

Erasmus+ Programme

International Dimension of non-formal Learning

Opportunities in the field of youth

What is it?

In line with the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, the EU supports international non-formal learning² activities of young people and youth workers to foster young people's participation in democratic life and the labour market, to develop the quality of youth work and to support policy reform.

Programme Countries	EU Member States + Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey
Partner Countries	Most other countries worldwide ¹

The non-formal learning activities within the context of Erasmus+ target mainly young people within the age range of 13-30. Young people with fewer opportunities get specific support.

How does it work?

The Erasmus+ Programme offers the following Actions and activity formats in the field of youth for participants from Partner Countries:

Key Action 1 – Mobility of individuals:

- **Youth Exchanges** in which groups of young people from different countries work together on socially relevant topics while discovering new cultures, habits and lifestyles. The learning process in Youth Exchanges is triggered by methods of non-formal education. Youth Exchanges can last up to 21 days.
 - **Mobility of youth workers** enhances the professional development of youth workers through seminars, trainings, job shadowing and other meeting formats. Activities can last up to 2 months.
- **The European Solidarity Corps³ programme** (outside Erasmus+) allows young people either individually or in groups to express their personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary service in another country. Young volunteers are given the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations in fields such as culture, social care, civil protection or environment. Assignments can last up to 12 months. Any eligible participating organisation or informal group of young people from an EU country, Iceland, Turkey or North Macedonia can apply to the National Agency of the country in which the applicant organisation or group is established. Organisations from other countries neighbouring the EU can participate as partners.



¹ For further information on countries eligible to participate in projects, please see the **Erasmus+ Programme Guide** at: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf

² Non-formal learning is "learning which takes place through planned activities (in terms of learning objectives and learning time) where some form of learning support is present, but which is not part of the formal education and training system."

³ The **European Solidarity Corps** replaced activities of the former European Voluntary Service (EVS), which was phased out in 2018. For further information: https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

Key Action 2 – Cooperation for innovation

- **Strategic Partnerships** aim to support the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices at organisational, local, regional, national or European levels; open to any type of organisation active in any field of education, training and youth or other socio-economic sectors. Organisations from Partner Countries can be involved in Strategic Partnerships if they bring an essential added value to the project.
- **Capacity building projects in the field of youth** are transnational cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of youth in "Programme Countries" and "Partner Countries". These projects may integrate mobility activities like Youth Exchanges or Mobility of youth workers.

Key Action 3 – Support for policy reform

- **Meetings between young people and decision makers in the field of youth** foster active participation in democratic life and focus on the priorities set by the Structured Dialogue. Structured Dialogue projects can take the form of meetings, conferences, consultations and events. These events promote the active participation of young people in democratic life in Europe. The activities have to be organised in "Programme Countries".

Which actions are open to my country/organisation?

	Neighbouring Partner Countries ⁴	Other Partner Countries	Who can apply?	Where to apply?
<u>Key Action 1:</u> Mobility of individuals	Yes, involvement as partner organisation (not applicant)	No	Any eligible organisation or group of young people from a Programme Country	National Agency of the applicant organisation
<u>Key Action 2:</u> Cooperation for innovation	<u>Strategic Partnerships</u> Involvement as partner organisation <u>Capacity Building projects</u> Involvement as applicant and/or partner organisation to the extent funding is made available for region-specific Youth Windows ⁵	Yes, involvement as partner (not applicant)	<u>Strategic Partnerships</u> Any participating organisation from a Programme Country <u>Capacity Building projects</u> Any non-profit organisation, association, NGO, National Youth Council or public body from a Programme Country	<u>Strategic Partnerships</u> National Agency of the applicant organisation <u>Capacity Building projects</u> Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
<u>Key Action 3:</u> Support for policy reform	Yes, involvement as partner organisation (not applicant)	No	Any eligible organisation from a Programme Country	National Agency of the applicant organisation

More Information:

List of National Agencies: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/contact/national-agencies_en

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus_en

Erasmus+: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/programme-guide>

EU Youth Strategy: https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy_en

SALTO-Youth Resource Centres: www.salto-youth.net

⁴ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro; Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Territory of Ukraine as recognised by international law, Territory of Russia as recognised by international law; Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.

⁵ The Western Balkans Youth Window provides additional funds to intensify cooperation with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro. Western Balkans Youth Window applications must include at least one mobility activity. Please check the Erasmus+ Programme Guide to see if new regional Youth Windows are available; http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf