

# Principles for a Better Erasmus+ in the next Multiannual Financial Framework

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# introduction

**The Erasmus+ Programme has had an immense impact on young people across Europe since its inception, transforming the lives of millions of participants through the development of key competences and active citizenship. Moreover, Erasmus+ has played a critical role in implementing youth and education policies in Europe, strengthening European democracies and promoting solidarity across borders. This could not have happened without the crucial role played by youth organisations amplifying the value of the programme.**



However, Europe stands at a critical juncture today. The threats to our democratic systems are intensifying. Young people face increasing barriers to enter the job market and most importantly to find quality employment. Solidarity across generations and across nations is more fragile than ever.

Erasmus+ is central to countering these challenges. Mario Draghi's Report on the future of European competitiveness points out the fact that Erasmus+ reaches 15% of young people in the EU today and that to reach every young person, the budget of the programme needs to increase five-fold. Strengthening Erasmus+ equals giving young people the tools they need to shape a more democratic, inclusive, and prosperous Europe. Ultimately, strengthening Erasmus+ equals laying the foundations for a cohesive and resilient society - an essential basis for Europe's security in the long term.

We stand at a pivotal moment in history when the decisions we take to shape the future of Erasmus+ will have consequences for the future of our continent.

These are the principles that we as the European Youth Forum believe should be followed to plant the seeds for a blooming Erasmus+ Programme:

# principles for a better Erasmus+

## **A budget five times bigger that reaches as many young Europeans as possible**

1

As pointed out in the Draghi Report, we need to invest five times more with Erasmus+ to move from the current 15% of young people reached through the programme, to as many young people in Europe as possible.

## **An inclusive and accessible Erasmus+ Programme**

2

The Erasmus+ Programme must ensure that all groups of young people can adequately access its opportunities regardless of their background and systemic barriers they might face. Only through an inclusive Erasmus+ can the programme truly reach out to every young person in Europe.

## **Youth-friendly administration**

3

The excessive administration of Erasmus+ and any EU programme targeting youth must not be a deterrent for young people to participate. The youth chapter of the programme must significantly reduce its bureaucratic threshold and enshrine this commitment in the new Erasmus+ Regulation.

## **A programme that taps into the potential of youth organisations**

# 4

Self-organised spaces of young people play an essential role in achieving the success of the Erasmus+ Programme. As such, youth organisations should be clearly recognised as key actors in the upcoming Erasmus+ Regulation and organisational support should increase in the next iteration of the programme.

## **Participatory governance of the Erasmus+ Programme**

# 5

As a programme that promotes active citizenship, the governance of Erasmus+ must include participatory civil dialogue mechanisms to include the voices of youth organisations and beneficiaries at all levels. Only through a participatory Erasmus+ can the programme be effectively implemented and achieve its goals.

## **An Erasmus+ Programme beyond the EU**

# 6

The Erasmus+ Programme should expand beyond its current borders to (re-)include willing European countries that abide by the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. A truly European youth programme should be also accessible to young Europeans beyond the EU.

# why does Europe need to invest in Erasmus+?

## **The Erasmus+ Programme strengthens democracies and EU values**

Erasmus+ is a key safeguard of democracy and societal resilience in Europe, through the promotion of active citizenship and intercultural understanding to hundreds of thousands of young people every year. Its foundational significance needs to be acknowledged in the new legal texts as part of the objectives of the programmes.

**More Erasmus+**

**=**

**More Democracy  
& EU Values**



## **The Erasmus+ Programme strengthens solidarity and intergenerational fairness**

Participating in the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes is known to increase a sense of empathy, intercultural learning and solidarity. In a Europe that is striving for intergenerational fairness, investing in Erasmus+ is key to building a society based on cross-generational understanding.

**More Erasmus+**

**=**

**More resilient economy & young people's quality employability**

## **The Erasmus+ Programme strengthens the economy through young people's quality employability**

Erasmus+ is a crucial tool when it comes to enhancing young people's learning and training experiences across Europe and beyond, giving an opportunity to acquire and test new competences. Participating in the Erasmus+ Programme improves young people's quality employability and career development, ultimately leading to a more resilient economy.

**More Erasmus+**

**=**

**More solidarity & intergenerational fairness**



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