

Strengthening Erasmus+: Investing in the Future of Europe

For stronger international exchange and educational cooperation across Europe

This cross-party appeal was drafted by members of German state parliaments during the information visit “Herz, Hand & Kopf – Internationale Verständigung durch Jugend- und Schüleraustausch” to Brussels (23–25 March 2026). It is addressed to Members of the European Parliament in the context of the upcoming decisions on the future of Erasmus+ under the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Since 2019, we – members of German state parliaments and of committees on education, youth and European affairs – have been meeting across party lines with practitioners from international youth and school exchange, as well as with education experts. Under the theme “Herz, Hand & Kopf – Internationale Verständigung durch Jugend- und Schüleraustausch”, we have come together for study visits, events and expert conferences. Our visit to Brussels has concluded with a meeting at the European Parliament.

At a time marked by international conflicts and a noticeable shift to the right in several EU Member States, it has become increasingly clear how indispensable international youth and school exchange is. Intercultural encounters among young people, exposure to different ways of life and cross-border cooperation make a vital contribution to mutual understanding, democratic citizenship education and peace in Europe and its neighbourhood.

We are convinced that the European Union’s Erasmus+ programme plays a decisive role in this regard – particularly because it reaches young people from all social groups and educational backgrounds.

Within the framework of the Multiannual Financial Framework, the current programme runs until 2027. The Council of the European Union, the European Parliament and the European Commission are currently deliberating on its continuation.

We therefore call on you to take decisive action and to commit to the following objectives:

- **ensure the continuation of the Erasmus+ programme and increase its budget to at least EUR 60 billion;**
- **strengthen priorities in the areas of school education as well as vocational education and training;**
- **guarantee that Member States retain a meaningful role in the allocation and prioritisation of funds.**

This represents a decisive investment in the future of Europe and of the next generations.

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