

CESAER

KEY MESSAGES ON THE SUCCESSOR OF ERASMUS+

STATEMENT DATED 7TH DECEMBER 2017

The EU Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport ([Erasmus+](#)) integrated the former programmes for education & training, youth and sport, and five external higher education cooperation schemes and was given a budget of €16,5 billion under heading 1 and 4, of which 43% to higher education (Erasmus) and 1,9% to the [Jean Monnet Programme](#).

Erasmus+ is a forceful tool to improve the skills of our graduates, to modernise higher education and to realise the European Higher Education Area ([EHEA](#)). It helps universities to deliver excellence in education, promotes collaboration, boosts our attractiveness worldwide and enables us to realise institutional development strategies. We greatly appreciated the integration of former programmes and the clear and simplified structure along three key actions. Complementing our [statement](#) `More knowledge for a better world` and our [technical paper](#) `More Strategy, Higher quality`, the [universities of science & technology](#) united within [CESAER](#) with this paper offer their key messages for the design of the successor of Erasmus+ to the European institutions.

MORE STRATEGY

Increasing the strategic value and the budget for the centralised actions are key to unlock the full potential of learning & teaching in Science, Technology, Engineering, Architecture, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM). We see many opportunities in inviting consortia to co-create more and better impact and benefits together with various stakeholders through linking their proposals bottom-up to the 17 United Nations (UN) [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). This will align the policy and programme objectives in education & training, external relations and research & innovation. Moreover, a single set of rules should apply to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions ([MSCA](#)), the European Institute for Technology ([EIT](#)) Master and Doctoral Programmes, funding for education and training aspects and research skills in the PhD phase and for summer and doctoral schools under the various EU programmes (i.e. successor of Erasmus+, 9th EU Framework Programme for Research & Innovation - FP9 - and European Structural and Investment Funds - ESIF). More focus on quality, alignment of objectives and creating one set of rules will bridge better between learning & teaching and science & technology, bring about more innovation & impact, enable universities to implement more attractive career paths and significantly improve recognition of prior academic achievements. The reintroduction of former instruments `intensive programmes` and `curriculum development` will enable us to implement better our institutional development strategies. Trust and confidence should allow for less burdensome auditing. The contracts for Joint Programmes should be extended to five years to achieve their consolidation. Sounding Boards per (sub-) action established involving university staff to collect feedback on and suggestions for programme management, administration and implementation.

MORE QUALITY AND INNOVATIVE MIND-SETS

Quality in educational offer, administrative execution and in strategic vision are priorities for the successor of Erasmus+. First, it should address more and better solidarity and democratic citizenship, not least by using Jean Monnet to reach out to larger groups within universities and beyond - in creative ways beyond typical classwork - on topics related to European integration, history, citizenship, democracy and human rights, mass media and communication. Erasmus students should be encouraged to act as ambassadors for European values and their initiatives to strengthen the European idea and increase inter-cultural understanding and openness should be more supported. Second, we advise to foster more innovative mind-sets and more innovation in learning & teaching. [Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs](#) would benefit from integration into Erasmus+. Moreover, entrepreneurship education would nicely fit into an extended Erasmus+ programme, particularly for the EIT labelled Master and Doctoral Programmes. In any case, a single set of rules should apply and transparency around the calls for proposals and evaluation be guaranteed. We also feel that the dissemination and communication efforts on projects results need to innovate, e.g. through television, social media and video clips. Third and importantly, we urge to centralise all Key Action 2 for higher education to leverage European added value through competition on excellence and to create a level playing field at European level and beyond.

MORE AND SMARTER FUNDING

We note a growing tension when we relate the institutional development strategies with regard to outgoing mobility to the means available and have increasingly encountered the need to make additional funds available. This cannot go on. We thus urge particularly the ministers of finance to allocate at least € 40 billion for the successor of Erasmus+ to match an ambitious [agenda](#) `More Knowledge for a better World`. The Erasmus+ successor must be leading over support to learning & teaching from other programmes, notably the ESIF and External Action programmes. We advise to introduce an EHEA TOP-UP intervention scheme whereby the EU funds additional activities of excellent higher education projects selected and funded at national level. Importantly, we advise to increase the budget for higher education cooperation in neighbourhood policy and capacity building for which the purchasing of equipment on the EU side should be allowed, real costs reimbursed, and funding for management overheads reintroduced.

For more information, please contact our [Secretary General](#).

[CESAER](#) is the European association of [fifty-one leading doctorate-granting specialised and comprehensive universities of science & technology](#) from twenty-six countries that champion excellence in higher education, training, research and innovation, influence debate, contribute to the realisation of open knowledge societies and deliver significant scientific, economic, social and societal impact.