



Position
of the National Youth Council of Ukraine
"Ukraine accession with Erasmus + program"
Adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly of the NYCUkraine on the 6-8th
September 2018

Public Union "National Youth Council of Ukraine" with a respect appeals to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine with a proposal to start the process of Ukraine joining the non-commercial program "Erasmus +", which is being implemented by the European Union. The program aims to improve the quality of education in Europe, the development of youth mobility and the expansion of cultural ties.

In the context of Ukrainian course on European integration, Erasmus + will open a new opportunity of intercultural dialogue for Ukrainian youth. Also, will strength contacts between people and cooperation between Ukraine and the EU in the youth field. At the same time, it is important to stress that it will be an opportunity not only for Ukrainian youth to travel to the European countries using the programs offered by Erasmus +, but also Ukraine could host international guests and create interesting opportunities and programs for students from abroad.

However, such a bilateral format is possible only if Ukraine joins Erasmus +. According to a sociological study "Youth of Ukraine - 2017" conducted by the Center for Independent Sociological Research "OMEGA", commissioned by the Ministry of youth and sports of Ukraine, more than 74% of young respondents would like to leave their native city and move from Ukraine, and at the same time emigrate (to some time, or forever) from Ukraine would like almost 38%. The National Youth Council of Ukraine is convinced that despite the stereotype that study trips and internships abroad are used to emigrate, youth mobility increase will only reduce the percentage of those who willing to emigrate.

The topic of Ukrainian youth access to European programs and opportunities has become one of a number of topics that representatives of the National Youth Council of Ukraine have lobbied on the European Youth Forum, and in position papers of the EYP in particular.

So in a position paper to Erasmus 2020 successor program, The European Youth Forum stands by the principle that every person has the right to travel, volunteer and work anywhere in Europe and that Europe, as an entity, is not confined to the borders of the European Union. The programme needs to continue supporting cooperation and projects with partner countries neighbouring the EU and other partner countries, as defined in the current legal basis of the Erasmus+ programme⁷, in order to reinforce young people's mutual understanding, sense of solidarity, and tolerance, peace building as well as the development of cooperation in the field of youth civil society.

At the same time, the position paper of the European Youth Forum - European Solidarity Corps recommends the European Solidarity Corps initiative should include the non-EU Erasmus+ Programme Countries as well as Partner Countries in order to promote equality of opportunities between young people from EU and non-EU countries.

The European Youth Forum also recommends to provide special financial and legal support to ESC projects concerning third-country nationals or EU residents, as well as young people taking part in Erasmus +, EU partner countries and young refugees.

According to the position paper of the European Youth Forum on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (EU 2020-2027) (2030), the youth of Europe are solidarizing the needs of Ukrainian youth. The EU has now begun to place an emphasis on youth and the role of young people in its external action. The *Global Strategy* commits the EU to deepening work on youth in its external action to foster co-existence and counter violent extremism. It recognises that promoting resilient societies will require championing decent work opportunities for youth. The European Union also emphasizes the importance of opportunities for youth and youth exchanges as essential elements of the European Neighborhood Policy. The document also states that exchange programs are vital for youth organizations of participating countries.

National Youth Council of Ukraine recommends:

- that the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine formally apply to the Erasmus + program and start the process of creating the Erasmus + national agency in Ukraine together with the youth organizations of Ukraine;
- to start the process of communication with the European Commission for the creation of the Erasmus + agency in Ukraine and involve representatives of NGOs and NYC Ukraine in this process;
- to include the creation of the Erasmus + agency in Ukraine in the Youth Policy Strategy until 2030
- to provide funds in the state budget of Ukraine for financing the agency and paying the contribution as a program country;
- to express interest and facilitate administration in Ukraine of the new European Union initiative - the European Solidarity Corps, which creates opportunities for youth volunteering abroad or in their country and is the successor to the successful EVS European Voluntary Service program.