

**Question for written answer E-004310/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: How many students from the Middle East and North Africa will stay in the EU after their Erasmus exchange is over?

Building on the Barcelona Process, the Commission has proposed a connected ‘Common Mediterranean Space’ as part of its Pact for the Mediterranean. European taxpayers will fund projects benefiting the region while migrants from Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia will be welcomed to Europe under the guise of student exchanges.¹²

‘Legal pathways for labour migration’ from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) will increase and so-called talent partnerships will be scaled up. The pact will also act as a stepping stone to increase EU cooperation with partners beyond the southern Mediterranean, including the Gulf, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Balkans as well as Türkiye. The Commission describes stepping up cooperation between the EU, MENA and the Gulf region as ‘a key objective of the Pact.’³⁴

The Commission is asked to clarify the long-term migratory effect of this EU-MENA pact.

1. How many non-EU nationals from MENA countries does it expect to enter the EU annually on student or trainee visas under programmes linked to or supported by the EU-MENA pact from 2026 onward?
2. What share of these non-EU nationals is expected to remain in the EU after their studies (i.e. after 12, 24 and 60 months and please provide separate data by country of origin)?
3. What safeguards will ensure that study schemes do not become de facto long-term migration channels?

Supporter⁵

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¹ The pact consists of three parts: exchanges of people, trade and investment, and security/migration management. This point is nothing other than the opening of more doors to Europe, for potentially millions of people from Africa and the Middle East. The clue is in what the Commission promises to promote: ‘a whole-of-route approach to migration management’.

² <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-expand-erasmus-program-southern-mediterranean-africa-middle-east/>.

³ Press release Oct 16, 2025 | Pact for the Mediterranean – One Sea, One Pact, One Future – a shared ambition for the region https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2384

⁴ The Pact is proposed for political endorsement by the EU and southern Mediterranean partners in November 2025 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona process.

⁵ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Sebastian Tynkkynen (ECR).