



Erasmus da Rotterdam

Erasmus Programme

The **Erasmus Programme** is an European Union project which intends to promote the mobility of students and university teachers among EU countries and Turkey, Norway and Switzerland. Its name stands for "*European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students*". Its name is also in honor of the humanist Desiderius Erasmus.

By the time the ERASMUS Programme was adopted in June 1987, the European Commission had been supporting pilot student exchanges for 6 years. It proposed the original ERASMUS Programme in early 1986, but reaction from the then Member States varied: those with substantial exchange programmes of their own (essentially France, Germany and the United Kingdom) were broadly hostile; the remaining countries were broadly in favour.

Exchanges between the Member States and Manuel Marin, the responsible member of the European Commission deteriorated, and the latter withdrew the proposal in early 1987 to protest against the inadequacy of the triennial budget proposed by some Member States. However, in the next few months a compromise was worked out with a majority of Member States, and the programme was adopted by simple majority in June 1987.

Details

To participate in the ERASMUS programme students must be studying for a degree or diploma at a tertiary-level institution and must have completed their first year. They also have to be a citizen of one of the countries in the wider Lifelong Learning Programme

Students who join the ERASMUS programme study for a period of at least 3 months to an academic year in another European country. The ERASMUS programme guarantees that the period spent abroad is recognised by their university when they come back as long as they abide by terms previously agreed.

A main part of the programme is that students do not pay extra tuition fees to the university that they visit. Students can also apply for an ERASMUS grant to help cover the additional expense of living abroad. Students with disabilities can also apply for additional grant to cover extraordinary expenses. The disability dimension is a part of EU work to promote opportunities for the disabled.

In order to reduce expenses and increase mobility, many students also use the European Commission-supported accommodation network, CasaSwap, which is a free website where students and young people can rent, sublet, offer and swap accommodation - on a national and international basis. A derived benefit is that students can share knowledge and exchange tips and hints with each other before and after going abroad.

