

ERASMUS+ COALITION

FOR STRONG EU PROGRAMMES IN EDUCATION, TRAINING, YOUTH AND SPORTS

#Erasmusx10 Campaign Brussels, Belgium

The Erasmus+ Coalition gathers over 40 European-wide networks and civil society organisations representing the major beneficiaries of Erasmus+ programme at all levels. The idea of the "Erasmusx10" campaign emerged when European political leaders started advocating for a significant uplift of the programme's budget. The President of the European



Commission Juncker himself, during the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of Erasmus+ in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, invited the institutions to be nine times more ambitious. Juncker declarations follow the political will of a consistent increase of the Erasmus+ budget expressed by several heads of State and government of some Member States such as Belgium, France, Italy. Furthermore, during the Rome Summit on the 60th anniversary of the treaty, EU

leaders stressed out the importance of EU biggest achievement in changing the lives of 9 million Europeans through Erasmus+. This clear support and acknowledgment of the programme's benefit to citizens and Europe at large justifies the need for better financial support to make the programme more accessible and increase its quality. **The purpose of the campaign** is to mainstream such individual and collective mobilisation, and to raise civil society voices from all parts of Europe to advocate for a more accessible and inclusive Programme.

If the suggested increase seems ambitious at first glance, the Coalition recalls that **the current budget allocated for Education, Youth and Sports in the EU remains a tiny percentage of the overall EU budget (1.4%). Only 4 million people, i.e. 0.8% of European citizens, are expected to benefit from the programme in the 2014-2020 period.** Such an increase of budget would show an important move towards the establishment of a Social Europe and **European identity**, thus better meeting EU citizens' high expectations in terms of tangible benefits generated by EU policies and funding. **Education is a key driver to socio-economic progress, to the fulfillment of EU2020 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.** Without prejudice to Member States' sovereignty on their education systems, such cooperation in

the last 30 years has contributed to further exchange of good practices and peer learning opportunities for all stakeholders.

The Coalition considers the **30th anniversary of the programme**, and the **revision of the next Multiannual Financial Framework**, to be the ideal moment to discuss the future of the “**flagship programme**” of the European Union. The discussion about the successor of Erasmus+ is the best opportunity to show **political commitment to improve the outreach of the programme in the post-2020 financial framework and meet higher expectations in terms of impact and outcomes**. Thus the campaign aims at supporting the design of the Erasmus+ successor programme that should cover learning in all contexts – whether formal, non-formal or informal – and at all levels (from local to European).

During the first phase of the campaign, the Coalition will **collect additional statements** from key stakeholders and institutions, organisations and individuals in the EU, and will bring them up in the light of a wider range of partners through **social media** and **event communications**. In the meanwhile, the Coalition will build evidence on the **positive changes** that more funding would have on the **quality, access, and inclusiveness of the activities for the beneficiaries of the programme**. The campaign will be launched in **September 2017**.



Official launch of the Campaign



Debate on the future of the Programme with MEP Lybacka in the LLLWeek

10 reasons why 10 times more

The Erasmusx10 campaign aims at gathering transnational support and increasing commitment from EU and national representatives in reinforcing the programme.

Why 10 times more? More funding can support the following aims !

○ Ensuring equitable opportunities for all

1 Widening its access for a truly lifelong learning programme: To widen its access to a larger group of beneficiaries from all ages and different education purposes, and to respond to the high demand of smaller organisations and individual citizens that struggle to access and be successful in the current programme.

2 Strengthen its social dimension for better inclusion: To increase Erasmus+ outreach and support to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, thus addressing the needs of all learners and their diverse backgrounds and aptitudes, including people with disabilities and from disadvantaged socio-economic background.

○ Facing and tackling key European challenges

3 Empowerment of citizens through education: To contribute to societal progress by promoting shared civic values and active citizenship through mobility, volunteering and cooperation projects.

4 Competitiveness and employment: To support the economic growth and employability providing opportunities to acquire and recognise basic and transversal skills, competences and knowledge

○ Quality activities and effective programme management

5 Quality mobility experience and projects: To improve the quality of learning mobility experiences and transnational partnerships by providing the necessary funding and tools to beneficiaries.

6 Effective management and evaluation: To increase the programme’s flexibility and effectiveness to meet the needs of beneficiaries, while modernising methodologies and processes.

○ Highly performant and innovative European education and lifelong learning systems

7 Peer Learning, Capacity Building and Exchange: To support cooperation among Member States and education stakeholders that will contribute to the modernisation of education and lifelong learning systems through peer learning and capacity-building facilitating policy reforms in line with Member States’ needs.

8 Cross-sector and multilevel cooperation: To strengthen the support to civil society organisations as intermediaries between the European and grassroots levels as a way to ease citizens’ access to the opportunities offered by the Programme, and to encourage partnerships with other stakeholders active in the field of education, training, youth and sport.

○ A strong and sustainable Europe in the world by 2030

9 Education as a driver for Sustainable Development Goals: To raise awareness and enhance the implementation of the SDGs in Europe using education as the most powerful and proven vehicle for sustainable development thus making lifelong learning a reality for all.

10 Internationalising education and lifelong learning systems: To reinforce the global dimension of the programme and the internationalisation of education institutions and different learning environments in order to build bridges with societies and economies across the globe and therefore being more competitive and resilient in a globalised world.



europdesk