

[Forward look: 14 – 27 December 2020](#)



Overview of the main topics and events at the Council of EU and European Council.

The location and the format (physical or virtual) indicated for each meeting are subject to change.

14 December 2020

Video conference of energy ministers

Energy Ministers will exchange views on Energy System Integration and receive information from the Commission on recent developments in the field of external energy relations

Video conference of home affairs ministers

Home affairs ministers will discuss the migration and asylum pact, and will be updated on EU engagement with third countries on migration. They will exchange views on the priorities set out in the draft conclusions on internal security and the European police partnership

15-16 December 2020

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

Ministers will seek to agree the fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea, Mediterranean and Black Seas for next year and adopt conclusions on animal welfare and front-of-pack nutrition labelling

17 December 2020

Environment Council

Environment Ministers will aim to reach a general approach on the European Climate Law reflecting the outcome of the discussions in the European Council of 10-11 December 2020

For video coverage of Council sessions and audiovisual material, please see the following Council websites:

Erasmus+ 2021 2027: Council reaches a provisional agreement with the European Parliament



The German presidency of the Council and the European Parliament's negotiating team secured a provisional deal on the Erasmus+ programme for the period 2021-2027. The new programme will be much more inclusive than the current one and is expected to triple the number of participants, bringing them up to 12 million people. It will cover not only higher education, but all levels and types of education and training, which is reflected by the kept label "Erasmus+". It will be provided with a substantial budget of EUR 24.57 billion in current prices plus EUR 1.7 billion in 2018 prices, which constitutes a significant increase compared to the amount for the current programme. 83% of the total budget will be allocated to activities in the field of education and training, 10,3% to actions in the area of youth and 1,9% to sport-related activities.

I am very pleased that the German Presidency of the Council and the European Parliament reached a political agreement on the new Erasmus+ programme today. The new, larger programme for the period 2021-2027 focusses on inclusion. It enables us to support new initiatives and attract an even greater number of participants. We want to generate enthusiasm for Europe.

Anja Karliczek, German Federal Minister of Education and Research

For the three action areas – education and training, youth and sport, the main specific objectives of the Erasmus+ programme are the following:

- promote learning mobility of individuals and groups in the field of education and training
- promote non-formal and informal learning mobility and active participation among young people in the field of youth
- promote learning mobility of sport staff

The programme also aims to achieve cooperation, quality, inclusion, creativity and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of education and training, youth and sport. Further to that, Erasmus+ will support teaching, learning, research and debates on European integration matters, including on the Union's future challenges and opportunities through the so-called "Jean Monnet actions".

Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will be much more inclusive by offering access to learners in higher or general education, vocational education or training, adult education, non-formal learning, youth and active participation activities. It will also facilitate the participation of small scale and grassroots

organisations, and people with fewer opportunities, including people with disabilities and migrants, as well as EU citizens living in remote areas. The inclusiveness of the programme is also strengthened by the provisions on virtual learning and measures such as language support, preparatory visits, training and virtual cooperation for people who are unable to participate in learning mobility in the field of education and training, youth and sport.

Further to that, DiscoverEU, European Universities and Centres of vocational excellence initiatives are included in the scope of Erasmus+ 2021-2027.

Background and next steps

Erasmus is one of the most popular and successful EU programmes. Launched 30 years ago, it has helped around 10 million people to study, work or volunteer abroad. Under Erasmus more than 2 000 transnational partnerships are established each year.

The Commission presented its proposal for the new Erasmus+ programme on 30 May 2018. On 15 November 2018, the Council adopted its mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament.

The provisional agreement will now be submitted to EU member states' ambassadors for endorsement. The adoption of the Erasmus+ regulation for 2021-2027 will happen at a later stage.

[Commission proposal, 30 May 2018](#)

[Council's partial general approach, 26 November 2018](#)

Press release – EP and EU ministers agree on Erasmus+ programme for 2021-2027



“We were able to secure an additional 2.2 billion EUR over seven years, meaning that we can now spend more than 26 billion euros on training, education and more. We can also boost inclusion, enable more people to benefit from the programme and properly fund the three initiatives that have been successfully piloted since 2018 – the Centres of Vocational Excellence, DiscoverEU and European Universities”, said the rapporteur [Milan Zver \(EPP, SL\)](#) after the trilogue.

“Until now, Erasmus+ has had low levels of participation among people with fewer opportunities. That must change. Those who have missed out in the past will have significantly improved access to learning and mobility, through the specific provisions we have inserted”, said Chair of EP Culture and Education Committee [Sabine Verheyen \(EPP, DE\)](#). She added that “the Parliament fought hard to have a stronger oversight and decision-making role over the next seven years, which will make the programme more democratic.”

[Watch statements by Mr Zver and Ms Verheyen following the conclusion of negotiations on Friday.](#)

Helping people with fewer opportunities to take part

MEPs insisted that the new edition of Erasmus+ includes specific measures to enable more people with fewer opportunities to participate in the programme, regardless of whether those disadvantages are due to disability, poverty, remote location, migrant background or other reasons.

Both the Commission and member states will have to develop action plans to identify barriers and increase participation of people who are disadvantaged. They will also be able to provide top-up grants, including up-front payments for those in need to pay for the initial costs. According to the agreed text, projects cannot be rejected for having higher costs linked to measures that guarantee inclusion.

A lifelong learning programme open to adult learners

In order to better adapt to the changes caused by the green and digital transitions as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to acquire new work and life skills, Parliament successfully expanded the scope of the Erasmus+. People enrolled in adult education programmes – for example, learning digital skills or taking evening, professional or personal development classes, will be able to participate in mobility programmes from 2021.

A budget up to the task

As part of the political agreement on the multi-annual budget for 2021-2027, MEPs managed to secure an additional 2.2 billion EUR – the equivalent of one year's funding under the current Erasmus+ programme.

Simplified access and less paperwork

Thanks to the efforts of MEPs, the programme is now simpler and more manageable, as there are better and more user-friendly IT systems and less paperwork. Access to financing under the EU Regional Development Fund or Social Fund will be facilitated via a 'Seal of Excellence' that will be awarded for quality Erasmus+ applications that have not succeeded in obtaining financing under this programme.

A 'greener' Erasmus+

In line with the European Green Deal and Parliament's [September resolution](#), Erasmus+ will in the future measure its contribution to achieving the EU's climate spending targets and reduce its own environmental footprint, for example by promoting climate-friendly means of transportation for participants.

Next steps

The agreement reached today still needs to be approved by Parliament as a whole as well as Council.

[Democratic Republic of the Congo: Council extends sanctions for one year](#)



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[Weekly schedule of President Charles Michel](#)



Saturday 12 December 2020

+/- 17.00 Speech at the Climate Ambition Summit 2020

Monday 14 December 2020

Paris

Commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the OECD Convention

Tuesday 15 December 2020

13.30 Meeting with WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Wednesday 16 December 2020

09.00 Report to the European Parliament on the European Council of 10-11 December 2020 (European Parliament)