

Reaction of the Erasmus Student Network to the DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing "ERASMUS FOR ALL" The Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport

The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) generally welcomes the amendments put forward in the draft legislative resolution on the "Erasmus for all" proposal of the European Commission. In particular, we welcome the proposed focus on non-formal and informal learning, volunteering, support to youth organisations and the intercultural aspect of learning. The previous programmes have always been based on these core values, and it is of crucial importance to maintain those values within the new programme. ESN is also pleased to see that several amendments point out the importance of financial support to civil society organisations, both in the shape of the Jean Monnet and the current Youth in Action operating grants.

For ESN, the following amendments are of particular importance:

The name of the program

To ensure the integrity of the Erasmus brand in the new program, ESN welcomes the suggestion of keeping the already recognised brands of Comenius, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig and Youth in Action. The name of the overarching program, however, is most likely not ESN's primary concern nor that of the international students.

The structure of the program

ESN welcomes the new structure including a separate youth chapter. Generally, we support the horizontal/ cross-sectoral approach of the original proposal. We agree with the Parliament that it is very important to clearly identify sectors and policy areas covered by the program (including a separate budget line for each sector to ensure none of them is marginalized).

Added value

While we all agree that it is important to focus on employability and development of job related skills and competencies, ESN much welcomes the increased focus on personal development of learners and promotion of intercultural awareness, as suggested by the Parliament.

Europe Meets School - Erasmus in Schools

ESN warmly welcomes the proposal to support voluntary schemes such as Europe Meets School. In the framework of our [SocialErasmus](#)¹ project we have been successfully carrying out activities such as bringing international students into local high schools and let them talk about their country, culture, and language (Erasmus in Schools).

New opportunities for higher education students

ESN welcomes the suggestion to create opportunities for combining part time studies with part time internships. This would make it possible for numerous Erasmus students to gain both academic and professional competencies during their mobility period. ESN also believes that Erasmus should be flexible to meet the very diverse needs of European students, thus should not be restricted to a certain academic year, as the proposal rapporteur suggests.

Removal of administrative obstacles for visas

ESN very much welcomes the proposals to remove administrative obstacles for visas. ESN has put forward additional suggestions in [its contribution](#) to the EU consultation on the future rules on the entry and residence of non-EU national researchers, students, school pupils, unremunerated trainees, and volunteers in the EU.²

The chapter on Youth

ESN is very happy to learn that both the Council and the Parliament recognise the importance of youth support and understand that the youth sector requires specific objectives and a separate budget line. We in particular welcome such objectives in this chapter such as

1. The support of networking of youth organizations
2. The facilitation of non-formal and informal learning for young adults
3. The support of exchanges and intercultural dialogue with third country nationals
4. The promotion of an enhanced role of youth organisations.

Along with many other European youth and civil society organisations, ESN believes that it is of utmost importance to maintain to award grants to youth organisations in the new program. We thank the Parliament for hearing this request and we are looking forward to seeing European Youth NGOs included in the final text of the program.

¹ <http://www.socialerasmus.esn.org/>

² <http://www.esn.org/sites/default/files/ESN%20Position%20on%20Visas.pdf>