

Erasmus+

What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the EU program for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-2027. The overall objective of the program is to support the educational, professional and personal development of people in the fields of education, training, youth and sport in Europe and beyond through lifelong learning, thus contributing to sustainable growth, quality jobs and social cohesion, promoting innovation and strengthening European identity and active citizenship. The program is therefore an important instrument for strengthening the European Education Area and promoting strategic European cooperation in education and training. There are three key actions with different programmatic orientations: learning mobility of individuals (Key Action 1), cooperation between organizations and institutions (Key Action 2) and support for policy development and political cooperation (Key Action 3). In addition, there are the Jean Monnet Actions. The key priorities of the program are (1) inclusion and diversity, (2) digital transformation, (3) environment and combating climate change and (4) participation in democratic life, shared values and civic engagement.

How does Erasmus+ Key Action 2 differ from other (European) forms of research funding?

Erasmus+ is primarily focused on promoting education, cultural exchange and mobility, while other European research funding programs such as Horizon Europe support scientific and technological research and innovation in specific areas. Within Erasmus+, Key Action 2 is particularly relevant for cooperation at institutional level.

What are the funding opportunities in Key Action 2?

All public and private institutions active in the fields of education, training, youth and sport can apply for funding under the Erasmus+ program. There are numerous funding activities and mechanisms in Key Action 2, of which the most relevant for universities are presented in more detail:

Partnerships for Cooperation:

- Cooperation Partnerships
 - o Transnational project involving at least three organizations from three different EU Member States or third countries associated with the programme
 - o Project duration between 12 and 36 months
 - o Three pre-defined lump sums are available, corresponding to the total amount of the grant for the project: EUR 120 000, EUR 250 000 and EUR 400 000. Applicants choose between the three pre-defined amounts depending on the intended activities and results.
- Small-Scale Partnerships

Partnerships for Excellence:

- Centres of Vocational Excellence
 - o Consortium must include at least eight applicants (beneficiaries) from at least four EU Member States or third countries associated with the program
 - o Projects should normally last 48 months (extensions are possible if duly justified and through an amendment to the grant agreement)
 - o Applications are submitted to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal
 - o Maximum EU financial support per project: EUR 4 Mio.
- Erasmus+ Teacher Academies
- Erasmus Mundus Action

Partnerships for Innovation:

- Alliances for Innovation

Los 1: Alliances for Education and Enterprises

- 1 Mio. EUR (Project duration: 2 years) or 1,5 Mio. EUR (Project duration: 3 years)
- At least eight applicants residing in at least four EU Member States or third countries associated with the program

Los 2: Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills

- 4 Mio. EUR (Project duration: 4 years)
- At least twelve applicants residing in at least eight EU Member States or third countries associated with the program

Capacity Building:

- Capacity Building in Higher Education

- Supports international cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organizations active in the field of higher education
- Activities and results of the higher education capacity building projects must benefit eligible third countries not associated to the program and their higher education institutions and systems
- Strand 1: Fostering access to cooperation in higher education
- Strand 2: Partnerships for transformation in higher education
- Strand 3: Structural reform projects

When and how often are these calls published?

Usually, the above funding lines are advertised **annually**. Applications for all funding lines (except for Cooperation Partnerships) are submitted via the Funding & Tenders Portal, where you can find application forms, information on partner searches and information on the Participant Identification Code (PIC).

Call dates in 2026:

Funding Line	Opening of the call	Deadline
Cooperation Partnerships	November 2025	05.03.2026
Centres of Vocational Excellence	November 2025	03.09.2026
Capacity Building in Higher Education	November 2025	10.02.2026
Erasmus Mundus Action	November 2025	12.02.2026
Alliances for Innovation	November 2025	10.03.2026

You can find current information on calls on these websites, among others:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/calls-for-proposals?](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/calls-for-proposals?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502&frameworkProgramme=4335)

[order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502&frameworkProgramme=4335](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/calls-for-proposals?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502&frameworkProgramme=4335)
3764 and <https://www.erasmusplus.de/>

Who supports applicants?

The EU offices of the universities and universities of applied sciences offer advice and support both for the application phase and during project implementation as part of the **EU Academic Network of Saxony-Anhalt**. (At Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg/MLU, the International Office provides support for all Erasmus+ actions). If you have any questions about research funding, please get in touch with your contact person at your university's EU office (or the International Office at the MLU).

You can also contact the relevant National Contact Points - for higher education this is the NA DAAD, for vocational and adult education the NA at BIBB - as well as the Executive Agency of the European Commission (EACEA).