

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005055/25
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(22 December 2025)**

Subject: Accessibility of the Erasmus+ programme in the context of the rising cost of living

The Erasmus+ programme plays a key role in ensuring equal access to educational mobility, but the rising cost of living in major university cities increasingly exceeds the real value of the scholarships being offered.

The ongoing housing crisis in Western Europe and the rapid rise in rental prices are leading to a situation where students from lower-income countries face financial barriers that prevent them from participating in the programme.

Without the swift indexation of grants, there is a risk that mobility will become a privilege available mainly to the more affluent, which undermines the programme's inclusive nature and social relevance.

I would therefore ask the Commission to answer the following questions:

1. Is the Commission considering introducing a mechanism for the rapid updating of flat-rate grants so that they reflect the actual costs of rent in specific university cities, rather than just general inflation rates?
2. Does the Commission plan to develop new categories of support that take into account price differences between regions and the possible provision of higher grants in locations which Eurostat data show to have particularly high costs of living?
3. Is the Commission considering the introduction of additional support instruments, such as housing subsidies or emergency assistance mechanisms, to ensure that those students most at risk of economic exclusion can participate in the programme?

Submitted: 22.12.2025

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

Erasmus+ commits to ensuring equal access to education, with instruments such as the top-up grant for students with fewer opportunities.

However, affordable housing is out of reach for many, affecting Erasmus+ mobile students, as well as domestic and international students pursuing a full degree.

The European Affordable Housing Plan ⁽¹⁾ proposes an ambitious set of commitments to increase housing affordability for students.

These include investments in the expansion of housing supply and increased support to students, such as through assessing the feasibility of a guarantee scheme for students to find housing on the private market, and launching an Erasmus+ pilot to increase availability of affordable housing for mobile students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Erasmus+ considers the cost of living in the destination country and conditions in the sending country. National agencies can set the grant level for outgoing students based on national co-funding and demand. Target groups for the fewer opportunities top-up are defined at national level, adapting to national realities.

The Commission updates grant amounts considering inflation rates, but also through statistical market-price research to assess its adequacy compared to real costs. Details can be found in the decision authorising the use of lump sums and unit costs under the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027 ⁽²⁾.

The proposal for the new Erasmus+ regulation includes a possible adjustment of the financial support mechanisms to improve access to people with fewer opportunities.

The Commission will also launch a study to determine funding rules aimed at simplicity and attractiveness for beneficiaries, encompassing a market analysis and assessing living expenses in different cities.

⁽¹⁾ https://housing.ec.europa.eu/european-affordable-housing-plan_en.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/erasmus/guidance/lis-and-unit-cost-decision_erasmus_en.pdf.