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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.12.2025)

The Pact for the Mediterranean¹ sets out a new ambitious strategy. By investing in people, the initiative will reinforce the cultural, academic, social and economic ties that will make Europe stronger and more resilient.

Southern Mediterranean partners will continue to benefit from the already existing opportunities under the international dimension of the Erasmus+ programme, including short term student exchanges, in accordance with provisions of the related regulation. These are not financed out of the core, intra-EU budget but from additional NDICI/Global Europe funding. Therefore, they do not have an impact on the budget available for EU students.

Under Erasmus+, students study for a limited period (2 to 12 months) at an institution in the EU as part of their studies in their home country, returning to the home country after the mobility period. Overall, Erasmus+ promotes brain circulation, exchange and mobility of knowledge, skills, and talent across borders, not migration. Several international studies point towards the positive impact of international student mobility in terms of enhancing teaching and research quality, fostering intercultural learning, driving innovation, and strengthening universities' global engagement. At the same time, international students contribute significantly to local economies.

Beyond Erasmus+, migration and mobility if well managed can also be an opportunity, notably to address our labour needs in sectors facing workforce shortages. It is for this reason that legal pathways for mobility, including of students and researchers, will be addressed in line with EU and national competences.

¹ https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/joint-communication-pact-mediterranean_en.