

MOBILITY PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF A MOBILITY PROJECT?

Education, training and youth activities play a key role in providing people of all ages with the necessary means to participate actively in the labour market and in society at large. Projects under this Action promote transnational mobility activities targeting learners (students, trainees, apprentices, young people and volunteers), and staff (professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, and people working in organisations active in the education, training and youth fields) and aiming to:

- support learners in the acquisition of competences (knowledge, skills and attitudes) with a view to improving their personal development and employability in the European labour market and beyond;
- support the professional development of those who work in education, training and youth with a view to innovating and improving the quality of teaching, training and youth work across Europe;
- enhance notably the participants' foreign languages competence;
- raise participants' awareness and understanding of other cultures and countries, offering them the opportunity to build networks of international contacts, to actively participate in society and develop a sense of European citizenship and identity;
- increase the capacities, attractiveness and international dimension of organisations active in the education, training and youth fields so that they are able to offer activities and programmes that better respond to the needs of individuals, within and outside Europe;
- reinforce synergies and transitions between formal, non-formal education, vocational training, employment and entrepreneurship;
- ensure a better recognition of competences gained through the learning periods abroad.

This Action also supports international mobility activities from or to Partner Countries in the fields of higher education and youth. This action also contributes to cooperation between the EU and eligible Partner Countries and reflects the EU external action objectives, priorities and principles:

- enhance the attractiveness of higher education in Europe and support European higher education institutions in competing on the higher education market worldwide;
- support the priorities identified in the Communications "Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change"¹⁸ and "European Higher Education in the World"¹⁹;
- support the internationalisation, attractiveness quality, equity of access and modernisation of higher education institutions outside Europe in view of promoting the development of Partner Countries;
- promote the development and external policy objectives and principles including national ownership, social cohesion, equity, proper geographical balance and diversity. Special attention will be given to the least developed countries as well as to disadvantaged students from poor socio-economic backgrounds and to students with special needs.
- promote non-formal learning and cooperation in the field of youth with Partner Countries.

WHAT IS A MOBILITY PROJECT?

Organisations active in the fields of education, training and youth will receive support from the Erasmus+ Programme to carry out projects promoting different types of mobility. A mobility project will consist of the following stages:

- Preparation (including practical arrangements, selection of participants, set up of agreements with partners and participants, linguistic/intercultural/task-related preparation of participants before departure);
- Implementation of the mobility activities;
- Follow-up (including the evaluation of the activities, the formal recognition - where applicable - of the learning outcomes of participants during the activity, as well as the dissemination and use of the project's outcomes).

An important innovation introduced in Erasmus+ compared to many actions of mobility supported under past European programmes is that Erasmus+ reinforces the support offered to the participants of mobility activities in

¹⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Brussels, 13.10.2011, COM(2011) 637 Final

¹⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Brussels, 11.07.2013 COM(2013) 499 final

improving their foreign language competences before and during their stay abroad. A European online linguistic support service was gradually introduced by the European Commission starting from the year 2014. The service provides the participants in long-term mobility activities with the opportunity to assess their knowledge of the language they will use to study, work or volunteer abroad as well as to follow an online language course to improve their competences (more details on the support to language learning can be found in Annex I).

Furthermore, Erasmus+, more than in the past programmes, will offer space for developing mobility activities that involve partner organisations with different backgrounds and active in different fields or socio-economic sectors (e.g. traineeships of university students or VET learners in enterprises, NGOs, public bodies; teachers in schools following professional development courses in companies or training centres; business experts giving lectures or training in higher education institutions, companies active in Corporate Social Responsibility developing volunteering schemes with associations and social enterprises, etc.).

A third important element of innovation and quality of mobility activities is that Erasmus+ participating organisations will have the possibility to organise mobility activities within a broader strategic framework and in the medium term. Through a single grant application, covering a period of up to two years, the coordinator of a mobility project will be able to organise several mobility activities, allowing many individuals to go abroad to different countries. As a consequence, under Erasmus+ the applicant organisations will be able to conceive their project in line with the needs of participants, but also according to their internal plans for internationalisation, capacity building and modernisation.

Depending on the profile of participants involved, the following types of mobility projects are supported under Key Action 1 of the Erasmus+ Programme:

- in the field of Education and Training:
 - mobility project for higher education students and staff;
 - mobility project for VET learners and staff;
 - mobility project for school staff;
 - mobility project for adult education staff.
- in the field of Youth
 - mobility project for young people and youth workers.

Long-term mobility of staff, the short and long-term mobility of pupils as well as the blended mobility of adult learners will be supported under Key Action 2 Strategic Partnerships.

The sections below provide the detailed information about the criteria and conditions applying to each typology of mobility project.