

# I. What is the international dimension of Erasmus+?

The international dimension of Erasmus+ supports mobility, cooperation, and capacity building between at least one EU member state or programme-associated country<sup>1</sup> and at least one non-associated third country.

*Actions with relevance to higher education*



## Learning mobility

### International credit mobility

Short-term mobility of students and staff between EU or programme-associated countries and partner countries worldwide



## EU values & knowledge

### Jean Monnet Actions

Teaching and research supporting EU studies and knowledge of the European Union worldwide



## Talent & excellence

### Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters

Programmes delivered by international consortia of higher education institutions, with scholarships for students



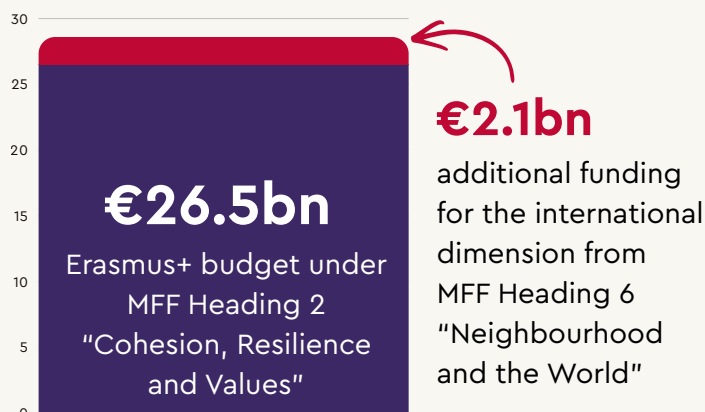
## Institutional cooperation

### Capacity Building in Higher Education

Transnational cooperation projects supporting higher education systems in partner countries

# II. How is it funded and managed under the current programme (2021-2027)?

The international dimension of Erasmus+ is funded through a mix of sources under the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), particularly EU external cooperation instruments. These support international credit mobility and capacity building projects, and co-finance Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters and Jean Monnet actions.



**EACEA** manages centralised actions: Erasmus Mundus, Jean Monnet and Capacity Building.

**National Agencies for Erasmus+** manage decentralised actions: international credit mobility.

National Agencies also promote centralised Erasmus+ actions, foster peer learning, help remove barriers to international cooperation, and strengthen Europe's global attractiveness.

<sup>1</sup> Including members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA): Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates: North Macedonia, Türkiye, and Serbia.



### III. Why is it important to Europe?

Erasmus+ international actions **strengthen Europe's global role and competitiveness.**

They help the EU to:



Advance **EU external policies**, including Global Gateway



Promote **EU values** and build a positive image



Strengthen Europe's **competitiveness** and **talent** base



Prepare **accession** countries through capacity building and cooperation

#### International credit mobility (ICM)

- equips students with skills and a **global outlook** for an interconnected world
- enhances the **global reach** and attractiveness of EU higher education
- anchors European HEIs in long-term **academic partnerships** worldwide

#### Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)

- fosters skills development in EU partner countries, enabling **investment**
- strengthens education systems in developing and fragile regions, supporting **EU security**
- deepens **EU cooperation** with the Global South to address shared challenges

#### Erasmus Mundus

- supports cutting-edge, **interdisciplinary** curricula in strategic fields (climate, energy, AI, STEM)
- attracts **talented students** from around the world
- builds long-term academic & professional **partnerships**, strengthening Europe's global reputation

**~50,000** students from **180+** countries

### IV. How to make it stronger and more effective in the future?

The interim evaluation<sup>2</sup> of the 2021-2027 Erasmus+ highlighted the need to expand its international dimension in the next funding period by:

- **deepening cooperation** with enlargement, neighbourhood, industrialised & emerging partners
- further **alignment and synergies** with EU external action instruments and strategies, such as the Global Gateway and the New Pact for the Mediterranean.

**74%** of respondents say a **stronger international dimension** would increase Erasmus+ impact

**Adequate funding** is essential to meet global demand, compete for talent and sustain EU's role as a trusted global partner.



<sup>2</sup> For more details, see: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/data-evaluations-statistics/evaluation>

<sup>3</sup> For more details, see: <https://aca-secretariat.be/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Cover-note-Joint-amendments-Erasmus-20260218.pdf>

#### What is ACA?

Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) is a leading European association supporting research, policy development and cooperation in international higher education. Founded in 1993, ACA brings together national organisations across Europe that fund, promote and shape internationalisation of higher education.