



ERASMUS+ MOLDOVA NEWSLETTER



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Call for proposals under Erasmus+ Programme for 2024 launched

The call for Erasmus+ 2024 project proposals was officially launched on November 28, 2023.

Therefore, any public or private institution active in the field of education, training, youth and sport can apply for funding under the Erasmus+ Programme.

The new [Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2024](#) has also been published containing all the information on how to participate in Erasmus+ projects, including new opportunities for the institutions from the Republic of Moldova.

Cooperation activities under Erasmus+ will continue to bring people and organisations together to work on the programme's four overarching key priorities: inclusion, active citizenship and democratic participation, green and digital transitions. Erasmus+ will also continue its key role in promoting common EU values. All programme beneficiaries and the activities they implement will comply and promote the values of human dignity and rights, freedom, democracy, equality, and the rule of law.

Novelty for the Republic of Moldova and the Neighborhood East countries this year are the Erasmus+ **capacity building projects in the field of youth and sports**. Therefore, starting from 2024, this initiative will contribute to promoting cultural exchange, improving educational opportunities and promoting cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

All applications for Erasmus+ projects are to be submitted online through the [European Commission's Portal for Funding and tenders opportunities](#) (FTOP).

With an annual budget of €4.3 billion for 2024, Erasmus+ will continue to support transnational experiences of students and staff in higher education and vocational education and training, as well as for young people and trainers in non-formal learning projects.



Erasmus+ National Information Campaign within the 2024 Call



Erasmus+, the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport, launched on November 28 the new call for proposals 2024, with a total budget of 4.3 billion euro available for the this year, including projects with the participation of institutions from Republic of Moldova.

In the light of this launch, between December 2023 and February 2024, the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova, in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Education and Research, have organised the National Information Campaign on the new call and opportunities of the Erasmus+ programme for interested institutions and individuals from Moldova.

The information sessions were organized as follows:

- December 14, 2023 - national information session for academic staff, at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova.
- December 19, 2023 - national information session for representatives from vocational education and training institutions, at the Center for Excellence in Medicine and Pharmacy "Raisa Pacalo", in hybrid format.
- December 20, 2023 - national information session for students, at the "Nicolae Testemițanu" State University of Medicine and Pharmacy.
- January 16, 2024 - national information session for sports organisations, in online mode.
- February 15, 2024 - national information session for youth organisations, in online mode.

During the info days, presentations and discussions about international credit mobility, capacity building in the field of higher education and vocational education and training, about Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters and Jean Monnet projects were offered by the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova representatives and by the beneficiaries of the Erasmus+ programme. Also the newly open opportunities in the field of sports and youth were presented to the representatives of these organisations from Moldova.

The event was addressed to representatives of public or private institutions, active in the field of education, training, youth and sport who are interested in applying for funding under Erasmus+, to students and young people, but also to all people willing to learn more about the programme. In total, more than 350 people participated in the information sessions of the Erasmus+ National Office during the campaign.

Moreover, in January and February 2024, the National Erasmus+ Office has organised two workshops on how to write Erasmus+ projects for interested individuals willing to apply for projects under the 2024 call for proposals. Participants had the opportunity to ask specific technical questions related to the application process and eligibility criteria within the Erasmus+ programme.

The Erasmus+ programme is an example of the positive impact of European integration and international mobility. The budget of the new Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027 is 26.2 billion euro, compared to 14.7 billion euro for the previous period off 2014-2020. It is supplemented with approximately 2.2 billion euro from the external instruments of the European Union. The new Erasmus+ programme opens international opportunities for over 12 million people. In the period 2014-2023, educational institutions from the Republic of Moldova have already managed to implement: around **5000 Erasmus+ academic mobilities** between universities from the Republic of Moldova and EU, **31 capacity building projects in higher education**, **31 Jean Monnet** projects and **5 capacity building projects in the field of vocational education and training**.





Erasmus Days in Moldova: the reunion of the newly selected projects



During one week, in October 2023, Moldova and the whole world celebrated the Erasmus Days, to highlight Europe's cultural diversity and the multitude of learning opportunities the Erasmus+ programme offers.

In this context, the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova, in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union and the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova, have organized the *Reunion of the Newly Selected Erasmus+ Projects in 2023*. The event took place on October 5, 10 and 12, consecutively bringing together new Jean Monnet projects, as well as the capacity building in vocational education and training (CBVET) and capacity building in higher education projects (CBHE).

These meetings constituted a networking platform for experts, academic and administrative staff, but also representatives of civil society, the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research and the Ministry of Education and Research, in order to share their experiences and perspectives, and emphasizing the openness of our system towards international collaboration within Erasmus+ projects.

The year 2023 brought to educational institutions from the Republic of Moldova a record number of Erasmus+ projects. Thus, within this selection, Moldovan institutions have won within [six capacity building in higher education projects](#), [three capacity building in the field of vocational education and training projects](#) and [four Jean Monnet projects](#).

Erasmus+ capacity building projects have a budget from 200 thousand to 1 million euros, and support international cooperation actions, based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of education. They support the relevance, quality, modernisation and adaptability of education in third countries not associated with the Erasmus+ programme, such as the Republic of Moldova, for socioeconomic recovery, growth and prosperity. Jean Monnet projects, on the other hand, have a budget of 30 to 100 thousand euros, and aim to promote excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union studies worldwide. Through this action, the European Commission aims to promote the dialogue between academia and decision-makers, in particular, with the aim of strengthening the governance of EU policies.

It has to be noted that in the Republic of Moldova Erasmus+ projects are implemented since 1994 on the dimension of higher education and youth. Starting from 2021, capacity building in the field of vocational education and training projects have become a novelty for the Republic of Moldova within the Erasmus+ programme.

Until now, thanks to the support of the Erasmus+ programme in the Republic of Moldova, the following results have been achieved: **83 Tempus projects**, **31 capacity building in higher education projects**, **5 capacity building in the field of vocational education and training projects** and **31 Jean Monnet projects**.





Higher Education Reform Experts in Moldova – activities during 2023



In the third countries not associated to the Programme served by National Erasmus+ Offices, including the Republic of Moldova, the national teams of Higher Education Reform Experts (HEREs) provide a pool of expertise to local authorities and stakeholders to promote reform and enhance progress in higher education. They participate in the development of policies in higher education in their respective country. HERE activities are based on "peer to peer" contacts.

The new HEREs team in the Republic of Moldova consists of five representatives: *Maria Ceropita* - student, Erasmus Student Network Chişinău, Moldova State University; *Dumitru Ciorbă* - dean, Technical University of Moldova; *Valentina Pritcan* - vice-rector, "Alec Russo" State University of Bălţi; *Alexandru Stratan* - rector, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova; *Doina Usaci* - head of Direction for policies in higher education, Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova

During 2023, the national HERE teams have been involved in five international events, aimed at promoting the policy dialogue with the EU in the field of higher education:

1. The first virtual event, on May 3-4, 2023, with the topic *"Learning & Teaching in a Post-COVID Context: the Status Quo"* had two main purposes: (i) to welcome the new HERE teams, present the SPHERE (Centralised Support to the Network of HEREs) 2023 programme and also frame the SPHERE initiative within the EU's policies and priorities; (ii) to offer the HERE a first thematic event related to a major topic that is of universal interest, namely new developments and trends in digital learning.
2. The second event was a study visit with the topic *"Learning and teaching: innovation, digitalisation, and international collaboration"* hosted by Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium. The event gave participants insight into institutional practice on innovation and digitalisation of L&T, specifically in a Belgian HEI with a strong international profile. In addition to looking at the specific strategy for L&T innovation enhancement at Université Catholique de Louvain, the visit allowed participants to hear from professors of different disciplines, from students and, potentially, to glimpse into the Learning Lab of the university.
3. On September 19 and 20, 2023, the *First Higher Education Reform Experts Networking Meeting* took place in virtual mode – the event aimed to provide a space for exchanging practices, gathering information, and brainstorming across the entire HERE network.
4. *Towards the 2024 Tirana Ministerial Conference: Implications and points of interest for higher education systems in Partner Countries neighbouring the EU* – organised on 7-8 November 2023, in the University of Sarajevo, through a mix of plenary discussions and smaller workshop sessions, the event offered space for region-specific exchanges with an EHEA focus, as well as for consideration of any parallel developments in the European Education Area (EEA - a specifically EU project encompassing primary, secondary and tertiary education). The experts were also invited to engage in discussions on the situation in their own institutions and systems. The event addressed those involved in higher education policymaking at all levels of experience and knowledge.
5. *HERE Annual Conference on Higher education policy reform for Impact* – event organised on December 4-5, 2023, at the University of Barcelona - the Annual Conference of the Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) was an important element of community building, networking, practice sharing and reflection for this action.





Cluster Meeting: *Management and Implementation of CBHE Projects MEDIA, Skills4Future and DEFEP*



The National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova organised on November 2, 2023, the cluster session with the topic "Management and Implementation of Capacity Building in Higher Education Projects (CBHE): MEDIA, Skills4Future and DEFEP" at its headquarters in Chisinau. The event brought together the institutional teams, as well as the key persons involved in these projects, winning within the Erasmus+ call for proposals 2022.

Thus, the event aimed to become a platform for discussions on the objectives and preliminary results of the projects, focusing on the contribution of the institutions and stakeholders involved, highlighting the good practices, but also the solutions to the challenges arising during the implementation.

The preparation and presentation of a brief information on the implementation of the project was carried out by the participants at the cluster session – the academic and administrative staff from partner universities. In addition, project members participated at filling in a questionnaire, thus providing a detailed picture of progress and challenges encountered.

It has to be mentioned that until now, thanks to the support of the Erasmus+ Programme, 31 capacity building in higher education projects have been implemented in the Republic of Moldova. The majority of projects implemented in Moldova were granted budgets from 800 thousand to one million euros, and support international cooperation actions, based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of higher education. CBHE projects support the relevance, quality, modernisation and adaptability of education in third countries not associated to the Erasmus+ programme, such as the Republic of Moldova, for socioeconomic recovery, growth and prosperity.

Reunion of International Relations Offices from the Universities of Moldova

On October 26, 2023, NEO gathered the representatives of the international relations departments from the universities of the Republic of Moldova at the headquarters of the National Erasmus+ Office, together with members of the enthusiastic Erasmus Student Network Chisinau team.

Here are some important moments addressed during the event:

- management of Erasmus+ international credit mobilities,
- the results of the implementation of Erasmus+ projects,
- the visibility of international credit mobility projects within universities,
- and the technical aspects related to the signing of grant agreements.

The event aimed to become a platform for sharing experiences, but also to emphasize the role of international relations departments in the internationalisation, modernisation and adaptability of higher education in Moldova.





Gala of Native Students from the Republic of Moldova

On December 27, 2023, the Gala of Native Students from the Republic of Moldova brought together the most talented young people with study abroad experiences during its eleventh edition!

Traditionally, the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova was honoured to award the most exceptional students within the Erasmus+ Category. Therefore, we present you the list of 2023 laureates — the Erasmus+ programme alumni who will carry the fame of the unique Erasmus+ experience from now on: *Felicia Burlacu* - Erasmus+ mobility in

Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany; *Dorin Boguş* - mobilitate Erasmus+ în Saarbrücken, Germany; *Laurențiu Scobici* - Erasmus+ mobility in mun. Vatra Dornei, Suceava, Romania; *Cristina Stahi* - Erasmus+ mobility in Germany, Saarbrücken; *Cezar Zagorceanu* - Erasmus+ mobility in Thessaloniki, Greece. It was an honour to be part of this extraordinary experience and an enormous joy to meet all the Erasmus+ alumni who had the courage to apply for the Gala of Native Students!

Other information events for students and staff from Moldova

The fantastic perspectives and opportunities of the Erasmus+ programme were presented during an information session at the Center of Excellence in Horticulture and Agricultural Technologies in Țaul on October 25, 2023. The event was organized by the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova in cooperation with the Info Center in Moldova for Erasmus+ Youth & European Solidarity Corps. Thus, the event opened the door to the educational and professional opportunities within the Erasmus+ programme for the students, but also for the academic staff at the institution: academic staff learned in detail about the multitude of Erasmus+ projects accessible to them; students discovered Erasmus+ Youth opportunities. Moreover, we discussed the prospects for implementing the new FARMKEEN capacity building in VET project, won this year by the Center for Excellence in Horticulture and Agricultural Technologies from Țaul.



Other two events were organised in the capital of the country for the students and staff of the Technical University in Moldova, as well as "Nicolae Testemițanu" State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, where participants learned about Erasmus+ opportunities for Moldovan higher education institutions, such as international credit mobilities, capacity building projects, Jean Monnet, Erasmus Mundus etc.

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