Erasmus+ Programme
Capacity-building in the field of higher education (CBHE)

What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the EU-funded programme to support individual exchanges and institutional cooperation in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. The programme has a strong international dimension, which opens up many of these opportunities to individuals and stakeholders from countries worldwide. Almost all projects are based on partnerships between the 27 EU Member States and eight associated[1] countries on the one hand, and non-associated third countries throughout the world, on the other.

What is a CBHE project?

A **Capacity Building for Higher Education project** operates as a multilateral partnership between institutions active in the higher education field from the 35 Member States and associated countries, and those from some 140 countries in a number of other regions[2] worldwide. Projects support the relevance, quality, modernisation and accessibility of higher education, to make it a driver for sustainable social and economic development.

All projects are required to pursue and observe the guiding principles of the action: inclusiveness, innovation, impact and sustainability.

What does a CBHE project do?

CBHE projects can carry out a range of activities focused on third countries:

- Develop, test and adapt curricula, in terms of their relevant and innovative content and through the teaching and learning methods used;
- Support university-enterprise cooperation;
- Work on upskilling and professionalisation of academic and administrative staff;
- Reform of governance and management systems and structures at national, regional or institutional level;
- Foster the internationalisation of HEIs and their capacity to network effectively in research, scientific and technological innovation;
- Support the introduction of Bologna-type reforms at institutional, national or regional level;
- Develop and implement new approaches and tools for policy making and monitoring.

[1] The third countries associated to the Erasmus+ programme are the following: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, and Türkiye. **Switzerland and the UK also plan to associate to the programme in 2027, bringing the total of associated third countries to eight.**

[2] Countries belonging to the following Erasmus+ regions: 1 - Western Balkans, 2 - Neighbourhood East, 3 - South Mediterranean, 5a - Asia, 6 - Central Asia, 7a - Middle East, 8a - Pacific, 9 - Sub-Saharan Africa, 10 - Latin America and 11 - Caribbean. Participation is not possible from high-income countries comprising regions 5b - Asia, 8a - Middle East and the 8b - Pacific. For more information about these regions: see the Programme guide.

Three strands of projects:

1. FOSTERING ACCESS TO COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION:

These smaller scope projects are focused on higher education institutions. This project type is designed to cater for newcomers to the programme, less involved countries/regions, and for disadvantaged target groups. Project budget between EUR 200 000 and EUR 400 000, 2-3 years.

2. PARTNERSHIPS FOR TRANSFORMATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION:

These are also focused on higher education institutions, but designed to have a larger and wider impact on innovation, university/business relations and institutional governance.

Project budget between EUR 400 000 and EUR 800 000, 2-3 years.

3. STRUCTURAL REFORM PROJECTS:

These projects focus on the macro level of policy reforms required to foster internationalisation. Besides higher education institutions they will also require the involvement of education authorities and/or ministries. Project budget between EUR 600 000 and EUR 1 000 000, 3-4 years.

Global Gateway

Strand 3 in Asia, Central Asia, the Pacific, sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean has been earmarked for projects that develop specific skills and expertise that contribute to Global Gateway priorities for a particular country or group of countries. These priorities are listed on a European Commission website, with a link provided in footnote to the CBHE section of the Programme Guide. Strand 2 projects are also strongly encouraged to contribute to these priorities.

Specific in the 2027 Call

The 2027 call includes a specific 'sub-call' for a targeted initiative for Palestine to support the creation of an open education digital environment – or enhancement of other environments - to offer quality higher education for students in Gaza and./or to resume or take up higher education studies where infrastructure has been rendered inoperative. This project may exceptionally have a maximum budget of EUR 2 000 000.

Who can apply and take part in Capacity-building in Higher Education? How?

Taking part as an organisation:

Participation in CBHE projects is open to a range of stakeholders in the higher education sector:

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

- HEIs, associations or organisations of HEIs,
- Bodies in charge of higher education (councils, agencies) and national authorities (ministries, departments of higher education) in partner countries for those projects supporting reform processes at national/regional level;
- Vectors of change in the education system (university managers, international departments, deans, quality agencies, etc.);
- Organisations and/or associations active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training or youth in partner countries.

Project partnerships

All projects must be based on a partnership of organisations from the 35 Member States or associated third countries on the one hand, and from third countries not associated to the Programme on the other.

- Minimum 4 organisations

- Minimum 1 HEI from 2 EU Member States or third countries associated to the Programme and 2 HEIs from one or more third countries not associated to the Programme.
- The number of organisations from EU Member States or third countries associated to the Programme should not be higher than the number of organisations from third countries not associated to the Programme.

Who can apply?

- Higher education institutions (HEIs) or organisations of HEIs
- Organisations or institutions active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training and youth

established in an EU Member State or a third country associated to the Programme, or in one of the eligible third countries not associated to the Programme[3]. The applicant institution applies on behalf of all participating organisations involved in the project.

How to apply

- **Funding opportunities for 2021-2027 and information on how to apply are announced on the European Commission's Funding & Tender Opportunities portal: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home**

More information

Detailed information on the **criteria and funding rules**: Erasmus+ Programme Guide

Look at some examples of CBHE projects funded since 2022

[3] See the Programme Guide for a list of countries and regions.