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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.8.2026)

SPARK¹ is an ongoing three-year cooperation project between organisations active in the field of school education, led by the Dublin City University and seven partners from Ireland, Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Portugal. It has been selected by the Irish National Agency further to a call for proposals and on the basis of the criteria set out in the call. SPARK's main objective is to develop and implement Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) courses across five countries. Using the European approach to micro-credentials, CSE expertise will be exchanged across the partners. The project aims to provide school leaders and teachers with the skill set needed to deliver meaningful CSE lessons, with parental cooperation.

Respect for parental rights under Article 14(3) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union² is ensured within the distribution of competences established by the EU Treaties. Responsibility for school curricula, teaching arrangements and any consent mechanisms for participation in sexuality education remains with Member States and the competent educational authorities³.

Within the competences of the EU, the Commission contributes to the development of quality and inclusive education by encouraging cooperation between Member States and by supporting and supplementing their action.

Beneficiaries of Erasmus+ must ensure full respect for and compliance with the values and rights enshrined in the EU Treaties and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

¹ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2024-1-IE01-KA220-SCH-000245697>.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.

³ According to Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.