

# Education and training



**The EU helps improve the quality of education by encouraging cooperation between Member States and by complementing national actions. Erasmus+ provides opportunities for people of all ages and enables young people in particular to study, train, gain work experience or volunteer abroad.**

Investing in education and training is the key to people's future, particularly if they are young. According to a [2015 report](#), in the EU there are still more than 4.4 million early school leavers and one in four adults who have a low level of skills, which makes it difficult for them to access the labour market and to fully participate in society.

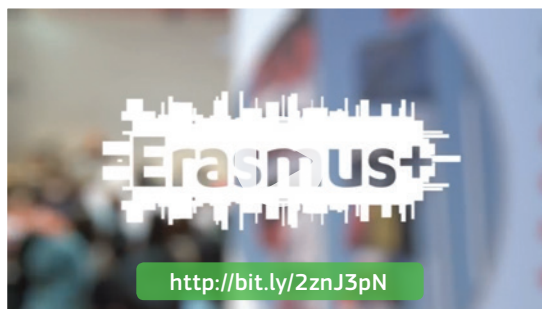
## What the EU does

EU countries are responsible for their own education and training systems, but the EU helps them achieve quality education through the exchange of good practice, setting targets and benchmarks and providing funding and expertise. The EU strategy for education and training aims to meet the following objectives:

- make lifelong learning and mobility a reality;
- improve the quality and efficiency of education and training;
- promote equity, social cohesion and active citizenship; and
- enhance creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training.

**Erasmus+**, the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport, helps tackle youth unemployment by boosting young people's personal development,

skills and employability. With a total budget of €14.7 billion, it will help over 4 million (mostly young) people to study, train, gain work experience or **volunteer** in another country. Erasmus+ boosts the job prospects and the personal development of young people by giving them the skills they need in the labour market and society, both now and in the future. The European Commission has proposed to double funding for Erasmus to €30 billion in the next long-term EU budget (2021 to 2027).



The EU has set up a number of other initiatives to make it easier for people to study, train or work abroad. European countries, trade unions and employers cooperate to improve vocational and educational training through the [Copenhagen process](#). One result is the [European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training](#) and quality assurance network, which help people work and study abroad. The [Bologna process](#) and the [European Higher Education Area](#) make it easier for people to move between education systems within Europe by promoting mutual recognition of periods of study, comparable qualifications and uniform quality standards.

The [Europass](#) set of documents helps workers apply for jobs abroad by presenting their skills and qualifications in a standard Europe-wide format, more easily understood by employers.



Find out more: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/topics/education-and-training\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/topics/education-and-training_en)



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This factsheet is part of the publication **'The European Union: What it is and what it does'**. An interactive version, containing links to online content, is available in PDF and HTML format at: <https://op.europa.eu/webpub/com/eu-what-it-is/en/>

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