



EUCIS-LLL

## EUROPEAN EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM

### ERASMUS+: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIPS?

The Education, Training and Youth Forum aims to gather various stakeholders<sup>1</sup> once per year in order to discuss key policy developments linked to the Europe 2020 strategy, the strategic framework for European cooperation in Education and Training (ET2020) and the European Youth strategy. The 2013 Forum will promote the idea of "**Working together for Reforms**", emphasising the need for policy makers and key stakeholders to work in partnership, in order to foster the successful implementation of reforms at national and regional level, in particular through the opportunities offered by the new EU education, training and youth programme 2014-2020 "Erasmus+". This year's Forum comes at an important moment, with the imminent launch of the new programme. It is an opportunity for stakeholders to get together and reflect on how they can contribute, through the programme, in implementing initiatives for modernising education and training systems, increasing skills levels and enhancing youth participation in society.

#### Erasmus+ European added value

Erasmus+ reflects the priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy and its flagship initiatives. Education and training are more important than ever for innovation, employment and inclusive growth, especially in the context of the current economic and social situation in many European countries.

The European added value of Erasmus+ will be to help citizens acquire more and better competences, enhance the quality of teaching in educational institutions in the EU and beyond, support Member States and non-EU partner countries in modernising their education and training systems and making them more innovative, and promote learners' participation in society. At the same time, the budget constraints of the EU and its Member States require a focus on results and cost-effectiveness, a concentration of efforts to enhance a cumulative and sustainable systemic impact, and a management and financial simplification to reduce administrative costs. One of the keys to delivering this added value is to strengthen the links and synergies between the Programme and the main EU policy priorities, particularly the implementation of the Europe 2020, Education and Training 2020 and Youth Strategies and the priorities of the EU external action.

Investment in education, training and youth must be driven by **common priorities and new, creative forms of partnerships** should be encouraged, as highlighted in the Communication on [Rethinking Education](#). More specifically, the Staff Working Document (SWD) "[Partnership and flexible pathways for lifelong skills development](#)" outlines the need for a partnership approach between the various stakeholders to build sustainable coordination structures and a shared vision. This shall ultimately contribute to implement the key EU policy objectives, such as fostering flexible pathways to encourage participation in lifelong learning. It shall contribute to the European Semester process and more particularly the country-specific recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> policy makers, employers, trade unions, organisations representing educational institutions and staff, civil society and youth organisations

## Partnerships in Erasmus+

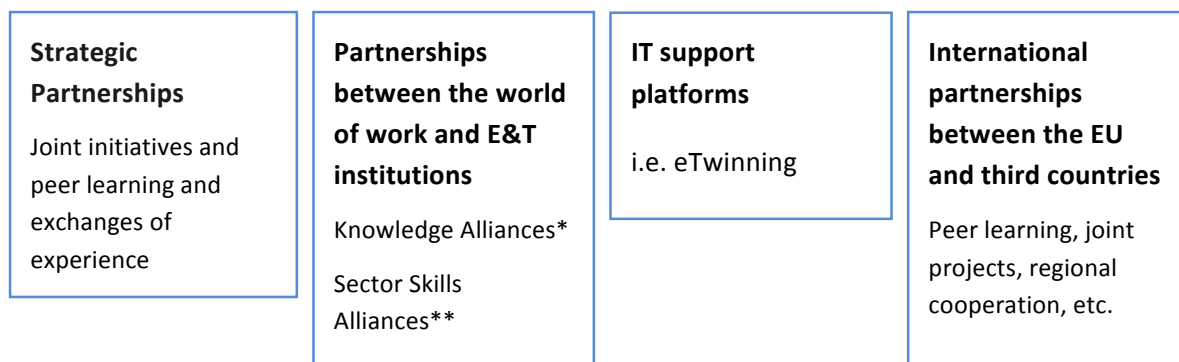
Erasmus+ will have a streamlined structure and support three main types of actions: (a) learning mobility of individuals; (b) cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices; and (c) support for policy reform.



Erasmus+ **Key Action 2** (KA2) will more particularly provide direct opportunities for stakeholders to make new peer learning experiences and exchanges of practices through **partnerships** within and across countries and sectors, but also to benefit from the other two Key Actions (Mobility and Policy reform) and build bridges between Erasmus+ and other national or European programmes, in particular the European Structural and Investment Funds.

KA2 will offer direct opportunities for education, training and youth stakeholders to engage in sector, cross-sector and cross-country capacity-building activities and joint initiatives, including with businesses to support the implementation of reforms in priority policy areas at all levels, as well as greater support for IT platforms, such as e-Twinning, to connect schools and other learning providers via the internet. Furthermore, the programme will support the creation of 'knowledge alliances' (partnerships higher education institutions/business) and 'sector skills alliances' (partnerships VET education and training providers/businesses).

KA2 will support (education, training and youth):



\* *Knowledge alliances are large-scale partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses to promote creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship by offering new learning opportunities and qualifications.*

\*\* *Sector skills alliances are partnerships between education and training providers and businesses to promote employability by forming new sector-specific curricula and innovative forms of vocational teaching and training.*

## Timeline

The users' guide is currently being finalised by the European Commission. The first calls for proposals should be published before the end of 2013.