



# Erasmus+ Higher Education Policy and Direct Management Actions in the Transnational Dimension of Higher Education

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# Policy Context: Where do we stand?



There is a need to **increase access to skilled workers for SMEs**, as many report difficulties in recruitment.



**Strengthening basic skills** in education is essential to ensure all students are equipped for the future, particularly in literacy, maths, science, digital skills and citizenship.



**Shortages in STEM** are persisting, driven by low takeup among women.



**Boosting digital skills** remains a priority for both adults and students, with efforts to expand training and participation in lifelong learning.



Addressing demographic shifts is key, as the active **working-age population is decreasing**.



**Encouraging more women** to enter STEM and ICT fields remains important to close persistent gender gaps

# Policy Context: Union of Skills, where are we?



**Building a solid  
foundation through  
education and  
training**



**Free movement of  
knowledge and  
skilled people**



**Making the EU a  
magnet for talent**

# Building a solid foundation through education and training (1)

- Boost basic skills from early years to adult learning.
  - ↳ ***Action Plan on Basic Skills + Basic Skills Support Scheme pilot***
- Improve digital education policies, support EdTech partnerships and ensure equal access to digital education.
  - ↳ ***2030 Roadmap on Digital Education and Skills***
- Develop an AI literacy framework to promotes safe, effective AI integration in education.
  - ↳ ***AI in Education and Training Initiative***

# Building a solid foundation through education and training (2)

- Foster excellence in STEM education and training.
  - ↳ ***STEM Education Strategic Plan***
- Make Vocational Education and Training (VET) more attractive, innovative, and inclusive.
  - ↳ ***EU VET Strategy 2026-2030***
- Tackle shortages, improve conditions, and boost careers for educators.
  - ↳ ***Teachers and Trainers Agenda***

# Free movement of knowledge and skilled people

- Simplify recognition of skills and qualifications across the EU.
  - ↳ *Skills Portability Initiative*
- Improve the free movement of learners and workers.
  - ↳ *European degree and European VET diploma*
- Strengthen cooperation between universities.
  - ↳ *European Universities alliances*
- Enhance pupil and teacher' mobility across schools
  - ↳ *European School Alliances*
- **Make Erasmus+ more inclusive and accessible.**

# Making the EU a magnet for talent

- Facilitate targeted recruitment of non-EU skilled professionals to address critical shortages.
  - ↳ ***EU Talent Pool***
- Attract top students and researchers from non-EU countries.
  - ↳ ***Visa Strategy***
- Offer competitive work conditions to attract top talents to Europe.
  - ↳ ***Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Choose Europe pilot***

# Erasmus+: One of Europe's most successful stories...

Citizens consider it as one of the **EU's most important achievements** alongside Single Market and freedom of movement

*(Eurobarometer 91 - 2019)*

**39 years track record** on personal & professional growth for **+16 million participants** of all ages and backgrounds.

**Improved skills, competences, and career opportunities** for more than 4 out of 5 participants.

Strong priority on **inclusion and diversity** (Share of participants with fewer opportunities keeps increasing from 10% for 2014-2020 to 17% in 2024)

# E+ evaluation: the programme needs to be...

**Simpler**

**More Flexible**

**Adaptable**

**Compatible**  
with other EU funds

# Where do we stand with 'Erasmus HE'?

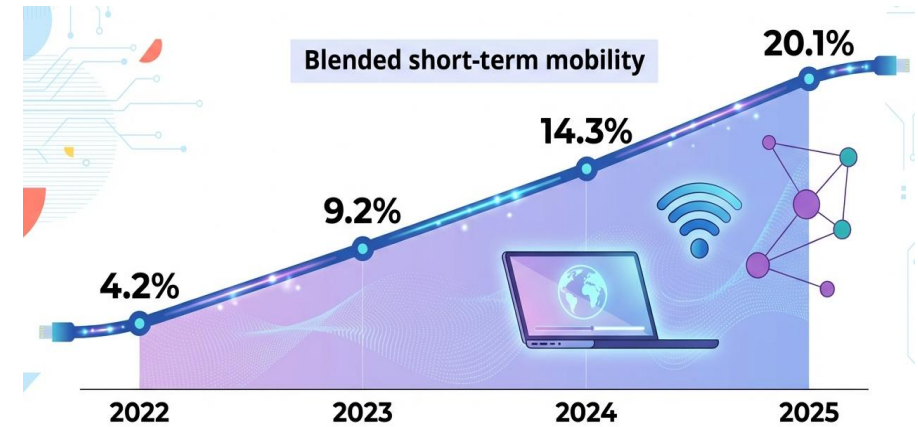
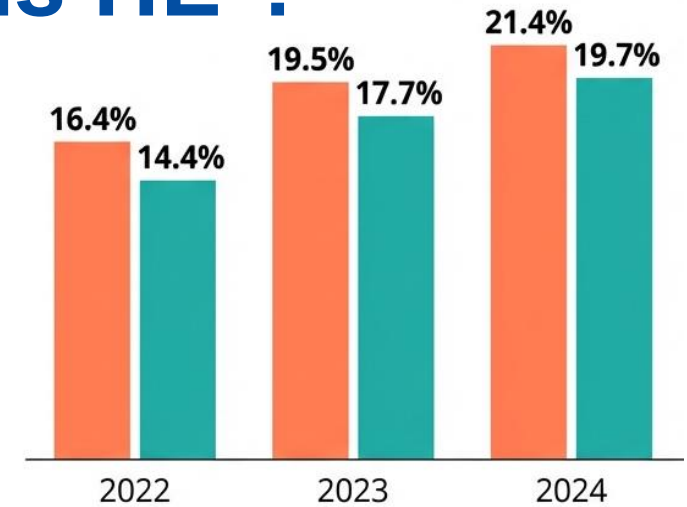
2024 (KA131):

- ❑ 385 000 student mobilities
- ❑ 105 000 staff mobilities

- 21%+ students with fewer opportunities
- 14%+ short-term mobility by students
- 5% international mobility (worldwide)
- about half of credit mobility in Europe

2026:

- ✓ 1.35 billion EUR – KA131 – Classic Erasmus mobility
- ✓ 0.2 billion EUR – KA171 – International credit mobility



# Potential questions for discussion

1. Which objectives should Erasmus+ priorities for the next programme period?
2. What to improve in student mobility rules / in the programme at European / programme level? Mobility duration, mobility formats, STEM mobility, etc.
3. What to improve in student mobility funding / in the programme at European / programme level? Grant levels, top-ups for fewer opportunities and for traineeships, etc.
4. What can be done at national level (national agencies)?
5. What can institutions do?
6. How to improve BIPs? What should be the trade-off / balance between the traditional long-term and short-term student mobility (to BIPs etc.)?

**Thank you.  
Any questions?**

European Commission

