

CESAER

STATEMENT ON PROPOSAL FOR ERASMUS FROM 2021 TO 2027

DATED 25TH JUNE 2018

The universities of Science and Technology (S&T) united within [CESAER](#) support the European Commission's (EC) [proposal](#) for the Erasmus Programme for the period from 2021 to 2027. It has the potential to ensure EU leadership in higher education and realise more ambitious goals for the European Education Area. We particularly welcome the focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). As the need for knowledge is greater than ever to address global challenges, it is critical to build on this positive proposal in order to equip our institutions with the tools to educate the next generation for the 21st century.

Recalling and complementing our [paper](#) 'More strategy, higher quality' and our [Key Messages](#) on 'Successor of Erasmus+', with this statement the universities of S&T deliver corresponding recommendations on the proposal of the EC intended to improve the proposal and to unlock its full potential.

ASSURE BOTTOM-UP AND OPEN CALLS LINKED TO UN SDGS

We support the EC's proposal to focus on STEM. The ongoing digital revolution is changing the nature of jobs and the demands on workers, therefore the additional focus on rapidly developing fields, such as clean energy, artificial intelligence, robotics, data analysis and the integration of art and design, indicates a positive direction for the programme. Despite these defined priorities, the EC should ensure that the calls remain bottom-up and open and that project outcomes are linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ([UN SDGs](#)).

ESTABLISH WIDE PARTICIPATION OF THIRD COUNTRIES

We welcome the proposed openness to global partners through association of third countries, and look forward to more details on the commitment of the budget for international cooperation. The promotion of higher education cooperation with third countries, including capacity building, is key to establish a leading role for Europe in the world and to address differences in needs across global regions. We call upon the EC to swiftly negotiate agreements with third countries to ensure a wide participation from the start of the programme in 2021.

INCREASE BUDGET TO €40 BILLION

Despite the proposed doubled budget, the funding for higher education in the proposal will remain at a similar level to the final year of the current Erasmus+. The shortfalls - notably oversubscription in Key Actions 2 and 3 and the low funding level for grants - will therefore not be addressed. That is why we urge the EU institutions to provide €40 billion for Erasmus to fulfil institutional development needs and cover increasing mobility demands particularly of students from lower socio-economic backgrounds and poorer countries.

PRIORITISE OPEN AND ONLINE EDUCATION

Universities of S&T are at the forefront of open and online education and there is great potential within Erasmus to take this to the next level as a vital instrument to equip our future generations. It is promising to note the pledge to increase the use of virtual cooperation activities in Key Action 2 and through European Universities, and we encourage the EU institutions to further support this area and for open and online education to be concretely integrated in the future work programmes.

APPLY ONE SET OF RULES

There is a need to coordinate the rules for all activities in education and training at Bachelor, Master and Doctoral levels under the different EU programmes, allowing for synergies and their scaling-up across education, research and innovation. Therefore, we call upon the EC services to apply one set of rules, ensuring more ambitious goals regarding mobility to be achieved and creating more attractive career paths.

STRENGTHEN ETHICAL DIMENSION THROUGH JEAN MONNET

We greatly welcome the expansion of the Jean Monnet programme outside of the higher education sector, reaching out to larger groups to raise understanding of Europe and awareness of its accomplishments. In addition, we support Erasmus students to act as ambassadors for European values, through alumni networks and awareness raising and dissemination. In current times of increasing polarisation, nationalism and post-factualism, we call upon the member states and associated countries to develop the Erasmus programme as a strong vehicle promoting sustainable peace and prosperity, respect for the rule of law and human rights, democratic citizenship, evidence-based policy making and the free circulation of knowledge in Europe and beyond.

For more information and enquiries, please contact our [Communication Officer](#) and [Head of Relations](#).

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We are a European association that champion excellence in higher education, training, research and innovation; influence debate; contribute to the realisation of open knowledge societies; and, deliver significant scientific, social, economic, and societal impact.