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Answer given by Ms Zaharieva
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission aims to make the EU the most attractive and secure place for both EU and non-EU scientific talent.

Both the budgets of the Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ programmes are fixed until 2027, as adopted by the co-legislators.

The Erasmus+ programme makes the EU an attractive place to study and work and supports transnational education cooperation¹. Through the 'Study in Europe' initiative², the Commission promotes global awareness of the high quality and the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of European higher education³.

Moreover, the Commission has identified a EUR 500 million package for 2025–2027 to make Europe a magnet for researchers. This includes the Marie Skłodowska-Curie 'Choose Europe' pilot⁴, as well as measures under the European Research Council⁵.

In addition, the Commission has brought together over 70 national and regional initiatives to attract foreign researchers, which can be accessed through a one-stop-shop in EURAXESS⁶.

The EU is also making it easier for researchers to relocate and integrate. The 'Students and Researchers' Directive⁷ provides a framework⁸ for researchers to enter and reside in the EU, and the upcoming visa strategy aims to build on this by further easing such relocation procedures. EURAXESS⁹ offers information and personalised assistance, helping researchers connect with institutions and regional innovation ecosystems. The European Research Area Act, that the Commission will propose in 2026, will aim to introduce measures strengthening

¹ The current 65 European Universities alliances, the Commission Communication on a blueprint towards a European degree and the provision of full scholarships to the best-ranked students worldwide through the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters action are contributing to this goal.

² Study in Europe – European Education Area: <https://education.ec.europa.eu/study-in-europe>.

³ In line with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the EU has a supporting role when it comes to the area of education. Consequently, the establishment, organisation, and management of higher education institutions, including the creation and control of their campuses, falls within the competence of individual Member States and relevant higher education institution, according to national law and regulations.

⁴ The 'Choose Europe' pilot supports early-career researchers with attractive allowances and longer employment prospects. Moreover, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) provide a wide range of training, mobility and career development opportunities that are open to researchers of all nationalities, including United States researchers, for them to successfully relocate to Europe.

⁵ In particular doubling the amount offered to researchers who relocate to Europe from abroad, already available in 2025, as well as a seven-year 'super grant', which will come into effect from 2026.

⁶ Jobs and opportunities | EURAXESS <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs#choose-europe-for-science-new>.

⁷ Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (recast).

⁸ This framework includes, amongst others, equal treatment rights with EU citizens in many areas, possibility to bring their families to the EU, intra-EU mobility rights, right to stay for up to nine months after the end of the research to look for a job, possibility to teach while conducting research, etc.

⁹ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>.

the freedom of scientific research, research careers, mobility and coordination across Member States.