Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

GENERAL ASSEMBLY **on** **Tuesday, 24.06.2025**

TOP 6: **PERSPECTIVES FOR ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME GENERATION from 2028**

SUBMISSIONS:

1. **Improve Erasmus+! For education, economy and society in a united Europe**
2. **2024 Impact Report from the Erasmus+ National Agency Higher Education within the DAAD**

SITUATION:

The current Erasmus+ 2021–2027 programme is due for continuation for the years 2028–2034 as part of the European Union's seven-year financial and programme planning cycle. The annexed report outlines the programme's successes to date, particularly with regard to the internationalisation of German universities and sets out the requirements for the future. Against this background, the following resolution proposal is submitted to the member universities:

"At the 2025 DAAD General Assembly, the German universities and their student bodies underline the vital social importance of the Erasmus+ programme for a united Europe. In terms of comprehensive funding for student exchanges, projects and the European Universities alliances, they emphasise the extreme relevance of Erasmus+ to the internationalisation of German universities. Erasmus+ forms the foundation on which the European and global mobility of students, teachers and administrative staff at German universities rests. It also contributes significantly to the development of collaboration and internationalisation structures at these universities.

Against this backdrop, German universities and their student bodies are strongly committed to strengthening the Erasmus+ programme in the higher education sector in the 2028–2034 programme generation. In particular, they are in favour of continuing and further expanding the level of funding achieved at the end of the current programme generation in the next one. This is the only way to fulfil the EU's objectives of intensifying exchanges in Europe ("Europe on the Move") and strengthening Europe's competitiveness within the framework of the "Union of Skills", both quantitatively and qualitatively. This requires a total Erasmus+ budget of at least €60 billion for the 2028–2034 period, of which around €20 billion is to be made available to European universities according to the current allocation key.

German universities and their student bodies are appealing to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the federal and state governments in Germany to support this objective and work resolutely towards achieving it."

PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION:
Debate and resolution

Improve Erasmus+!

For education, economy and society in a united Europe

For a successful Erasmus+ programme in the higher education sector in the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028–2034

Erasmus+ is the European Union's flourishing education programme. Since 1987, the programme has enabled 16 million young people to learn about Europe and the world while furthering their education in all areas. More than one million students and university staff from Germany alone have travelled abroad, while around 700,000 students and university staff from across Europe have come to Germany in return. Through its funding for student exchanges, projects and the European Universities alliances, Erasmus+ has become pivotal in the internationalisation of European universities. In 2025 alone, German universities will receive around €245 million in programme funding through the National Agency within the DAAD: €235 million for mobility (including €20 million for administrative costs and €10 million for staff mobility) and €10 million for cooperation projects. Further project funds for European and global collaborations, as well as for the European Universities alliances, are provided directly by the EU from Brussels.

The current Erasmus+ programme generation runs from 2021 to 2027. As part of the EU's seven-year financial and programme planning cycle, negotiations are currently underway for the continuation of the programme from 2028 to 2034. The DAAD aims to maintain the 2027 level of funding in subsequent years and to secure additional funds to support the EU initiatives "Europe on the Move" and "Union of Skills". These were launched in response to shifting geopolitical challenges and are intended to strengthen Europe’s resilience and competitiveness.

According to the plans known to date, the EU Commission is acknowledging the vital importance of the Erasmus+ programme in the proposed restructuring of the EU budget into mega-funds and the consolidation of almost all programmes. Erasmus+ is set to continue as one of the very few stand-alone programmes, representing the EU's "Face to the Citizen".

However, the budget for the future Erasmus+ programme poses a major challenge. In the current 2021–2027 programme generation, Erasmus+ has been significantly improved to

become more inclusive, sustainable and digital and to strengthen democratic participation in the EU. To this end, the budget was almost doubled from €14 billion (2014–2020) to €26 billion (2021–2027). The annual budgets will increase exponentially until the end of the programme generation in 2027. This means that a significantly higher budget than that for the 2021–2027 period will be required for the 2028–2034 period in order to maintain the level of funding for student exchanges and programmes achieved in 2027. Specifically, the 2027 level of funding must be provided every year from 2028 onwards. Simply updating the current multi-year budget for the 2028–2034 programme generation would lead to a significant reduction in funding compared to the 2027 level. For German universities, this would mean that from 2028 only 50,000 student exchanges could be funded per year instead of 70,000. This would mean cancelling every fourth Erasmus scholarship.

To ensure the success of Erasmus+, it is essential that the programme continues at the 2027 funding level. Therefore, a stable budget for all education sectors requires a financial framework of €46 billion for the period from 2028 to 2034 (including an assumed inflation adjustment in accordance with Article 5 of the EU Financial Regulation).

However, increasing the budget to €46 billion still does not allow for a quantitative or qualitative expansion of the Erasmus+ programme. Quantitative expansion is essential in order to achieve the objective of the EU Council Recommendation "Europe on the Move" (2024). This requires increased mobility within Europe in all areas of education. In the higher education sector, for example, the aim is for 23% of graduates to have spent time abroad during their studies by 2030. In 2020, this figure stood at an average of 12% across the EU and 17% in Germany. In qualitative terms, the "Union of Skills" (2025) also sets out new challenges for graduates, and thus for the higher education sector, in order to make Europe more economically competitive and socially resilient.

This quantitative and qualitative expansion requires a total budget of at least €60 billion for the 2028–2034 Erasmus+ programme generation. According to the previous distribution, around €20 billion of this was allocated to the higher education sector.