

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002083/25
to the Commission
Kosma Złotowski (ECR)
(23 May 2025)

Subject: Equal access to Erasmus+ and DiscoverEU programmes

Programmes such as Erasmus+ and DiscoverEU aim to support learning mobility, equal opportunities and the elimination of economic, geographical and social barriers to access to education and personal development.

However, there are increasing reports from participants, youth organisations and educational institutions that these programmes, although extremely valuable, do not always reach all social groups equally and do not fully achieve their objective of providing equal opportunities. The problems reported include poor accessibility for young people from small towns and rural areas, complicated application procedures, insufficient language and organisational support, and inadequate funding in light of rising living and travel costs.

1. What specific measures is the Commission taking to ensure equal access to the Erasmus+ and DiscoverEU programmes for young people from rural areas?
2. Does the Commission have statistical data on participants in the Erasmus+ and DiscoverEU programmes, including their place of residence (urban/rural), and does this data influence the design and evaluation of EU youth mobility policy for educational purposes?
3. In view of the rising costs of travel, accommodation and living in the EU, is the Commission considering adjusting the level of financial support in mobility programmes to reflect the real economic conditions in different Member States and the individual needs of participants, and if so, how and when will the changes be implemented?

Submitted: 23.5.2025

Answer given by Mr Micallef on behalf of the European Commission
(15 July 2025)

The current 2021-2027 Erasmus+ programme has enhanced focus on inclusion, substantiated by a Commission Implementing Decision ⁽¹⁾, including geographical and socioeconomic barriers.

These measures include dedicated financial support, national inclusion plans, inclusion resource centres, tailored project formats, and inclusion support for mobility activities.

DiscoverEU is an integral part of the Erasmus+ programme since 2021. Under its Inclusion Action, the Erasmus+ National Agencies award specific grants to organisations working with young people with fewer opportunities facing accessibility and outreach barriers, including geographical barriers: participants may receive extra support while travelling, such as the possibility to be accompanied, extra budget for subsistence, mentoring, and support to the journey preparations.

These measures helped to increase the participation rate of individuals with fewer opportunities from 10% over the 2014-2020 programme cycle to around 17% in 2024. This data is currently not disaggregated according to the place of residence of participants.

The Erasmus+ individual support for physical mobility was increased in 2023 and 2024, based on two studies carried out in 2023 performing statistical analysis and market-price research, to cater for raising inflation and new market prices over the last years.

The level of financial support for different programme actions will again be analysed for the future programme generation, supported by robust evidence.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1877 of 22 October 2021 on the framework of inclusion measures of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes 2021-2027 (Text with EEA relevance) C/2021/7493.