

EU-Neighbourhood East cooperation through Erasmus+: Opportunities for the Neighbourhood East (NE)

What is Erasmus+ ?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-2027. Erasmus+ funds mobility and cooperation projects between (a) the 27 EU Member States plus six¹ other European countries associated to the programme, and (b) countries not associated to the programme who are located all over the world.

Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the common priorities for cooperation policy with partner countries and regions, including Neighbourhood East. Armenia, Belarus*, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine can take part in Erasmus+ by partnering up with one or more of the 33 countries mentioned above. This factsheet looks at how popular these initiatives have been with the Neighbourhood East so far in the ongoing Erasmus+ programme. In most Neighbourhood East countries, the EU supports a National Erasmus+ office to help promote these opportunities.

¹ In 2024 these six countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye.

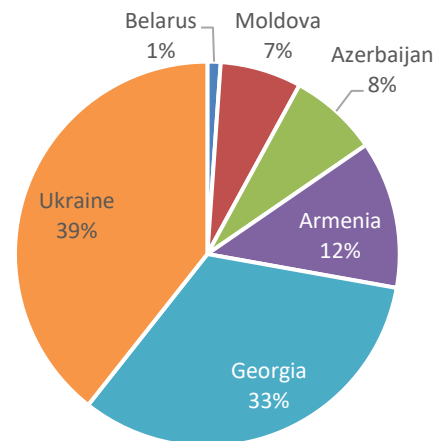
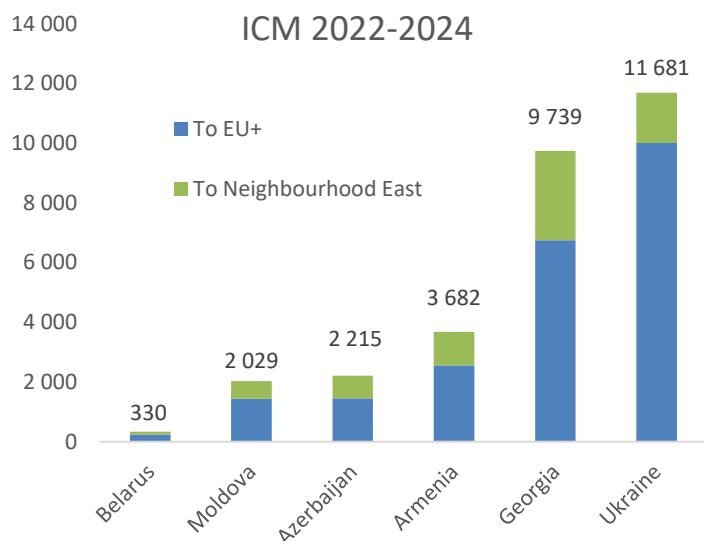
*Belarus is not eligible to participate in most of the Erasmus+ actions, however, the EU continues to support the people of Belarus namely through the International Credit Mobility instrument and Erasmus Mundus scholarships

International Credit Mobility

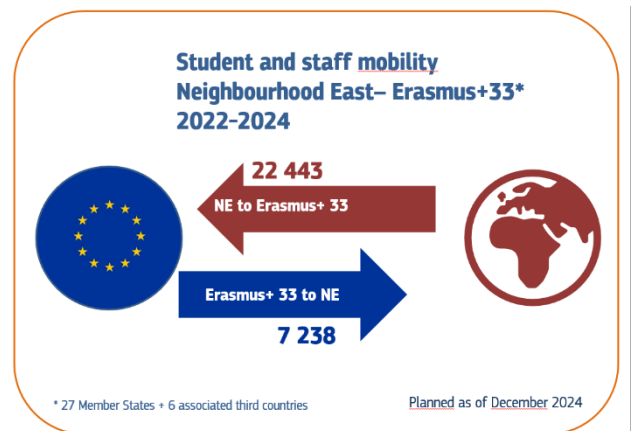
Since 1987, Erasmus has enabled students to study part of their course in a university in a different European country. With Erasmus+ this type of short-term mobility for students and staff is also possible beyond Europe, allowing students to study at a foreign university for 2-12 months and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. A grant for staff mobility is also possible for 5-60 days. Some projects also offer traineeships.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all the European countries. European institutions make up bilateral partnerships with universities in Neighbourhood East and apply on behalf of their partners.

The first two annual selections of mobility projects have resulted in over 1731 projects with more than 500 universities in 6 Neighbourhood East countries. They plan **mobility for more than 29 600 students and staff**.



Mobility to/from Neighbourhood East 29 681 people on the move



Since 2022, 6 Neighbourhood East countries have forged mobility partnerships with Erasmus+33. For example, in 2023, 57 Georgian universities were involved in mobility agreements with 50 universities in 13 European countries, from Romania to Sweden. One of these universities, Polytechnic Institute of Braganca (Portugal) also has partnerships with Moldovan and Armenian universities.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMs) award full-degree scholarships to Master students from around the world covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different European countries. Upon graduation, they are awarded a joint or double degree, or multiple degrees.

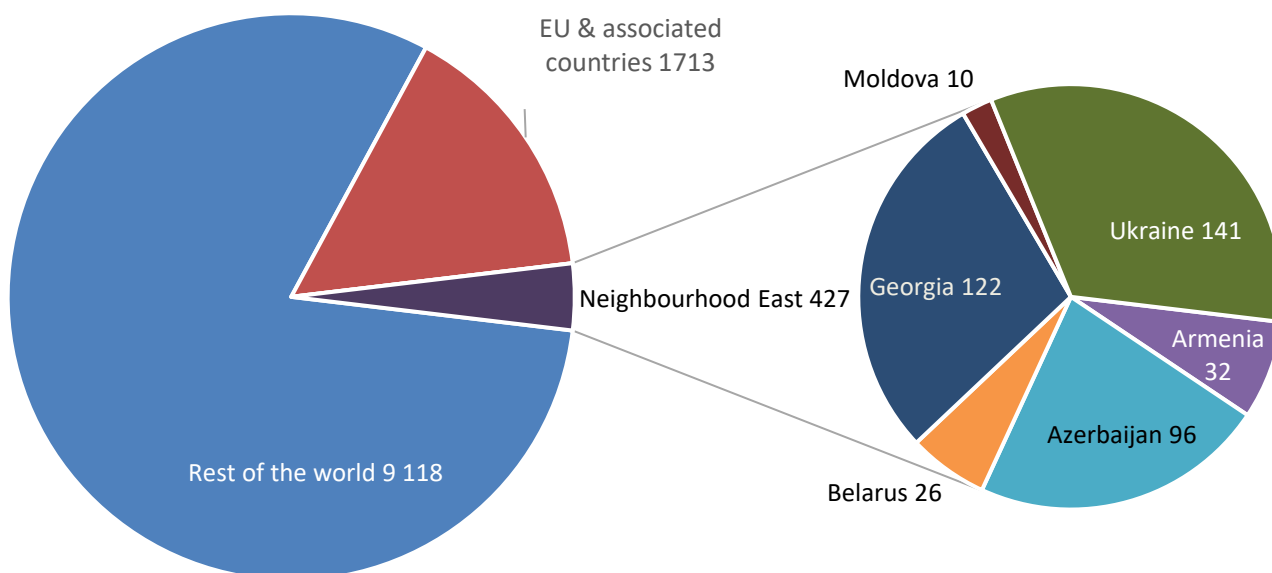
Students can apply to these programmes even if the university where they studied is not involved in any of them. They have to look for the available programmes in the EMJM Catalogue and apply directly to the programme coordinator: <https://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-mundus>
The EU funds additional scholarships for students from Neighbourhood East countries.

Institutions from Neighbourhood East countries can also deliver these programmes: as applicants setting up the consortia; as full partners who officially award degrees; or as associated partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of capacity – providing lecturers, hosting fieldwork, promoting the course - but do not award the actual joint degree. Note that Belarusian institutions are not eligible to participate as partners or associated partners.

Partners from Neighbourhood East

So far we have seen three cases of Neighbourhood East universities from Ukraine and Georgia being involved as full hosting partners in EMJMs selected between 2021 and 2024. In the same period, Neighbourhood East organisations have taken part 21 times in Erasmus Mundus programmes as associated partners.

EMJM Scholarships 2021-2024



ChEMoinformaticsplus: Artificial Intelligence in Chemistry

The two-year Erasmus Mundus Joint Master program is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to address current social and innovation challenges using advanced chemoinformatics techniques, including artificial intelligence and data sciences. Led by the University of Strasbourg, this international consortium also includes the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Ukraine) and the Bar-Ilan University (Israel), both renowned for their strong research expertise. Other partners are from Slovenia, France, and Portugal.

Erasmus Mundus and Neighbourhood East 2021-2024



427 scholarships
for nationals of Neighbourhood East countries



24 instances of Neighbourhood East organisations involved (partner or associate)
3 of them as full partners

EMJM-EMLex - Master Erasmus Mundus in Lexicography

EMJM-EMLex The European Master in Lexicography is targeted at students who show an avid interest in working with dictionaries and online lexicographic resources. The EMJM-EMLEX provides an international and interdisciplinary degree in Lexicography. The master's programme focuses on building expertise in theoretical and practical Lexicography, Digital Humanities, Language Technologies, Natural Language Processing and Artificial Intelligence directed towards the needs of a changing digital and global society. The programme is offered by a consortium of the Iliia State University (Georgia), University of Hildesheim (Germany) University of Minho (Portugal), and Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church (Hungary).

Find more about all project examples at <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects>

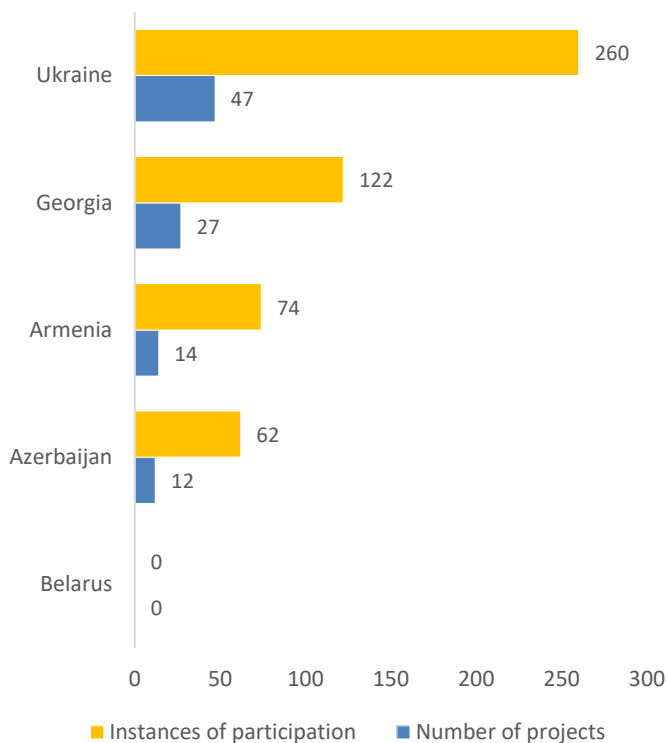
Capacity Building in Higher Education

Capacity-Building projects in Higher Education are 2 to 3 year-long projects implemented by multilateral partnerships of Higher Education institutions from both programme countries and Neighbourhood East countries with the aim of modernising higher education institutions and systems in Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine.

Capacity-Building projects not only promote cooperation between Neighbourhood East region and 33 European countries, but they also contribute to curriculum development activities, modernisation of governance and management of higher education institutions and systems and strengthening relations between higher education and the wider economic and social environment.

Over the two selections since 2021, there have been 573 instances of participation by institutions from Neighbourhood East in 81 projects selected to benefit higher education in this region.

CBHE in the NE 2022-2024



Capacity-building projects for higher education 2022-2024



81 projects



573 Instances of participation

from Neighbourhood East countries

Examples of CBHE projects

DigiUni

The four-year project called "DigiUni" will develop a high-performance digital platform for Ukraine's universities that will particularly benefit those students who had to flee the country or are internally displaced. It will ensure educational continuity for students enrolled at Ukrainian higher education institutions in the Ukrainian language and according to the Ukrainian curriculum. In particular, the DigiPlatform will offer a digital learning facility to develop training in online teaching techniques and adapt learning content for online or virtual delivery.

MEDIA

The project "MEDIA" aims to support structural reforms in Armenia and Moldova by addressing issues at the national higher education systems, institutional, and individual levels. The project seeks to improve the quality of online education, create normative frameworks for high-quality online education, and build capacities in learning analytics and digital non-formal education. The project is a response to the outdated education systems in both countries and aims to impact 6 higher education institutions.

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

Virtual exchanges are online people-to-people activities that promote intercultural dialogue and soft skills development between young individuals from Neighbourhood East countries and their peers in Erasmus +33 countries.

This type of project aims at making it possible for every young person to access high-quality international and cross-cultural education (both formal and non-formal) without physical mobility. They take place in small groups and are always moderated by a trained facilitator, including activities such as online-facilitated discussions, trainings, interactive open online courses, etc.

CLUVEX - Climate University for Virtual Exchanges Climate University for Virtual Exchanges ([CLUVEX](#)) is a 3 year project carried out by two European and three Partners Neighbourhood East universities in thematic areas of "climate action, environment and nature protection", "environment and climate change" and "green skills". The project aims to bring together students from European and the Neighbourhood East universities and to engage them with climate competences e.g. ideas of adaptation and mitigation to climate change and the green agenda together with interdisciplinary/green/ soft skills.

46 organisations from Neighbourhood East countries are involved in 11 Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange projects addressing various topics. Ukraine and Georgia are the most involved countries. Projects not only focus on digital skills, but also on climate change, health, the art of negotiations and conflict resolution, and EU-accession among other topics.

Capacity Building for Vocational Education (VET)

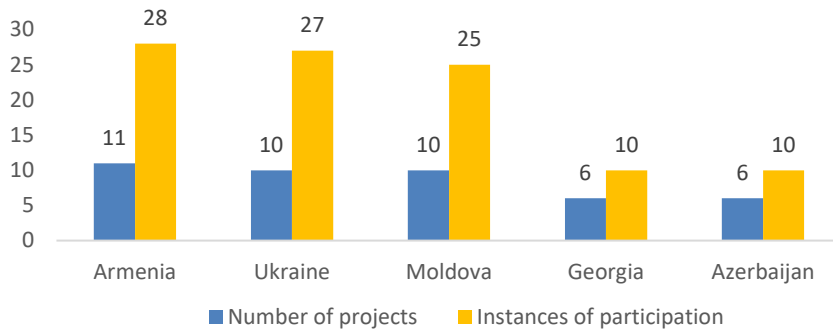
This action is new to the international dimension of Erasmus+ in 2022. It supports multilateral partnerships of organisations active in the field of VET in EU Member States or countries associated to the programme, and those from Neighbourhood East.

VET4GSEB - VET partnership For Green and Smart Electricity in Buildings The main objective of the VET4GSEB project is to transfer the experience and good practices in the field of VET from the EU countries to 4 third countries participating in the project (Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine). It intends to provide the national VET providers with adapted solutions, training materials, case studies, tools and guidelines, which will allow them to update their training practices and programs in order to meet the skills needs of the labour market in the building and RES sector.

They aim to support the relevance, accessibility and responsiveness of VET institutions and systems in these regions and countries of the world as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development.

Out of the 200 projects selected worldwide, 22 projects were selected with 90 instances of participation from Neighbourhood East countries.

CBVET in the NE 2022-2024



Capacity Building for Vocational Training for Neighbourhood East, 2022-2024



22 projects

90 instances of
Neighbourhood East
participation

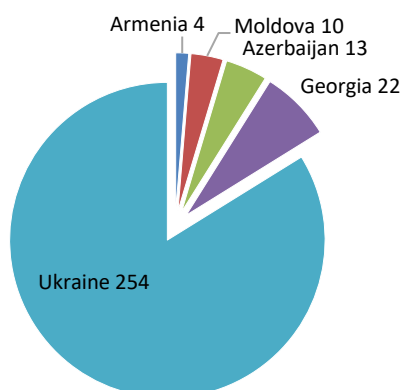
Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. Since 1989 they have been supporting **Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence** to promote excellence in teaching and research on the European integration process at higher education level. The programme also supports policy debate with the academic world through networks. These opportunities elicit great interest from countries outside Europe too and figures refer to the

higher education activities opened to third countries, to international networks and to other discontinued types of international projects.

Since 2021, 1218 projects have been selected globally across three distinct categories. Among these, 303 projects are managed by HEIs from Neighbourhood East, with Ukraine leading the chart at 254 projects. As for now, there are two Jean Monnet Networks where the HEIs from the Neighbourhood East (namely Ukraine) are participating.

JM projects in the NE 2021-2024



Jean Monnet Networks

Challenges and Opportunities for EU Heritage Diplomacy in Ukraine (HER-UKR) aims to explore the role of cultural heritage in the EU's external action, with a focus on Ukraine. It will bring together expertise from 15 universities to address topics such as promoting democracy and European values through cultural heritage diplomacy, conflict prevention related to contested heritage, and the protection and reconstruction of heritage. The project's objectives include stimulating research and teaching on EU heritage diplomacy, pooling expertise on heritage policies in East Central Europe, and providing policymakers with research expertise for engaging with Ukraine's cultural heritage field.

EFVDE - European Fundamental Values in Digital Era

is a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence offered by Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University. The project aims to establish a research hub at a Ukrainian university to analyse and understand the impact of digitalization on European fundamental values. The project consists of research, educational, and policy-making components, including the preparation of a collective monograph, sharing research results with various stakeholders, and issuing recommendations for improving their practice. The goal is to help Ukraine align with European values in the digital era.

Research & Education Network on Contestations to EU Foreign Policy (ValEUs)

aims to address the challenges faced by the EU in upholding its values and creating a peaceful future. It seeks to understand and provide a realistic account of contestations of EU values and foreign policy, develop counterstrategies, and promote a new role for universities in supporting democracy and engaging with endangered regions like Ukraine. The project involves 21 partner institutions from 18 countries and aims to build research capacity, develop innovative teaching collaborations, and engage in policy debates to provide recommendations for EU and non-EU stakeholders.

Opportunities in the field of Youth

Mobility Projects for Young People and Youth Workers

Organisations from Neighbourhood East countries can participate as partners in mobility projects for young people and youth workers. Three types of activities can be supported under this Action.

Youth Exchanges

Between 2021 and 2024, 16 506 young people from the Neighbourhood East countries have participated in youth projects in Europe, while 9 652 participants were hosted in Neighbourhood East countries.

Youth Workers Mobility

Between 2021 and 2024, 5 515 youth workers from the Eastern Partnership countries went to take part in youth projects in Europe (including training, job shadowing) while a further 4 093 youth workers were hosted in Neighbourhood East countries.

Youth participation activities

Erasmus+ also supports activities outside formal education and training that encourage, foster and facilitate young people's participation in Europe's democratic life at local, regional, national and European level. Projects can take the form of meetings, conferences, public consultations, and thematic events. Between 2021 and 2024, 610 young people from the Neighbourhood East countries participated in such projects, while 422 participants were hosted in Neighbourhood East countries.

Capacity Building in the field of Youth

Capacity Building in the field of Youth projects are international cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of youth in the EU and countries associated to the Programme, on the one hand, and in third countries not associated to the Programme, on the other hand. Projects aim at supporting international cooperation in the field of youth and non-formal learning, as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development and well-being among youth organisations and young people and aim at raising the capacity of organisations working with young people outside formal learning. This action is open to Neighbourhood East countries as of 2024 call.

Since 2024, in the Neighbourhood East, 11 projects for the region have been selected, involving 28 organisations from different countries. You can find out more about those projects [here](#).

Capacity Building in the field of Sport

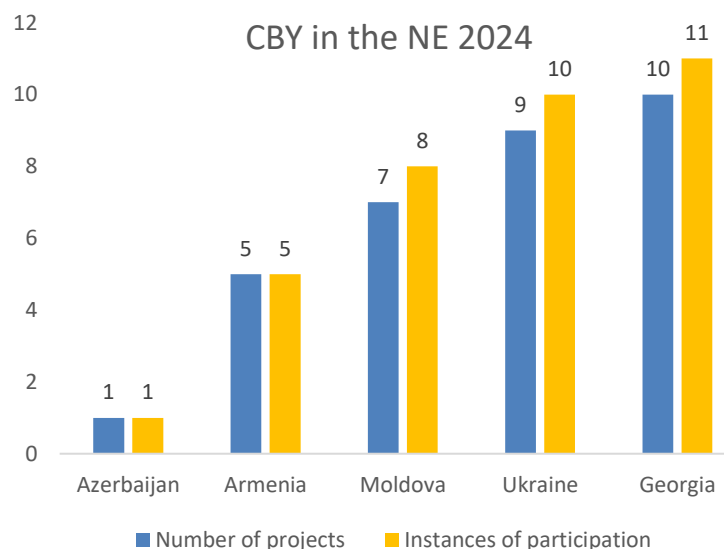
This initiative fosters multilateral partnerships among organisations engaged in sports and seeks to promote sports activities and policies in the Neighbourhood East. It leverages sports as a means to uphold values, serve as an educational tool for personal and social development, and strengthen community cohesion.

The first selection of projects involving countries from the Neighbourhood East took place in 2024. Since then, [5 projects](#) have been selected for the region, bringing together 20 organisations from different countries across the area.

Erasmus+ for Youth is moving
22 631 people from Neighbourhood
East countries



14 167 people to Neighbourhood
East countries



More information:

Erasmus+ website:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

Erasmus+ projects & results:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects>

Erasmus+ funding opportunities:

https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants/2021-2027/erasmus_en

Erasmus+ National offices: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/contacts/national-erasmus-offices>