

Erasmus Student Network AISBL
Rue Joseph II 120
1000 Bruxelles



16th of July, 2024

Dear Members of the European Parliament,



We, the Erasmus Generation, would like to congratulate every elected member of the European Parliament. The start of a new mandate in the European Union is always filled with thrilling opportunities and excitement, especially considering the years ahead and the opportunities that will come to **shape the European Union to be a better place for all its citizens**. The months ahead of us are going to be truly important to ensure the future of the Union, the steadiness of democracy and the continuous progress of public policies that ensure unity, respect for the EU values, and development of young people, such as the **Erasmus+ programme**.

Going abroad is, for us, a once-in-a-lifetime experience, something that we find difficult to verbally put in any language. It is a feeling that can only be explained by the ones who have the opportunity to engage in an Erasmus+ opportunity, an opportunity that has touched more than 13.7 million citizens all around the globe. **Erasmus+ has proven to be one of the most successful initiatives of the European Union**. It gathers strangers who want to have the opportunity to understand a new (European) reality, experience a new education system, and gain more independence. The Erasmus+ programme turns them into friends, neighbours, and true citizens of the European Union.



Don't get us wrong—mobility is far from perfect. There are still many processes to improve, and several barriers remain, such as financial support, the timely arrival of grants, the housing experience, and the recognition of learning after mobility. However, despite these challenges, **we would never trade the experience and the growth we have gained during our educational journeys.** If you ask anyone who studied, trained or volunteered abroad about their experience, you will see a spark in their eyes as they recall the memories of their time away. Some things find you unexpectedly, and Erasmus is one of them.

While we may sometimes struggle with these barriers, we are certain that the future of Europe lies in providing more opportunities for internationalisation, higher education and mobility. **The future of Europe is Erasmus.** ★

For the next EU mandate, **we ask for education and international mobility to become key priorities for all representatives of the European Parliament.** The resilience of our Union relies on the innovations brought by our educational initiatives, and the Erasmus+ programme is the key innovation in this field. We must continue to endorse Erasmus+ to enhance the competitiveness of the EU and to secure the future of young people in our Union.

We call upon all members of the European Parliament to **recognise the power of education in shaping the lives of young citizens.** The discussion on the next budget of the European Union must prioritise these topics, with mobility at its heart. Neglecting education and mobility is equivalent to neglecting the future of young people and the future of Europe.

Erasmus Generation

