



# IS THE SHIP OF ERASMUS+ GRANTS SAILING TO MORE INCLUSIVE WATERS?

ERASMUS+ has been one of the most successful EU initiatives since 1987. No other programme reaches its scale, with hundreds of thousands of grants delivered per year.

59.8% of participants in student mobility between 2014 and 2018 would not have gone on ERASMUS+ mobility without an ERASMUS+ grant (EC Data).

Since the basis of grant calculation has basically remained the same at least since 2014, we have to ask:

## IS IT STILL ANSWERING STUDENTS' NEEDS? WHAT ARE THEIR VIEWS ON IT?



Co-funded by the European Union



### INCLUSION IN ERASMUS+

#### SINCE 2021...

- New and more flexible forms of mobility
- 7 countries increased ERASMUS+ grant levels

#### BUT...

- In recent years, **grant amounts were dramatically different** from country to country, sometimes discouraging the participation of students
- **Over 50%** of students participating in intra-European mobility can cover less than 50% of their expenses with their grant [in: ESNsurvey - XIV Edition: "Understanding the experiences and needs of exchange students in challenging times"]
- **Only 10%** of the mobile learners benefited from **top-up for fewer opportunities** in 2021 [in: Erasmus+ Annual Report 2021]

### STUDENTS' VIEWS ON THE ERASMUS+ GRANT

- They have a superficial knowledge of the Erasmus+ grant and no knowledge about how it is calculated or how the three cost-of-living based country groupings are set
- The mobility scholarship and how it varies influence the choices concerning destination and duration of mobility
- If financial worries were lessened or removed entirely by the grant, then the mobility itself would be a more enriching academic and personal experience
- A scholarship with rates that are adjusted to the actual costs of a mobility would provide the opportunity for more students to take part in it. The idea of a **grant indexed to regional costs of living** was very popular among students

### A MORE INCLUSIVE WAY TO CALCULATE THE ERASMUS+ GRANT

Equal baseline amount for all students across Europe

- Easy to communicate
- Easy to report

Supplement according to the cost of living of destination cities

- A fairer grant amount aligned with the real cost of living of the host institution

Sustainable travel ticket to go and return from mobility

- A way to reduce the CO2 footprint of the programme while encouraging students to discover Europe

+ Cost of living **CALCULATOR** available for HEIs, a simple way for IROs to calculate and communicate the grant amount