



Erasmus+

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Erasmus: what's next?

States General of the Erasmus Generation

A European discussion
on the future of the Programme



Rome, Campidoglio

9 May 2018

Enhancement of the quality of Erasmus+ mobility

Group coordinator: Mr. **João Pinto**, President of ESN International
Mrs. **Daphne Scherer**, European Parliament

Support given to mobile students should start before Erasmus+ mobility and end after reintegration into their home institutions. The Erasmus+ App and Erasmus+ Student Charter should be better promoted as they can provide information about rights and duties. Academic advisors and student organisations (such as ESN) should have a more central role to help reintegrate homecoming students.

The group proposed:

- 1. Improvement of student support services:** accommodation, physical and online peer-to-peer support, additional financial support to those who need it the most
- 2. Reducing obstacles to mobility:** grade conversion; ECTS recognition; updated course catalogues; digitalisation of procedures in order to counter bureaucracy; dedicated support to students with disabilities, as suggested by the MappED! project
- 3. Maximising the impact of the experience:** better relationship between universities and businesses to increase the skills gained by the students; more opportunities to learn about the local culture



Increasing the number of the Erasmus student mobility, pursuing the “Education and Training 2020” (ET 2020) European strategic framework

Group coordinator: Mr. **Vittorio Gattari**, President of ESN Italy

The group considered **fundamental to increase the number of students going on Erasmus international mobility**. The most highlighted issues were: too many management styles in higher education institutions within the same country and between different countries; excess of Bureaucracy; the need for more informative conferences and media advertisements; placing more stress on the added value of the Erasmus academic experience for employment purposes; increasing the number of disadvantaged students going abroad, helping them financially and logistically. The group proposed:

- 1. More quality information** on mobility Programmes
- 2. Additional Points** in the final grade
- Implementing the **“Buddy system”** in all institutions
- 4. Simplifying Bureaucracy** also thanks to fast and efficient online systems
- 5. Strengthening the International Relations Offices** and provide up-to-date information on the websites of higher education institutions

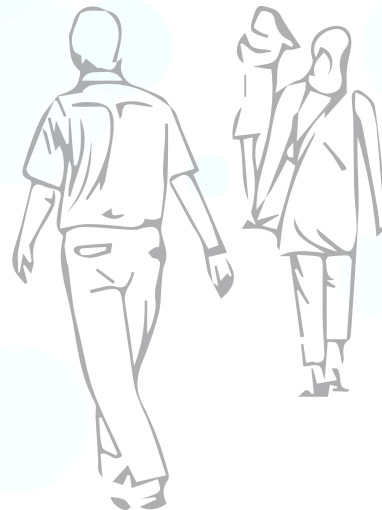
Internationalization of the Erasmus Programme

Group coordinator: Ms. **Francesca Valente**, Head of Erasmus unit, Alma Mater University of Bologna

Erasmus is becoming an international meeting point not only for students but for all the actors involved. It represents a **great opportunity for a personal and institutional development**. The internationalisation of the Programme, thanks to the sharing of knowledge and the experience of “diversity” will contribute to economic growth and stability inside and outside the EU.

The group proposed:

1. Erasmus+ as a **tool for integration of non EU students** and/or a training Programme for less skilled migrants in EU countries
2. Modernisation of curricula from a **gender perspective**
3. Incentives for “**green curricula**” in order to create sustainable urban planning and smart transportation systems, especially in less developed countries
4. **Harmonisation of higher education systems** in Programme and Partner countries, further strengthening the Bologna Process



Physical mobility combined with virtual mobility (distance learning) in the Erasmus Programme

Group coordinator: Ms. **Stephanie Arnold**, Student of Alma Mater University of Bologna

Virtual mobility has the potential to add a new dimension to the Erasmus+ Programme. Thanks to technological progress, Erasmus+ can now reach more students and professors than ever. If provided with solid guidelines and adequate support to all parties involved, it will have a lasting impact on higher education in the virtual space.

The group proposed:

1. **Incorporating virtual mobility in the physical classroom:** post-lesson online forums, additional learning outcomes in terms of soft skills
2. **Creating new forms of mobility through distance learning tools:** shared university pathways allowing mobile students to follow modules taught at other universities
3. **Implementing an e-learning tutor:** an assisting professor specialised in digital teaching methods, supporting all parties with “Digital Skills”, providing seminars, and acting as a point of reference for technological issues

The Erasmus Programme impact on employment and entrepreneurship

Group coordinator: Mr. **Stefano Campanari**, President of Scambierupe

The group agreed on the **strategic opportunity of this Programme to find and create new job opportunities**, besides developing personal and professional skills. The Erasmus international mobility for traineeship is key to make positive social impact in a context of high unemployment rate among young people, but readjustments are needed to improve its effects on the virtuous triangle University – Student – Enterprise.

The group proposed:

1. Creating a **stronger match** between the traineeships offered by **companies and trainees' demand** (stronger development of erasmusintern.org as the unique European portal)
2. **OpenBadges**, for students and/or recently graduated people
3. **Expanding** the period of eligibility for **Erasmus Traineeship**: allowing unemployed recent graduates to apply for the scholarship
4. **Developing a common procedure** to apply and participate in the programme, setting common deadlines for the publishing of the calls etc.

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Communication, dissemination and social impact of the Erasmus Programme

Group coordinator: Ms. **Valentina Presa**, GaragErasmus Foundation

Erasmus+ has become a strong brand but civil society and applicants still don't have clear and widespread information on the Programme. There are many initiatives under the Erasmus+ umbrella, but some of them are unknown to people, and some others are hindered by misleading communication.

The group proposed:

1. **More and better communication on the Programme**, reaching out to the civil society and showcasing achievements, successes and the impact of Erasmus+
2. **A European TV Programme**, first step for a European TV channel, a means to spread news also on Erasmus+
3. Inclusion of critical thinking and basic facts about EU in the national **curricula for primary schools**

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