

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME?

Individuals constitute the main target population of the Programme. However, the Programme reaches these individuals mainly through organisations, institutions, bodies or groups that organise such activities. The conditions of access to the Programme therefore relate to these two actors: the "participants" (individuals participating in the Programme) and the "participating organisations" (including informal groups and self-employed persons<sup>14</sup>). For both participants and participating organisations, the conditions for participation depend on the country in which they are based.

### Participants in Erasmus+ project activities:

As a general rule, participants in Erasmus+ projects must be established in an EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme. Some Actions, notably in the fields of higher education, vocational education and training, and youth, are also open to participants from third countries not associated to the Programme.

The specific conditions for participating in an Erasmus+ project depend on the type of Action concerned.

In general terms, the main target groups are:

- For projects relevant for the field of higher education, the main targets are: higher education students (short cycle, first, second or third cycle), higher education teachers and professors, staff of higher education institutions, trainers and professionals in enterprises;
- For projects relevant for the field of vocational education and training, the main targets are: apprentices and students in vocational education and training, professionals and trainers in vocational education and training, staff of initial vocational education and training organisations, trainers and professionals in enterprises;
- For projects relevant for the field of school education, the main targets are: school leaders, school teachers and school staff, pupils in pre-primary, primary and secondary education;
- For projects relevant for the field of adult education, the main targets are: members of non-vocational adult education organisations, trainers, staff and learners in non-vocational adult education;
- For projects relevant for the youth field the main targets are: young people from 13 to 30<sup>15</sup>, youth workers, staff and members of organisations active in the youth field;
- For projects relevant to the field of sport, the main targets are: professionals and volunteers in the field of sport, athletes and coaches.

For more details on the conditions for participation in each specific Action, please consult Part B of this Guide.

### Eligible participating organisations

Erasmus+ projects are submitted and managed by participating organisations. If a project is selected, the applicant organisation becomes a beneficiary of an Erasmus+ grant. Beneficiaries sign a grant agreement which entitles them to receive financial support for the realisation of their project (grant agreements are not signed with individual participants).

---

<sup>14</sup> Natural persons are not eligible to directly apply for a grant to the Erasmus+ National Agencies or the Executive Agency EACEA (with the exception of self-employed persons (i.e. sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person). Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons.)

EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) cannot be part of the consortium

<sup>15</sup> Different age limits apply depending on the different types of activities. For more information please consult Part B of this Guide. Please also consider the following: lower age limits - participants must have reached the minimum age at the start date of the activity.

upper age limits - participants must not be older than the indicated maximum age at the start date of the activity.

As a general rule, organisations participating in Erasmus+ projects must be established in an EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme. Some Actions are also open to participating organisations from third countries not associated to the Programme, notably in the field of higher education, vocational education and training, and youth.

The specific conditions for participating in an Erasmus+ project depend on the type of Action supported by the Programme. In general terms, the Programme is open to any organisation active in the fields of education, training, youth or sport. Several Actions are also open to the participation of other players in the labour market.

For more details, please consult Part B of this Guide.

## ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

EU Member States take part in the Erasmus+ Programme. In addition, in accordance with article 16 of the Erasmus+ Regulation, the following third countries are associated to the programme<sup>16</sup>:

- members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA): Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein;
- acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates: Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Turkey and Republic of Serbia;

The EU Member States and the above mentioned third countries associated to the programme will be hereafter called **“EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme”**.

In addition, in accordance with article 17 of the Regulation, entities from other third countries non-associated to the Programme can be eligible in Erasmus+ actions in duly justified cases and in the Union interest (hereafter called **“third countries not associated to the Programme”**).

## EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme

The following countries can fully take part in all the Actions of the Erasmus+ Programme:

Member States of the European Union (EU) <sup>17</sup>			
Belgium	Greece	Lithuania	Portugal
Bulgaria	Spain	Luxembourg	Romania
Czech Republic	France	Hungary	Slovenia

<sup>16</sup> Subject to the signature of the Association Agreements between the European Union and those countries.

<sup>17</sup> According to Article 33.2 of Council Decision (EU) 2021/1764 of 5 October 2021 on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other (Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland) (EUR-Lex - 32021D1764 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)) the Union shall ensure that individuals and organisations from or to Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) shall be eligible for Erasmus+, subject to the rules of the Programme and the arrangements applicable to the Member State with which these OCTs they are connected. This means that individuals and organisations from the OCTs are participating in the programme on a 'EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme' status, the 'EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme' being the Member State with which they are connected. The list of OCTs can be found at: [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/where-we-work/overseas-countries-and-territories\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/where-we-work/overseas-countries-and-territories_en)



Denmark	Croatia	Malta	Slovakia
Germany	Italy	Netherlands	Finland
Estonia	Cyprus	Austria	Sweden
Ireland	Latvia	Poland	

Third countries associated to the Programme <sup>18</sup>		
North Macedonia	Iceland	Norway
Serbia	Liechtenstein	Turkey

### Third countries not associated to the Programme

The following countries can take part in certain Actions of the Programme, subject to specific criteria or conditions (for more information, please consult Part B of this Guide). Funding will be allocated to organisations in the countries within their territories as recognised by international law. Applicants and participants must respect any restrictions placed on EU external assistance imposed by the European Council. Applications have to be in line with the overall EU values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities as foreseen in art 2 of the Treaty of the European Union.

The following third countries not associated to the Programme are regrouped according to the EU's external action instruments, namely the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation – Global Europe Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)<sup>19</sup> and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III)<sup>20</sup>.

<b>Western Balkans (Region 1)</b>	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo <sup>21</sup> , Montenegro
<b>Neighbourhood East (Region 2)</b>	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Territory of Ukraine as recognised by international law
<b>South-Mediterranean countries (Region 3)<sup>22</sup></b>	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine <sup>23</sup> , Syria, Tunisia

<sup>18</sup> Subject to the signature of the Association Agreements between the European Union and those countries.

<sup>19</sup> Official Journal L 209/2021 (europa.eu)

<sup>20</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529>

<sup>21</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

<b>Russian Federation (Region 4)</b>	Territory of Russia as recognised by international law
<b>Region 5 Asia<sup>24</sup></b>	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam High income countries: Brunei, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Macao, Singapore and Taiwan
<b>Region 6 Central Asia<sup>25</sup></b>	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
<b>Region 7 Middle East</b>	Iran, Iraq, Yemen High income countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates
<b>Region 8 Pacific<sup>26</sup></b>	Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu High income countries: Australia, New Zealand
<b>Region 9 Sub-Saharan Africa<sup>27 28</sup></b>	Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo - Democratic Republic of the, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
<b>Region 10 Latin America</b>	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela
<b>Region 11 Caribbean<sup>29</sup></b>	Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago
<b>Region 12 US and Canada</b>	United States of America, Canada

The following third countries not associated to the Programme are not covered by the External Action Instruments:

<sup>22</sup> The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission notice Nr.2013/C-205/05 (OJEU C-205 of 19/07/2013, pp. 9-11) shall apply for all actions implemented through this Programme Guide, including with respect to third parties receiving financial support in the cases where the respective action involves financial support to third parties by grant beneficiaries in accordance with article 204 of the EU's Financial Regulation.

<sup>23</sup> This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

<sup>24</sup> The least developed countries amongst these countries can be found at: [DAC-List-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2021-flows.pdf \(oecd.org\)](https://oecd.org/dac/data-collections-and-compliance/dac-list-oda-recipients-for-reporting-2021-flows.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> As above

<sup>26</sup> As above

<sup>27</sup> As above

<sup>28</sup> The following are migration key third countries not associated to the Programme: Burkina-Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan

<sup>29</sup> The least developed countries amongst these countries can be found at: [DAC-List-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2021-flows.pdf \(oecd.org\)](https://oecd.org/dac/data-collections-and-compliance/dac-list-oda-recipients-for-reporting-2021-flows.pdf)

<b>Region 13</b>	Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City State
<b>Region 14</b>	Faroe Islands, Switzerland, United Kingdom

For more information, please consult the detailed description of the Actions of the Programme in the Part B of this Guide.

#### **Requirements regarding visa and residence permits**

Participants in Erasmus+ projects may need to obtain a visa for staying abroad in the EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme or third country not associated to the Programme hosting the activity. It is a responsibility of all the participating organisations to ensure that the authorisations required (short or long-term stay visas or residence permits) are in order before the planned activity takes place. It is strongly recommended that the authorisations are requested from the competent authorities well in advance, since the process may take several weeks. National Agencies and the Executive Agency may give further advice and support concerning visas, residence permits, social security, etc. The EU Immigration Portal contains general information on visa and residence permits, for both short-term and long-term stays: <https://ec.europa.eu/immigration/>