

Europe Day 2019 - The Erasmus alumni call

Erasmus alumni community: an asset to be developed for the future programme

By the end of 2019, around 10 million European citizens will have experienced an Erasmus mobility since the launch of the programme in 1987.

In the framework of the next Erasmus programme (2021-2027), 12 million new participants are expected to live a thrilling experience in Europe and beyond. This great community of 22 million active European citizens would have lived a life-changing experience with new learning, professional, social and personal opportunities.

In the context of the 2019 European elections, it is time to give back what Europe gave us and to stand for what being European means to all of us. We, the Erasmus+ National Agencies, are calling to mobilise the Erasmus+ alumni community in order to promote the next programme opportunities, with special attention to the inclusion of people with disadvantaged backgrounds and newly arrived migrants. We would like to ask for the cooperation of the Erasmus alumni to share European citizenship experiences and professional network opportunities.

As the next programme will put a greater emphasis on social inclusion, the alumni community could support those who lack a family support and professional networks to get training abroad and even a job after their European experiences.

As Erasmus stakeholders, we can support this initiative at different levels:

1. In the next generation programme¹, the **European Commission** could consider a two-year period after the mobility took place, so that participants could share their experiences in schools, apprentices centres, places in the countryside or in suburban areas where European mobility is not considered accessible;
2. The **Erasmus+ beneficiaries** in the Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training sectors could implement alumni strategies at their local and sectorial levels, in order for their former students and apprentices to support the next generations with new opportunities (training periods and jobs, accommodation, welcome events abroad...);
3. The **10 million alumni Erasmus citizens** could provide a wide range of positive testimonies on their European experience using social media during the #ErasmusDays² (10th - 12th October 2019) and join activities conducted by existing Erasmus alumni networks³ (Erasmus Student Network, Garage Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus Association, Oceans networks) during these three special days;

¹ In the proposals for the next programme, the European Commission mentions also (article 29) «The programme should mobilise the potential of former Erasmus+ participants and support activities in particular of Alumni networks, ambassadors and Europeers, by encouraging them to act as multipliers of the Programme.»

² www.erasmusdays.eu

³ <https://www.esaa-eu.org/about/>



4. The already **existing Erasmus alumni networks** could welcome new alumni and support the creation of Erasmus alumni networks in both the Vocational Education and Training and School sectors.

In this view, the participating National Agencies in this conference *Erasmus4ever Erasmus4future*, in Firenze on 7th - 9th May, 2019, and many others committed in the dissemination and promotion of European educational programmes agree on setting up an alumni strategy for the next Erasmus programme (2021-2027). This alumni community is a powerful asset to support the common European democratic values.

Your commitment in order to involve all possible stakeholders would be highly valuable. Please use **#ErasmusAlumni** in your publications, share this declaration widely all along the month of Europe in May and let's be ready for action with **#ErasmusDays** alumni events and testimonies next October.

9th May 2019, Firenze, Italy



#ErasmusAlumni