

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000871/25
to the Commission
Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR)
(27 February 2025)**

Subject: Protestant schools in France not allowed to take part in Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is a worthwhile programme geared to social inclusion and youth participation. At her Parliament hearing on 12 November 2024, Roxana Mînzatu said that she would be aiming for more inclusiveness ⁽¹⁾. Erasmus+ is largely managed by national agencies. French private schools (*établissements privés hors contrat*), such as Protestant schools and Montessori schools, are being excluded by the French Government from Erasmus+ Key Action 1 (Learning Mobility of Individuals). This is national gold-plating of European policy that is putting French pupils at a disadvantage by comparison with their peers in other EU countries.

1. Can the Commission confirm that Erasmus+ is intended for all pupils from all schools in the EU with nationally recognised qualifications, regardless of their legal status (private or public)?
2. Is the Commission aware that the French authorities are excluding private-school pupils and teachers from Erasmus+? If so, what does the Commission think about this?
3. What scope does the Commission see of nonetheless allowing pupils and teachers from the schools concerned to take part in Erasmus+ projects, and does the Commission intend to engage with the French authorities on this matter?

Submitted: 27.2.2025

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

The Commission confirms that Erasmus+ is designed in order to be inclusive and accessible for any pupil from any school in the EU regardless of their legal status (private or public).

The rules of the Programme are defined in compliance with Article 165 ⁽¹⁾ of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which obliges the Commission to fully respect the responsibility of the Member States for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems and their cultural and linguistic diversity.

The implementation of the Erasmus+ programme actions based on indirect management mode is done in cooperation with the relevant National Authorities of the countries participating in the programme.

Regarding Key Action 1 — Mobility of pupils and staff in school education, the Erasmus+ Programme Guide ⁽²⁾ (as an integral part of the annual call for proposals) states that the definition of eligible organisations in each Member State or third country associated to the Programme will be defined by the competent National Authority and published on the website of the relevant Erasmus+ National Agency. As a result, this information is public.

The currently applicable text is included in the official bulletin of the French Ministry of Education Youth and Sports dated on 16 January 2025 ⁽³⁾, see: ‘Établissements et organismes d'accueil (publics ou privés sous contrat) d'éducation et de formation initiale, depuis la petite enfance et la maternelle jusqu'à la fin du second cycle général et technologique’.

As a consequence, any private French school not being ‘under contract’ is not eligible for participating in Erasmus+ Key Action 1 in school education.

¹ ‘Quote: ‘I will strengthen Erasmus: first, by making it more inclusive; but second, also I want to look at how we will tackle those that are more in need.’

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2008/art_165/oj/eng

⁽²⁾ See footnote 95 at p 108 of the 2025 Erasmus+ Programme Guide (EN version: https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-01/erasmus-programme-guide-v2.2025_en.pdf).

⁽³⁾ https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.education.gouv.fr/bo/2025/Hebdo3/MENC2435108N_!!DOxrgLBm!HqtMWSm4FXCjESV0i4eONjII29dWOcOJ6zUWEsd83CuQfZZR3oJLXLLApB1rLuPmewDKqg-yaq-tNxnNjd4VLFgFO4apEBvDNZrwIUg9ZlPkquQUSD