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## NEWS FROM EU PROGRAMMES

**Erasmus+: EU will invest over €3 billion in young Europeans to study or train abroad in 2020**



European Commission - Press release

The European Commission published its 2020 call for proposals for the Erasmus+ programme. 2020 is the last year of the current European Union programme for mobility and cooperation in education, training, youth and sport. The expected budget of over €3 billion, an increase of 12% compared to 2019, will provide even more opportunities for young Europeans to study, train or gain professional experience abroad. As part of the 2020 call for proposals, the Commission will launch a second pilot on European Universities. Moreover, the EU aims to create 35,000 opportunities for African students and staff to participate in the programme as part of the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs.

Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, said: "I am very pleased that in 2020 the European Union is set to invest more than €3 billion in Erasmus+. It will allow us to open up more opportunities for young Europeans to study or train abroad, enabling them to learn and develop a European identity. And it will help us to take the European Universities initiative forward, showing our continued investment in the European Education Area. I am proud to see higher education institutions form strong new alliances, paving the way for the universities of the future, for the benefit of students, staff and society across Europe."

Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, added: "The new Erasmus funding opportunities for the vocational education and training sector will strengthen the Vocational Education and Training community; bridging sectors, regions and countries. Reinforcing ErasmusPro will make those bonds still tighter while giving more Vocational Education and Training learners more opportunities."

Any public or private body active in the fields of education, training, youth and sport may apply for funding under this call for proposals. In addition, groups of young people who are active in youth work, but not formally established as youth organisations, may apply. Together with the call for proposals, the Commission also published the Erasmus+ Programme Guide in all official EU languages. It provides applicants with details on all opportunities open to them in higher education,

vocational education and training, school education and adult education, youth and sport under Erasmus+ in 2020.

### **European Universities**

The first 17 European Universities were selected in June 2019. They are in the process of starting their activities. The second call for proposals launched today builds on this first test phase. The initiative will be the focus of a European Commission event on 7 November 2019, where all the European Universities selected so far will for the first time come together to exchange information and discuss the way forward with students, rectors and ministries responsible for higher education. Other universities will also be represented for discussions on the future of higher education in Europe.

### **Education, vocational training and adult learning**

This will be the third year of the School Exchange Partnerships → an Erasmus+ action offering opportunities for European schools to exchange pupils and teachers. Over the past two years, more than 15,000 schools have participated. In 2020, another 9,000 schools will have the opportunity to take part.

In vocational education and training, investment focuses on ErasmusPro – opportunities for learners and apprentices to spend between three months and a year abroad, developing their professional and linguistic competences. Since its launch in 2018, ErasmusPro has succeeded in increasing the interest for long-term placements in vocational education and training and has supported more than 12,000 learners per year. Support will also help set up "pilot" transnational vocational education and training Centres of Excellence, integrated in local and regional development strategies. The Centres will work closely with other education and training sectors, the scientific community and business to develop high quality curricula focused on sectoral skills.

In adult learning, financial support will help set up or strengthen regional or national networks of adult learning providers, so that they can offer an increased number of quality projects for the next Erasmus programme.

### **Additional opportunities in the Africa-Europe Alliance**

As in 2019, this year's call will offer additional opportunities to support exchanges for African students and staff to participate in Erasmus+.

While 26,247 exchanges have already taken place, the aim is to support 35,000 people by 2020, as announced in the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs. Universities can also apply for capacity building in higher education projects, which contribute directly to the recommendations made at the recent Africa-Europe high-level Conference on Higher Education collaboration.

### **Background**

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme for mobility and transnational cooperation in the areas of education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. The current programme as well as its successor, coming into effect in 2021, have a key role in making the European Education Area a reality by 2025.

Erasmus+ aims to facilitate access to the programme for participants from all backgrounds, with a particular focus on reaching out to people with social, economic, physical or geographic disadvantages.

In May 2018, the Commission has proposed to double the Erasmus budget to €30 billion for 2021-2027, making it possible for up to 12 million people to have an experience abroad.

**For More Information**

Erasmus+ Programme Guide <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/programme-guide>

Erasmus+ [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en)

General public inquiries: Europe Direct by phone 00 800 67 89 10 11 or by email [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact/write-to-us\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact/write-to-us_en)

## NEWS FROM EDSA MEMBERS

### EMPLOYMENT OPEN DAY AT DSI (Down Syndrome Ireland)



#### Report from DSI

The 23rd of October a number of adults with Down syndrome travelled to our national office to attend an Open Day for employment. The group had recently been in touch with our Head of Employment, Aoife Gaffney to apply for the roles advertised on our site and social media.

On the day the eager group was greeted by Aoife, accompanying her was Dublin Regional Employment Officer Mary Frances O'Dwyer – the day involved discussion on working and why each person wanted to work, the different types of job roles on offer and getting to meet and know new people.

We asked some of the adults if they'd like to tell us more about why they came to our Open Day, here are some of the fantastic response we got:



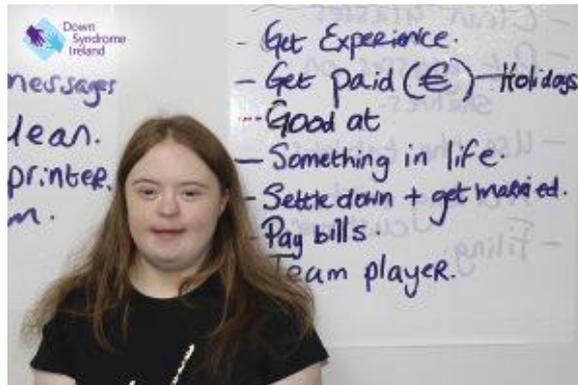
#### **Ethan Dean:**

I want to get a job to be good at something and have something in my life. I'm 21.



**John Feighery:**

I like to meet new people and make new friends. I like to go on holiday.



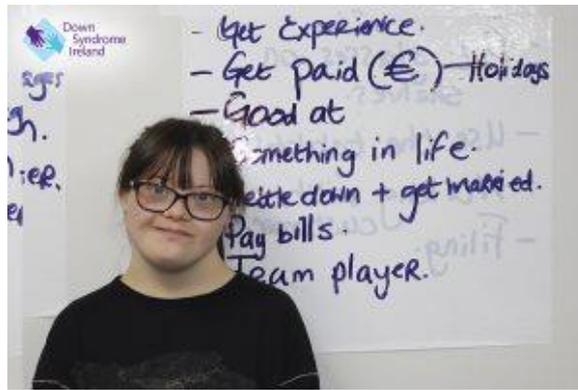
**Margaret Brady:**

I want to be good at something in my life and to get paid so I can go away.



**Linda Dunphy:**

I want to do something with my life, to pay bills and go on a holiday to Lanzarote, I also want to save for birthdays and other special occasions.



**Hillary Smith:**

I'd like to get a job to get experience, I want to save some money for Christmas.



**Aileen Flynn:**

I want to save for my sister's wedding in May and for a Halloween party.



**Philip Noonan:**

I want to get experience, I like cooking. I want to make big money to go to Spain for the Summer. Cooking makes me happy and I like making other people happy with cooking.

The Open Day was incredibly enjoyable for everyone and we look forward to seeing the adults at the next interview stage.

## JA TEZ FOUNDATION (POLAND)



### **New Polish song “JaTez”**

The song’s mission is to raise the awareness about DS (and in general about people with disabilities), and the fact that people with DS have the same dreams and passions, just like us. We believe that it can bring a lot of good and the more people will see it, the better.

### **Jakub Proma’s letter to EDSA**

*Jakub Proma, an active member of the Ja Tez Foundation, polish DS organization from Gdansk and EDSA member since 2017. He has written the following letter to EDSA.*

Today I would like to share with you something special. Apart from working at our Ja Tez Foundation, I also have a music band with my wife and some time ago I wrote a song dedicated for our foundation and people with DS. The song originally premiered last year but this year we made some big improvements to it.

We managed to invite one of Polish biggest rock stars to join us and sing in it too, along with my wife. Artur Gadowski is the leader of a rock band that’s been for over 30 years in the music business and is very popular here in Poland. But what’s even more special is that he is also a father of a daughter with DS (adult, 31 years old).

The combination of his strong male vocal with the gentle voice of my wife gave a unique musical effect. However, most importantly, both of them can express the content of the lyrics and its message like no other, as artists but also as parents, knowing from their own experience all the splendor and shadows of raising a disabled person.

The song with him had its premiere on 21<sup>st</sup> March and the video to it two days later. The song is available for sale at all major international online music stores and all the profits from it will go to our foundation. But most importantly, this time we also recorded a professional music video for it that's available on YT. Most of the scenes were shot at Gdansk Shakespeare Theatre where 6 of our adults with DS are working. And one of them – Michal, 35 years old – is the main character of the video and we wanted to share his story, everyday life and his dreams. In the video you can also see him and his friends from RAZEM ("Together" in translation) Theatre, and some parts of their spectacle called "Oni" ("They" in translation) which is about barriers that some of disabled people have to face in this world. Some of the actors in it are people with disabilities. Michal has been an actor there for 12 years.

I can finally share it with you, our international friends, because I translated the lyrics into English (subtitles) so you could understand what the song is about too. You just have to turn on the subtitles on YT video (or maybe they will even show up automatically, depending on your settings probably).

Here is the link to the video, I hope you like

it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51Vu6Lrt8mU>

[www.jatez.org.pl](http://www.jatez.org.pl)

[www.facebook.com/fundacjajatez/](https://www.facebook.com/fundacjajatez/)

## MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER REALLY YOURS!

Have you got any news that we could publish in EDSA newsletter?  
Please send us any information you would like to announce and we shall  
be happy to disseminate it all over Europe!

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