

EN
E-004380/2025
Answer given by Ms Minzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.1.2026)

Countries in the Maghreb and the Middle East are not associated to Erasmus+ and do not receive a dedicated budget. Yet, higher education students from those regions continue to benefit from the already existing opportunities under the international dimension of Erasmus+ programme, funded by the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, which include short term student exchanges from any region in the world towards the EU.

The Pact for the Mediterranean¹ promotes a comprehensive, whole-of-route and rights-based approach to migration and mobility, which includes pursuing an effective return and readmission policy. When applying for visas, including for study purposes, third-country nationals go through thorough security checks. As part of the general conditions set out under Article 7 of Directive 2016/801², where third-country nationals are considered to pose a threat to public security, they should not be admitted.

The Commission is legally bound to ensuring that organisations and individuals that do not respect EU values, such as the rule of law or respect for human rights do not receive EU financial support. EU financial rules include an exclusion ground under the Early Detection and Exclusion System for entities engaged in activities contrary to EU values relevant in the implementation of EU budget.

The suspension of Hungarian institutions from the Erasmus+ programme concerns only a limited number of institutions (governed by the so-called public interest trusts) and is based on the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506³ adopted on the basis of Regulation 2020/2092⁴. The suspension is not aimed at Hungarian students and Hungary continues to receive the full Erasmus+ budget.

¹ JOIN/2025/26 final (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0026>).

² OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, pp. 21–57 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/801/oj/eng>).

³ OJ L 325, 20.12.2022, pp. 94–109 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2022/2506/oj/eng).

⁴ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, pp. 1–10 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/2092/oj/eng>).