

ACA Statement on the European Parliament CULT Committee's Draft Report on Erasmus+ (2028–2034)

As the network of national organisations for international cooperation in higher education, including National Agencies (NAs) for Erasmus+, the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) warmly welcomes the CULT Committee's Draft Report on the proposed regulation establishing the Erasmus+ programme for the period 2028–2034, and repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888, prepared by MEP Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski (EPP).

The **report accurately reflects many of the recommendations put forward by higher education stakeholder organisations** in a [joint statement](#) and proposed [amendments](#) in February 2026. It rightly and firmly reaffirms that Erasmus+ has been, and should remain, the Union's flagship education programme grounded in shared values; one that plays a central role in strengthening the European Education Area (EEA), while also enhancing the EU's competitiveness and resilience. The budgetary proposal of **EUR 47.39 billion** is in line with the stakeholders' prior demands, while staying under the EUR 60 billion that would be necessary to deliver on the current political ambitions at Union level. One element of concern, that would limit access to the core elements of the programme and further innovation, is the proposed reduction in the percentage allocated to Education & Training from 83% to 73.4% in the future programme, as highlighted in a separate [stakeholders' statement](#) also co-signed by ACA, calling for CULT Committee's remedial action.

ACA also welcomes CULT Committee's overall effort to bring **greater budget clarity to the programme**, through the reintroduction of minimum **allocations per sector**, and the proposal to allocate a **specific percentage of the total budget to the operational costs of NAs** (Amendment 95, Article 9 – paragraph 1a – point d (new)), in line with the Erasmus+ 2021-2027 regulation. However, the association is deeply concerned that the proposed figure of **2.3% falls significantly short of the 3.3% operational cost provision** established under the current Erasmus+ regulation.

Prior studies have shown that NA support is highly valued by higher education institutions, with an 85% satisfaction rate recorded across member states and programme-associated countries. NAs are the organisations closest to the programme's end beneficiaries and their needs, and they currently manage more than three quarters of the Erasmus+ programme (i.e. the actions under indirect management). In addition, they also promote and give guidance on the directly managed actions to national level beneficiaries. Looking ahead, several changes now under discussion stand to

substantially increase NAs' workload, notably: (a) the decentralisation of awarding the Erasmus+ Charter for Higher Education (as proposed by the European Commission, and which poses particular challenges for larger higher education systems), (b) the desire for stronger monitoring and coordination between sectors, (c) the introduction of an additional Annual Work Programme for new actions alongside the regular Work Programme (as proposed by the Council), and the (d) heightened political ambitions set out in the Union of Skills agenda, with several foreseen innovations.

Maintaining the operational cost allocation at 3.3% is therefore not a nice-to-have but **an absolute necessity**, if NAs are to continue in delivering the same quality of support to the programme's direct beneficiaries. **ACA calls for this percentage to be safeguarded** in the CULT Committee's report and, ultimately, in the final regulation establishing the programme.

ACA members co-signing the statement:



Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD)



Vluhr International, Belgium



Croatian Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes (AMEUP)



Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS)



Education and Youth Board of Estonia (HARNO)



Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI)



German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)



Greek State Scholarships Foundation (IKY)



Tempus Public Foundation (TPF), Hungary



The Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannís)



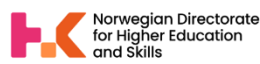
Uni-Italia



INDIRE, Italy



Nuffic - The Dutch Organisation for Internationalisation in Education



Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK dir)



Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA)



Instituto para o Ensino Superior, Portugal



Foundation Tempus, Serbia



SAIA, n.o. - The Slovak Academic Information Agency



Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation (SAAIC)



The Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes (CMEPIUS)



Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR)



Movetia - The Swiss National Agency for Exchange and Mobility

Associate member:



The Institute of International Education (IIE), USA