

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004900/25
to the Commission
Diana Iovanovici Șoșoacă (NI), Fernand Kartheiser (NI)
(10 December 2025)

Subject: Erasmus plus programme

The Erasmus+ Youth Programme promotes youth mobility and skills, but its evaluation system raises serious concerns. There is a lack of access to the documentation of both rejected and approved projects, limiting learning and fairness; projects are arbitrarily rejected despite compliance with guidelines and feedback, which undermines the trust of potential beneficiaries. The recruitment process of evaluators is shrouded in mystery, raising questions about potential bias and a lack of accountability. The evaluation process uses artificial intelligence tools in an unclear manner, and differences in the structure of national agencies affect transparency and safeguard measures.

In this context:

1. Are there plans to introduce structured appeal mechanisms and access to approved projects?
2. Will artificial intelligence be used to protect human judgment, with the intention of preventing the risk of bias in assessments?

Submitted: 10.12.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(24 February 2026)

Structured appeal mechanisms are available to applicants in the Erasmus+ Programme as described in the calls for proposals and the programme guide.

The criteria set out in the calls are binding on the evaluators and do not allow for arbitrary rejection of applications. All rejection decisions must be duly substantiated on the ground of the relevant criteria.

If an applicant believes that the rejection of their proposal was based on an error, they can submit a complaint to the relevant granting authority ⁽¹⁾.

If a decision adversely affects them, the applicants are informed about the available means of administrative and judicial redress for challenging it.

Erasmus+ projects funded under direct management are published on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ⁽²⁾, while those under indirect management on the Erasmus+ project results platform ⁽³⁾. National Agencies also make information on the recipients of the EU funds publicly available on their websites.

The Financial Regulation ⁽⁴⁾ lays down the rules for evaluation committees to avoid bias, such as by requiring them to be comprised of at least three persons who must not be in a position of conflict of interest.

For selections, members of the evaluation committee may be external experts ⁽⁵⁾ who are subject to contractual obligations setting the highest professional standards and a code of conduct ⁽⁶⁾.

National Agencies and experts are also provided with training and guidelines, including on the responsible use of AI ⁽⁷⁾. Experts may use AI as a tool supporting their assessment but are ultimately responsible for all of the scoring and content they provide.

The proposal of the evaluation committee to award the grant or not serves as a basis for the decision which is made by the authorising officer ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽¹⁾ The European Education and Culture Executive Agency for actions under direct management or the National Agency under indirect management.

⁽²⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-results>.

⁽³⁾ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects>.

⁽⁴⁾ 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, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

⁽⁵⁾ Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013, OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, pp. 1-33, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/817/oj>.

⁽⁶⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/experts/code-of-conduct_en.pdf.

⁽⁷⁾ As provided by the Commission and in line with the AI Act (<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/regulatory-framework-ai>) and the Digital Education Action Plan (<https://education.ec.europa.eu/focus-topics/digital-education/action-plan>).

⁽⁸⁾ Article 203(6) of the EU Financial Regulation.