

CALL FOR EVIDENCE FOR AN EVALUATION

TITLE OF THE EVALUATION	Erasmus+ 2021-27 interim evaluation & Erasmus+ 2014-20 final evaluation
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	DG Education, Youth, Culture and Sport - Unit B.4: Erasmus+ Coordination
INDICATIVE TIMETABLE (PLANNED START DATE AND COMPLETION DATE)	Q1-2022 Q4-2024
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	Home Erasmus+ (europa.eu) Evaluating and improving existing laws European Commission (europa.eu)

A. Political context, purpose and scope of the evaluation

Political context

Erasmus+ is the programme for EU action in the fields of education, training, youth and sport.

It has a budget of more than EUR 26 billion for 2021-2027, which is nearly double the funding for 2014-2020, and complemented by about EUR 2.2 billion from EU external cooperation instruments¹. The revamped programme responds to the invitation of EU leaders on stepping up mobility and exchanges, including through a substantially strengthened, inclusive and extended Erasmus+ programme. The programme promotes opportunities to study, to train and to work abroad for more young people across the EU, such as students, pupils, apprentices, adult learners, young people in informal learning, teaching staff or youth workers.

In line with wider EU policy developments in this field², the Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027 adjusted and strengthened its priorities in four areas: inclusion and diversity reaching out to more people with fewer opportunities; digital transformation; environment and the fight against climate change; and participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement.

In continuity with the 2014-2020 programme, the revamped Erasmus+ programme is structured around three key actions and the Jean Monnet activities:

- learning mobility (key action 1);
- cooperation among organisations and institutions (key action 2);
- support to policy development and cooperation (key action 3); and
- the Jean Monnet actions aiming to support teaching, learning, research and debates on European integration matters, including on the EU's future challenges and opportunities.

Several new features have been introduced, notably:

- Mobility for school pupils, for adult learners, for sport staff, group mobilities, short mobilities, blended mobilities, youth participation activities, Discover EU;
- Small-scale Partnerships, Partnerships for Innovation, and Partnerships for Excellence, like the European Universities, Centres of Vocational Excellence, and Teacher Academies; and
- Jean Monnet actions beyond higher education in other fields of education and training.

As stated in the Erasmus+ Regulation³, the general objective of the programme is to support, through lifelong learning, the educational, professional and personal development of people in the fields of education and training, youth and sport, in Europe and beyond. This contributes to sustainable growth, quality jobs and social cohesion, to driving innovation and to

¹ Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA III).

² European Education Area, Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027, European Skills Agenda, European Pillar of Social Rights, European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027, European Union Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024.

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 (OJ L189/1, 28.5.2021) [EUR-Lex - 32021R0817 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#).

strengthening European identity and active citizenship. The programme is a key instrument for building a European Education Area⁴, supporting the implementation of European strategic cooperation in the field of education and training, including its underlying sectoral agendas, advancing youth policy cooperation under the 2019-2027 European Union Youth Strategy⁵, and developing the European dimension in sport.

Purpose and scope

In accordance with the legal base, the Commission is to perform, by 31 December 2024, an interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 programme and a final evaluation of the 2014-2020 programme⁶. The evaluation report is to be delivered to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The evaluation will cover actions in all sectors supported by the programme for the period 2014-2023, in all Member States, third countries associated to the programme and third countries not associated to the programme⁷.

As required by the Erasmus+ Regulation, the evaluation will assess the overall effectiveness and performance of the programme, including as regards new initiatives and the delivery of inclusion and simplification measures⁸. The new interim evaluation will make it possible to take account of the impact of improvements introduced and to provide coordinated recommendations for continuing the programme.

Among other issues, the evaluation will also assess⁹:

- the enhanced inclusion and diversity measures in the programme;
- the contribution of the programme to mainstreaming climate actions;
- simplifications like the introduction of the lump-sum approach in cooperation projects;
- the participation of outermost regions and overseas countries or territories in the programme; and
- the progress of institutions pursuing an aim of European interest, which are financed under Jean Monnet actions, towards delivering on the programme objectives.

In addition, the evaluation will draw on lessons learned in the context of unforeseen events like the COVID-19 pandemic or the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It will also assess if some additional inbuilt mechanisms for more agility and flexibility are needed in the Regulation.

In line with the evaluation criteria set out in the Commission's Better Regulation Guidelines¹⁰, the evaluation will aim to assess:

- the effectiveness of the measures taken to achieve the programme's objectives, by looking at the benefits of actions and activities supported by the programme but also by trying to identify any gaps, and unexpected or unintended effects that might have occurred;
- the continued relevance of the programme's objectives, by considering whether they still appropriately address current and future needs;
- the programme's internal and external coherence with other programmes with similar or complementary objectives;
- the efficiency of the programme, including the scope for further simplification and burden reduction; and
- the European added value resulting from the actions and activities supported by the programme, compared with what could reasonably have been achieved by Member States at national and/or regional levels.

Furthermore, the evaluation will assess the results and long-term impact of the 2014-2020 Erasmus+ programme.

⁴ Communication from the Commission - *Achieving the European Education Area by 2025*, COM(2020) 625 final, 30.9.2020 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0625&from=EN>.

⁵ [Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 \(europa.eu\)](#) (OJ C 456/1, 18.12.2018).

⁶ Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/817.

⁷ [Eligible countries | Erasmus+ \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁸ Article 24(2) of Erasmus+ Regulation (EU) 2021/817.

⁹ Recitals 38, 39, 45 and 46 of Erasmus+ Regulation (EU) 2021/817.

¹⁰ Better Regulation Guidelines: swd2021_305_en.pdf (europa.eu);
Better Regulation Toolbox: [TOOL #47 Evaluation criteria and questions \(europa.eu\)](#).

The outcomes of the evaluation will be used to improve, where possible, the implementation of the current programme running until 2027 and to feed into the impact assessment for a possible Erasmus+ successor programme. They will also contribute to the knowledge basis in this area, which may result in insights for policy developments.

B. Better regulation

Consultation strategy

The evaluation is subject to the Commission's Better Regulation rules. A detailed consultation strategy will be developed in order to gather evidence and input from all interested parties.

The current call for evidence will be followed by an online public consultation and targeted consultations.

The public consultation will be based on a questionnaire aiming to collect assessments on the programme from a wide spectrum of respondents. The public consultation will be accessible via the Commission's central public consultations page¹¹, the *Have Your Say* web portal¹², and other relevant portals. It will run for a period of at least 12 weeks and will be carried out in all official EU languages. Eight weeks after the closure of the public consultation, the Commission will publish a factual summary report on the consultation page. This factual summary report will give a concise overview of the contributions received during the consultation.

In addition, targeted consultations will be conducted involving key stakeholders to collect their assessment of the programme and the effects it had on individuals (e.g. on their skills and abilities), on organisations and on national or EU policies.

The various consultation activities will be promoted on Commission web pages and social media, but also by national agencies and authorities through their existing communication channels.

The Commission will prepare a synopsis report including the results of all consultation activities and publish it when the evaluation is finalised.

Why we are consulting?

The aim of the consultation is to collect information, expertise and views from all interested parties in order to reach an evidence-based and measured judgement on how well the programme has performed.

Target audience

Contributions from the main stakeholders to the programme are welcome, but also from the general public, in particular:

- national authorities of the countries associated to the programme;
- national agencies in charge of implementing the programme in these countries;
- international organisations cooperating with the programmes, such as OECD, Council of Europe, and UNESCO¹³;
- international, transnational, national, regional and local municipal structures and other public authorities or organisations;
- sector-specific or horizontal stakeholder organisations and networks in the fields of higher education, school education, adult education, vocational education and training, youth and sport;
- non-governmental organisations (NGOs and civil society);
- current or former participant organisations in all sectors covered by the programme;
- current or former individual participants to the programme;
- alumni organisations; and
- other relevant entities or citizens.

Data collection and methodology

An external contractor will be hired to carry out assignments that will support the Commission in conducting the evaluation.

¹¹ [Consultations | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-commission.europa.eu/consultations)

¹² [Have your say \(europa.eu\)](https://european-commission.europa.eu/have-your-say)

¹³ OECD, Council of Europe and UNESCO have contribution agreements with the Commission for the implementation of some actions under the Erasmus+ Programme.

Before launching the request for service to potential external contractors, and to avoid repeating existing work in the evaluation, an inventory of existing studies or research on the effects of the programme actions will be established.

The methods used to gather and analyse evidence and information, and for making the assessment, will follow the general principles and minimum standards for consultation set by the Commission's Better Regulation Guidelines.

A series of documents regarding Erasmus+ are available for use in the evaluation, such as:

- *Mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus+ programme (2014-2020)*¹⁴;
- Impact assessment of Erasmus+ programme¹⁵;
- Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013¹⁶;
- Study *Mid-term review of simplified grants used in the Erasmus+ programme*¹⁷;
- European Court of Auditors' Special report 22/2018: *Mobility under Erasmus+: Millions of participants and multi-faceted European Added Value, however performance measurement needs to be further improved*¹⁸;
- Erasmus+ annual work programmes and annual reports¹⁹;
- Implementation guidelines - Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy²⁰; and
- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1877 of 22 October 2021 on the framework of inclusion measures of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes 2021-2027²¹.

Furthermore, Member States are required to submit to the Commission a report on the implementation and impact of the programme in their respective territories²². Other associated countries will also be asked to take part on a voluntary basis. The contractor will be required to analyse these national reports and prepare a synthesis report to feed into the evaluation.

¹⁴ [Evaluations | Erasmus+ \(archive-it.org\)](#): Adopted Commission Report on the mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus+ and predecessor programmes.

¹⁵ [EUR-Lex - 52018SC0277 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#): Impact Assessment accompanying the document Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing 'Erasmus': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) 1288/2013, SWD(2018) 277 final of 30 May 2018.

¹⁶ [EUR-Lex - 32021R0817 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

¹⁷ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4c376244-deee-11e7-9749-01aa75ed71a1>

¹⁸ [Special report 22/2018: Mobility under Erasmus+: Millions of participants and multi-faceted European Added Value, however performance measurement needs to be further improved \(europa.eu\)](#)

¹⁹ [Documents and guidelines | Erasmus+ \(europa.eu\)](#)

²⁰ [Implementation-guidelines-erasmus-and-european-solidarity-corps-inclusion-and-diversity-strategy](#)

²¹ C/2021/7493, OJ L 378, 26.10.2021, p. 15. See also: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/commission-decision-framework-inclusion-2021-27>

²² Article 24(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/817