

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002573/24  
to the Commission  
Diana Riba i Giner (Verts/ALE)  
(19 November 2024)**

*Subject:* Clarification on compliance with EU values in Erasmus+ funding

Recent investigative findings by openDemocracy reveal that the US-based World Youth Alliance (WYA), which has a European office in Brussels, has received EU funding despite disseminating anti-abortion misinformation and promoting narratives opposing gender rights <sup>(1)</sup>. This organisation's discourse includes publicly equating reproductive rights to the Holocaust and spreading false claims, such as that abortion causes infertility and negatively affects future pregnancies. This poses potential risks to women's health and undermines reproductive rights.

According to the report, the WYA received EUR 1.2 million through the Erasmus programme between 2010 and 2022 and it is a beneficiary of ongoing Erasmus+ projects [ref.: 101103498]. Given these serious concerns:

1. Could the Commission confirm whether this constitutes a breach of grant agreement provisions, particularly those requiring adherence to EU values?
2. What specific measures is the Commission taking to prevent the dissemination of misinformation on gender equality and reproductive rights within Erasmus+ and other EU programmes?

Submitted: 19.11.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission  
(4 February 2025)**

The Commission is committed to ensuring that persons and entities considered unreliable because of involvement in criminal, unethical practices, or activities incompatible with European values as stipulated in Article 138(1)(c)(vi) of the Financial Regulation <sup>(1)</sup> and enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on EU <sup>(2)</sup> do not receive EU financial support.

Beneficiaries of Erasmus+ must uphold legal provisions protecting EU values. Mechanisms framed by the Financial Regulation and relevant agreements concluded with recipients of EU funds have been put in place to safeguard and monitor the proper use of these funds.

If there is evidence that a beneficiary receiving EU funds is in breach of the applicable rules, the Commission will take appropriate measures, including reinforced monitoring, audits, termination of the grant agreement and recovery of funds, to protect the integrity and proper use of the funds.

Following allegations of disinformation by the World Youth Alliance Europe on sexual and reproductive health and rights, the Commission is looking into the matter together with the European Education and Culture Executive Agency, and assessing whether there has been a breach of the grant agreement provisions for non-compliance with European values or grave professional misconduct.

Moreover, the Commission has deployed a set of monitoring and supervision activities to ensure efficient and effective programme implementation.

This includes regular audits, feedback from participants, and close collaboration with all the bodies responsible for the implementation of actions under the Erasmus+ programme.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/eu-funding-anti-abortion-charity/>.

<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024.

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-fd71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-fd71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)