



# Inclusion and Accessibility of Erasmus+ 2028-2034

## What is this topic about?

Inclusion is a priority of the current EU Erasmus+ 2021-2027 and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programmes<sup>1</sup>, with a focus on addressing the barriers that different target groups may face in accessing programme opportunities. This includes people from diverse cultural, social, and economic backgrounds, as well as people with disabilities, migrants, and people living in remote or rural areas. The Erasmus+ 2021-2027 and ESC programmes also have their own *Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2021-2027*<sup>2</sup>, which is supported by an implementation guide<sup>3</sup>.

This working group will produce recommendations on how the future Erasmus+ 2028-2034 should strengthen inclusiveness and accessibility for diverse groups of young people.

Please note: The European Commission has recently presented the proposal “Erasmus+ Programme for the Period 2028–2034”<sup>4</sup>. This proposal includes elements of the two existing programmes: “Erasmus+ 2021–2027” and the “European Solidarity Corps”. Since the Commission’s proposal merges the current “Erasmus+” and “European Solidarity Corps” programmes, participants are encouraged to draw on their knowledge and experiences of both, as well as the findings of the consultation report, and use these as a basis for discussing the future programme: Erasmus+ 2028-2034.

## What did young people say in the consultations?

According to the results of the EU Youth Dialogue standardised survey, in general, young people with fewer opportunities see mobility opportunities as more beneficial than their counterparts from the majority group. In addition, young people from financially comfortable backgrounds, women, and young people who are in education, employment, or training are more likely to see the mobility opportunities as beneficial to their active citizenship development (compared to their respective counterparts: young people who are less financially comfortable, men, and young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs).

Inclusion and accessibility were widely discussed topics amongst the consultation respondents. It was clear that enhancing the accessibility of the programmes was a priority for the large majority of National Working Groups (NWGs) and National Youth Councils (NYCs). There was concern that the current generation of Erasmus+ 2021-2027 and ESC was not equally accessible and was perceived as intended for more privileged young people.

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<sup>1</sup> [Priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme](#)  
[European Solidarity Corps: Principles](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2021-2027](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Implementation guidelines - Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Erasmus+ programme for the period 2028-2034](#)

*'Many [young people] expressed concern that access remains unequal, with urban youth, university students, or those in better-funded schools disproportionately benefiting. Meanwhile, young people in rural areas, vocational schools, or outside of formal education often remain unaware of these opportunities or perceive them as "not for people like me."' Polish NWG Report*

NWGs identified specific barriers to young people with fewer opportunities accessing the programmes, and these included:

- **Lack of information** about the programme and **lack of access to support** when applying (see topic: Awareness)
- **Complexity of language** within programme material and application forms
- **Financial barriers associated with the programmes.** The Erasmus Student Network highlighted that, according to their research, over one third of students experience significant difficulties securing affordable housing during Erasmus+ exchanges.

*'Economically disadvantaged youth and those living outside major cities also voiced concerns about affordability - not necessarily of the programme itself, which is often funded, but of associated costs, such as preparation, travel, or missed income. A few young people said they work part-time or have family responsibilities that make participation in long-term mobility programmes difficult.'* Estonian NWG report

Proposals to enhance accessibility and inclusion included:

- **Reducing the complexity** of application forms and **simplifying the language** used in program materials.
- **Increasing the levels of financial support** available through the programs to young people with fewer opportunities.
- **Creation of shorter-term or new formats** - with emphasis on project formats which require less time commitment or travelling to enable young people with work or family commitments to participate, and to create a 'first step' opportunity for those who were uncertain about participating.
- **Creation of accessibility standards** - to take into account the specific needs of supporting different groups of young people with fewer opportunities.

**Targeted and tailored outreach support** for young people with fewer opportunities was also widely emphasised. It was said to be important to reach beyond youth organisations and universities, and reach settings such as vocational schools, rural areas, and youth work settings. The role of **mentors or alumni** who could both provide support and act as inspiration was also highlighted.

## What else is good to know?

The evaluation of Erasmus+ shows that the programme is seen as highly inclusive: *"Inclusion and diversity is considered the most successfully addressed and implemented horizontal priority, with progress being recorded in the various programme countries and across the programme's sectors."* The evaluation also highlighted that the dedicated Inclusion and Diversity Strategy



assisted actors in various sectors (youth, schools, etc.) in implementing the Erasmus+ 2021-2027 and ESC in a coherently inclusive manner.

## Do you want to read more?

*REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION (...) on the interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 Erasmus+ programme and the final evaluation of the 2014-2020 Erasmus+ programme.* Online, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0395&qid=1752646664581>

*REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION (...) on the interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 European Solidarity Corps and final evaluation of the 2018-2020 European Solidarity Corps.* Online, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0144>

*COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT EVALUATION Interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 Erasmus+ programme and final evaluation of the 2014-2020 Erasmus+ programme (...).* Online, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025SC0186>

*SUPPORT STUDY FOR THE ERASMUS+ 2021-2027 INTERIM EVALUATION AND THE ERASMUS+ 2014-2020 FINAL EVALUATION.* Online, available at <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/8c800c3f-6099-11f0-a9d0-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

*Interim evaluation for the 2021-2027 European Solidarity Corps, final evaluation for the 2018-2020 European Solidarity Corps and final evaluation for the 2014-2020 EU Aid Volunteers Initiative. Final Report.* Online, available at <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/c8bd5657-0b86-11f0-b1a3-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>