and learning, at all levels and for all sectors. It supported the strategic priorities of the DEAP 2021–2027, through actions aiming at enhancing digital skills and competence development at all levels of society and for everyone.

2023 Key figures⁷⁴



EUR 834.2 million
of the 2023 budget spent for
cooperation projects supporting
digital transition



1 828

cooperation projects (41% of Key Action 2)



6 491

beneficiary organisations involved



31 890

mobility activities in digital skills in all fields of education and training
(over 27 200 traineeships in advanced digital skills in higher education)



58%

of participants in mobility activities have
improved their digital competences, 37%
developed their social media competences

4.1%

of Higher education participants carried out a
blended mobility

⁷⁴ Calendar year 2023 has been taken as a reference year for the calculation of the data on participants. Mobility activities started between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023.

Highlights in 2023

Digital Transformation

Key actions in 2023 included the extension of the successful SELFIE self-reflection tool enabling teachers (SELFIE for Teachers) to help them further develop their digital skills. Furthermore, following an open call for tenders with a budget of EUR 2 million, a service contract on expanding and upscaling the Digital Education Hackathon in the next three years was awarded.

In 2023 the European Digital Education Hub successfully continued its activities. The Hub was set up as a community of practices for all stakeholders working in all sectors in the field of education and training in which they strengthen cooperation, tackle aspects of digital transformation such as interoperability, quality assurance, well-being, digital skills that go beyond the specificities of each education sector and support the agile development of policy through peer-learning and by sharing best practices. The community has grown rapidly, counting more than 4 000 members. As part of the Hub, the network of National Advisory Service (NAS) facilitates exchanges between bodies working on implementation of digital education. In 2023, the NAS network hosted one meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, focusing on peer monitoring and digital competences development.

Under the Forward looking projects call of 2023 the programme included a specific focus on digital education and training, and specifically supported the launch of projects under three thematic areas: a) Education technology (EdTech): scaling up of EU-based solutions through cooperation and quality assurance; b) Effective pedagogical approaches on informatics

for primary and secondary level of education; c) Teacher training and curriculum development in tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy.. Promoting young people's critical engagement and empowerment in the digital world, the Commission put targeted effort to ensure the wide promotion and rollout of the 2022 Guidelines for teachers and educators on tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy through education and training.

In line with the 2022 European Strategy for Universities, the European Student Card Initiative has scaled up and continues to facilitate interoperability among higher education institutions by digitising mobility workflows, connecting IT systems, and rolling out a unique European student identifier to enable the secure authentication of students' status.

By the end of 2023, 2.2 million European Student Cards had been issued, whereas the Erasmus Without Paper network registered 3060 connections that have enabled 152 253 inter-institutional agreements and 185 027 learning agreements to be completed fully online.

Digital SALTO

Established in April 2022, the Digital SALTO aims to support, in line with the Digital Education Action Plan, the implementation of the digital dimension in both Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, seeking to continuously raise the quality of digital education and Youth.

The SALTO supports National Agencies in increasing the quality and impact of Erasmus+ projects and activities addressing digital horizontal priority in the Erasmus+ programme, helping to optimise the implementation, monitoring and follow-up of the priority, conducting and disseminating research on trends, needs and good practices, producing publications, tools and guidelines.

A network of digital contact points appointed by each National Agency was set up to work with the Commission and the SALTO in sharing the knowledge, skills and practices related to the digital horizontal priority across the programme, as well as helping to coordinate the work on the digital priority within each National Agency. The network of digital contact points appointed in each National Agency met for the first time in May 2023 in Helsinki.

Since autumn 2023, the Commission, in cooperation with the SALTO Digital Resource Centre and in consultation with a large number of stakeholders, have been working on guidelines for a digital strategy for implementing the digital priority in Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. The strategy builds on the positive experience of the strategy supporting the implementation of the inclusion priority and will provide an overview of existing activities in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps to help implement the digital priority.

SELFIE

SELFIE is an online tool, which supports schools to build their digital capacity through a process of self-reflection. It supports the key priority of the DEAP to enhance digital skills and competences for the digital transition. The tool, available in 41 languages, is comprised of questions for school leaders, teachers and students on how digital tools and

technologies are used within the school and how students are acquiring digital skills.

The tool allows schools to adapt the questions to their needs (e.g. a school can choose to add additional questions on, for example, internet safety, AI, coding or robotics). On completing the questions, the schools receive a personalised report that highlights strengths, weaknesses and areas for further improvement regarding technology use.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the emphasis on digital education led to a rapid growth in 2021 and 2022, reaching 6.6 million users in July 2023.

Digital Education Content Framework

In line with the first strategic priority of the DEAP 2021-2027 (fostering the development of a high performing digital ecosystem), one element looks at digital education content. It aims at engaging in an intensive stakeholder dialogue through a preparatory study to support the development of a digital education content framework. The ongoing digital transformation, the technological innovation and the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates that teachers, students, institutions as well as educational content producers and providers face various challenges and are presented with opportunities at the same time.

Digital Education Content Framework

In October 2023, an exploratory study on the state of play of digital education content in Europe commissioned by the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sports and Culture (DG EAC) was published. The absence of a widely agreed-upon vocabulary and terminology as well as shared quality criteria among various stakeholders (suppliers, funders, facilitators,

and end users) resulted in ongoing confusion and inconsistencies in how Member States incorporate the dimension of digital education content into their strategies and action plans for digital education development. In the [Council Recommendation on the key enabling factors for successful digital education and training adopted in November 2023](#), Member States welcomed the Commission's intention to set up an Expert Group to develop guidelines and quality requirements for accessible, well-designed and high-quality digital education content, in cooperation with Member States and stakeholders. It aims to support Member States' education and training systems to systematically assess the quality, safety, trustworthiness, reliability, utility and inclusiveness of such content. The Expert Group should deliver guidelines in September 2025.

Higher Education Interoperability Framework

In July 2023, a Working Group was launched within the European Digital Education Hub with the objective of creating a Higher Education Interoperability Framework. Based on the consolidation of experiences and learnings from European University alliances regarding interoperability solutions of higher education institution's digital infrastructure, the co-created Higher Education Interoperability Framework aims to make seamless teaching and learning experiences within and across virtual inter-university campuses a reality. Collaboratively designed and developed by approximately 150 higher education representatives and interoperability experts, the Framework will serve European higher education institutions as a practical toolkit to ensure interoperable virtual learning environments, seamless student mobility and data exchange, and will be accompanied by recommendations for the practical implementation, maintenance and governance of the framework. The

Higher Education Interoperability Framework will be delivered in February 2025.

Digital Opportunity Traineeships

As part of the related action within the DEAP, the **Digital Opportunity Traineeships (DOTs)** set out to give higher education and VET learners and recent graduates in all disciplines the opportunity to gain hands-on professional experience in digital fields demanded by the labour market. This scheme provides trainees with the opportunity to strengthen their information–communication technology-specific skills in fields such as cybersecurity, big data, quantum technology and machine learning, and to boost digital skills for businesses in areas including web design, digital marketing and software development. From the launch of the extended DOTs in 2021 until end 2022, universities, VET learners and recent graduates from a variety of study fields undertook an Erasmus+ traineeship abroad to acquire forward-looking digital skills. In addition, this opportunity (DOTs) for boosting digital skills and competences was extended as of 2021 to educators and staff working in all fields of education (Schools, VET, adult and higher education) and it encompasses every professional development opportunity currently offered under the Erasmus+ programme as long as it has a focus on digital competences.



Podcasting-based social impact learning environment



Coordinating organisation:

**Stories For Impact OÜ,
Estonia**

EU Grant:

€239 595

The project equipped professionals from public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as active citizens, with the knowledge and skills to maximise positive impacts and minimise negative ones in their activities. It produced insightful podcast episodes with attractive visual materials, each with specific learning outcomes under broader themes.

The project's visibility has been enhanced through guest speakers and social media communication. Current and future podcast hosts were be trained to make expert coverage of social impact topics a widespread trend.

Project ID: [2021-1-EE01-KA220-ADU-000028284](#)



HIP-DER - Hacking Innovative Pedagogies: Digital Education Rewilded



Coordinating organisation:

Universität Graz, Austria

EU Grant:

€221 220

The project "Hacking Innovative Pedagogies: Digital Education Rewilded" (HIP-DER) is reimagining traditional university education. It tackles the challenges of building an equitable, inclusive digital society, emphasizing higher education's transformative role in developing active, digitally competent, and diversity-minded citizens.

This project aims to use new digital technology creatively to support transformative pedagogy. HIP-DER focuses on listening, responding, and co-creating with communities of teachers and students to 'rewild' outdated university models. This involves unbundling traditional structures and practices, replacing them with more effective, native ones. The project seeks to disrupt slow-to-respond traditional approaches, fostering innovative, equitable, and inclusive digitally.

Project ID: [2021-2-AT01-KA220-HED-000048775](#)

Democratic Participation

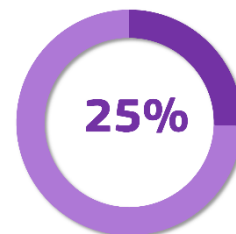
One of the four transversal priorities of Erasmus+ is promoting democratic participation, common values and civic engagement. Erasmus+ has a key role in strengthening European identity and values and in contributing to a more democratic Union, as underlined by the Erasmus+ regulation.

The Erasmus+ Regulation also emphasises the objective of encouraging the participation of young people in Europe's democratic life by supporting active citizenship, education and participation projects for young people. That is why the programme promotes cooperation partnerships focusing on 'common values, civic engagement and participation' as a priority in all programme sectors, under Key Action 2 of the programme. Priority is given to projects that enable people to participate in democratic life, social and civic engagement through formal, non-formal or informal learning mobility activities.

The Jean Monnet actions are also instrumental in promoting teaching about the European Union, at both schools and higher education levels.

Furthermore, the Erasmus+ programme is a key instrument in the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy aiming at engaging and empowering young people, including through the EU youth dialogue process. The strategy fosters youth participation in democratic life, supports social and civic engagement and aims to ensure that all young people have the necessary resources to take part in society.

2023 Key figures



EUR 390.6 million
of the 2023 budget spent for
cooperation projects supporting
democratic participation



1 460 cooperation projects (32% of Key Action 2)



4 915 beneficiary organisations involved



82% of participants in mobility activities declare that they **feel more European**



67% are **more interested in European topics**,
86% are **more aware of European values**

Highlights in 2023

The Council Conclusions⁷⁵ (November 2023) on the contribution of education and training to strengthening common European values and democratic citizenship invited the Commission to consider incorporating tools to ensure better knowledge of the EU and common European values, prior to or in parallel with an Erasmus+ learning mobility or cooperation partnership, such as a learning module adapted to the age and profile of participants. Reflections in this direction started at the end of the year.

SALTO Participation and Information

The SALTO Participation and Information resource centre (SALTO PI) was created to enhance the impact of the programme as regards to the democratic participation across all fields by implementing strategic and innovative measures to foster engagement in democratic life. This includes providing guidance and support for applicants, beneficiaries, and national agencies, ensuring the involvement of young people, organising events and activities to promote active participation and civic engagement. Among the activities organised by the SALTO in 2023 that stand out are the online panel sessions and trainings for experts and youth workers, staff trainings on the topics of communication and information and enhancing participation and the annual SALTO Awards Ceremony.

In 2023, a budget of 391 million EUR was granted to more than 1 400 cooperation projects focusing on promoting democratic participation, EU values and civic engagement, involving more than 4 900 organisations.

Cooperation with civil society organisations in the fields of education, training and youth also continued in 2023. Moreover, under Key Action 3,

structural support (in the form of operating grants) was provided to European non-governmental organisations (ENGOS) and EU-wide networks in programme countries. These play an important role in ensuring awareness raising on the European Education Area and other European sector-specific policy agendas, as well as the active involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of policy reforms in different countries.

The ‘Learning EU Initiatives’ under ‘Other fields of education and training’ of the Jean Monnet Actions promotes knowledge of the European Union in schools and Vocational Education and Training institutes in programme countries, enabling them to provide specific content on EU-related subjects for the last two years.

The legacy of the European Year of Youth will ensure a long-term impact on youth empowerment and youth-centred policy making.

The action ‘Youth Participation Activities’ was made a flagship initiative of the European Year of Youth in 2022 and continued to benefit from a reinforced budget in 2023, further contributing to the legacy of the European Year of Youth. In 2023, the action continued on the dynamic trajectory started in 2022, with significant growth in the number of received and contracted projects. This action supports the use of alternative, innovative, smart and digital forms of youth participation and focuses on reaching out to young people from all backgrounds, including those with fewer opportunities.

⁷⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023XG01339>



Ungdommens Folkemøde NORD



Coordinating organisation:

**Fonden Ungdomsbureauet,
Denmark**

EU Grant:

€60 000

The goal of Ungdommens Folkemøde NORD is to create a solid foundation for a yearly democracy festival that travels between the Nordic countries. The project will strengthen the democratic self-confidence of Nordic youth, the Nordic community and the trust between Europeans.

With the small-scale partnership the project aims to create stronger bonds between the participating project partners as well as collecting and reporting on data reflecting Nordic youth's perspectives on democracy, civic engagement, and social entrepreneurship.

Project ID: [2022-3-DK01-KA210-YOU-000101295](#)



MoRe – Reading Motivator in the Digital Age



Coordinating organisation:

**UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI,
Slovenia**

EU Grant:

€250 000

The key idea of the MoRe project is to develop profiled and personalised strategies of reading for pleasure pedagogy for children aged 9 to 11 that would be carried out by trained 'reading motivators', i.e. selected librarians who work in public libraries and specialise in children's literature.

The idea is to set up a profile of a reading motivator to work with students and also teachers. The model is based on reading for pleasure pedagogy (RfP), reading profiles and motivation as well as research implemented in the project. As a result, there will be a training package for reading motivators, tools for implementing the reading profiles, a model of individualised RfP and research on different tools of the project.

Project ID: [2022-1-SI01-KA220-SCH-000087839](#)

Communication and dissemination

In 2023, the Erasmus+ website received almost 11 million visits and more than 25 million page views, resulting in a 35% and 28% increase respectively over 2022.

The dissemination of Erasmus+ projects and their results continued to be underpinned by the [Erasmus+ Project Results Platform](#) which hosts more than 260 000 projects. Projects can be searched by topic, key action, country, year, etc.

Erasmus+ Social Media channels on [Facebook](#), X (formerly [Twitter](#)) as well as the [Youth channel](#) on Instagram bring former and current Erasmus+ participants and the wider Erasmus+ community together, engage them in lively conversations and share up-to-date information about the programme, education and training in the wider sense on a daily basis.

Glossary of terms

AI	Artificial Intelligence	EYWA	European Youth Work Agenda
CBVET	Capacity Building for Vocational Education and Training	HE	Higher Education
CoP	Community of Practice	HEI	Higher Education Institution
CoVE	Centres of Vocational Excellence	HESS	Higher Education For Smart Specialisation
DEAP	Digital Education Action Plan	IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession
DG EAC	Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
DG EMPL	Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	JRC	Joint Research Centre
DOT	Digital Opportunity Traineeships	KA1	Erasmus+ Key Action 1
EACEA	European Education and Culture Executive Agency	KA2	Erasmus+ Key Action 2
ECEC	Early childhood education & care	KA3	Erasmus+ Key Action 3
ECTS	European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System	MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
EDIH	European Digital Innovation Hub	NDICI	Neighbourhood, Development and Cooperation Instrument
EEA	European Education Area	NEO	National Erasmus+ Office
EFTA	European Free Trade Association	NGO	Non-governmental organisation
EIT	European Institute of Innovation and Technology	OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
EMJMD	Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees	OER	Open educational resources
ENOG	European non-governmental organisation	OR	Outermost Regions
EPALE	Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe	S3	Smart Specialisation Strategies
ESC	European Solidarity Corps	SALTO	Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities
ESCI	European Student Card Initiative	SELFIE	Self-reflection tool enabling teachers
ESEP	European School Education Platform	SGYW	Sub-Group on Youth Work
ESIF	European Structural Investment Funds	SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
EU	European Union	STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics
EuroMed	Euro-Mediterranean	STREAM	Supporting Traineeships and Employment Apprenticeship through Micro-credentials
EWP	Erasmus Without Paper	TCAs	Training and Cooperation Activities
EYP	European Youth Portal	VET	Vocational Education and Training

Table of figures

Figure 1 –Participants in mobility activities under the Erasmus+ programme and its predecessors since 1987	23
Figure 2 – Number of projects contracted across budget years, grants in billion.....	24
Figure 3 – Number of participations of organisations involved per year	24
Figure 4 – Erasmus+ Financial Programming per year (billion EUR).....	25
Figure 5 – Erasmus+ budget commitments 2023 per management mode.....	26
Figure 6 – Erasmus+ budget commitments 2023 per sector.....	26
Figure 7 – Erasmus+ budget commitments 2023 per Key Action.....	27
Figure 8 – Erasmus+ budget commitments 2023 per Key Action.....	35
Figure 9 – Funded projects per action	36
Figure 10 – Organisations participations per field.....	37
Figure 11 – Organisations participations per Key Action.....	37
Figure 12 – Organisations per organisation role.....	38
Figure 13 – Organisations per type – Applicants	38
Figure 14 – Mobility in 2023 per field.....	39
Figure 15 – Gender breakdown in Erasmus+.....	40
Figure 16 – Gender balance in Erasmus+ per field of education.....	40
Figure 17 – Mobility funding in 2023, per call year.....	41
Figure 18 – Mobility flows in 2023 (thousands) – 1/2.....	42
Figure 19 – Mobility flows in 2023 (thousands)- 2/2.....	42
Figure 20 – Participants’ feedback about their key competences improvement.....	43
Figure 21 – Women representation in the Erasmus+ programme compared to EU27 tertiary education.....	97

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