



2018/0191(COD)

16.10.2018

*****I**

DRAFT REPORT

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing “Erasmus”: the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 (COM(2018)0367 – C8-0233/2018 – 2018/0191(COD))

Committee on Culture and Education

Rapporteur: Milan Zver

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the ■ symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing “Erasmus”: the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 (COM(2018)0367 – C8-0233/2018 – 2018/0191(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2018)0367),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Articles 165(4) and 166(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0233/2018),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of ...,
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of ...,
 - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture and Education and the opinions of the Committee on Development, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (A8-0000/2018),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its president to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Title

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Proposal for a
REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN

Proposal for a
REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN

PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

establishing '*Erasmus*': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013

(Text with EEA relevance)

PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

establishing '*Erasmus+*': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013

(Text with EEA relevance)

(This amendment applies throughout the text. Adopting it will necessitate corresponding changes throughout.)

Or. en

Justification

The name 'Erasmus+' is now well-known and encompasses the various parts of the programme. This name should be retained.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) In its Communication on Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture of 14 November 2017, the Commission put forward its vision to work towards a European Education Area by 2025, in which learning would not be hampered by borders; a Union, where spending time in another Member State for purposes of studying and learning in any form or setting would become the standard and where, in addition to one's mother tongue, speaking two other languages would become the norm; a Union in which people would have a strong sense of their identity as Europeans, of Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity. In this context, the Commission emphasised the need to boost the tried-and-tested Erasmus+ programme in all categories of learners that it already covers and **reaching** out to learners **with fewer opportunities**.

Amendment

(2) In its Communication on Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture of 14 November 2017, the Commission put forward its vision to work towards a European Education Area by 2025, in which learning would not be hampered by borders; a Union, where spending time in another Member State for purposes of studying and learning in any form or setting would become the standard and where, in addition to one's mother tongue, speaking two other languages would become the norm; a Union in which people would have a strong sense of their identity as Europeans, of Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity. In this context, the Commission emphasised the need to boost the tried-and-tested Erasmus+ programme in all categories of learners that it already covers and **to reach** out to learners **from disadvantaged backgrounds and people**

with disabilities and other special needs.

Or. en

Justification

For the sake of consistency with the amendments in the articles.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) In its Communication on 'A modern budget for a Union that protects, empowers and defends - the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027'²⁶ adopted on 2 May 2018, the Commission called for a stronger “youth” focus in the next financial framework, ***notably by more than doubling the size of the 2014-2020 Erasmus+ Programme, one of the Union’s most visible success stories. The focus of the new Programme should be on inclusiveness, and to reach more young people with fewer opportunities. This should allow more young people to move to another country to learn or work.***

²⁶ COM(2018) 321 final.

Amendment

(8) In its Communication on 'A modern budget for a Union that protects, empowers and defends - the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027'²⁶ adopted on 2 May 2018, the Commission called for ***greater investment in people and a stronger "youth" focus in the next financial framework and recognised that the Erasmus+ Programme has been one of the Union’s most visible success stories. Despite that overall success, the 2014-2020 Programme remained unable to meet the high demand for funding and suffered from low project success rates. To remedy those shortcomings, it is necessary to increase the multiannual budget for the successor Programme to the 2014-2020 Programme. Moreover, the successor Programme aims to boost social inclusion by reaching more people from disadvantaged backgrounds and people with disabilities and other special needs, and incorporates a number of new and ambitious initiatives. Therefore, it is necessary to triple the budget, in constant prices, for the successor Programme as compared to the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014-2020.***

²⁶ COM(2018) 321 final.

Justification

The Parliament has repeatedly asked for the budget to be tripled to broaden and deepen access, to improve project success rates and to fund new initiatives. The tripling should be a real-terms tripling, hence the reference to constant prices.

Amendment 4**Proposal for a regulation****Recital 9***Text proposed by the Commission*

(9) In this context, it is necessary to establish the successor programme for education, training, youth and sport (the 'Programme') of the 2014-2020 Erasmus + programme established by Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council²⁷. The integrated nature of the 2014-2020 programme covering learning in all contexts - formal, non-formal and informal, and at all stages of life - should be maintained to boost flexible learning paths allowing individuals to develop *those* competences that are necessary to face the challenges of the twenty-first century.

²⁷ Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 50).

Amendment

(9) In this context, it is necessary to establish the successor programme for education, training, youth and sport (the 'Programme') of the 2014-2020 Erasmus + programme established by Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council²⁷. The integrated nature of the 2014-2020 programme covering learning in all contexts - formal, non-formal and informal, and at all stages of life - should be maintained to boost flexible learning paths allowing individuals to develop *the skills and* competences that are necessary to face the challenges *and make the most of the opportunities* of the twenty-first century.

²⁷ Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 50).

Justification

To be consistent in terms of terminology and to make clear that the future offers opportunities

and does not merely pose challenges.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Programme should be more inclusive by improving *its* outreach *to* those *with fewer opportunities*, including *through* more flexible learning mobility formats, *and by* fostering participation of small organisations, in particular newcomers and community-based grassroots organisations that work directly with disadvantaged learners of all ages. *Virtual formats, such as virtual cooperation, blended and virtual mobility, should be promoted to reach more participants, in particular those with fewer opportunities and those for whom moving physically to a country other than their country of residence would be an obstacle.*

Amendment

(16) The Programme should be more inclusive by improving *participation rates among people from disadvantaged backgrounds and people with disabilities and other special needs. Therefore, national agencies should develop inclusion strategies to improve outreach and, where appropriate, adjust grant levels to make the Programme more accessible. Synergies with other European programmes, such as the European Social Fund+, and relevant national programmes should be exploited. Because the additional costs associated with mobility can be substantial and can, therefore, constitute a barrier to effective participation in the Programme, it is necessary to ensure that grants always cover at least 50% of those additional costs. Other mechanisms for enhancing inclusion should also be used, including by providing* more flexible learning mobility formats *and* fostering participation of small organisations, in particular newcomers and community-based grassroots organisations that work directly with disadvantaged learners of all ages.

Or. en

Justification

In line with the new Chapter on inclusion, the measures to broaden access should be more robust.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16a) Virtual formats, such as virtual cooperation, blended learning and virtual learning, should be promoted in order to reach more participants, in particular those for whom moving physically to a country other than their country of residence would be an obstacle. Virtual learning and blended learning tools, in particular those used for language learning, should be made as widely available as possible, both in support of mobility activities and for those people who are not engaged in mobility activities, but who would benefit from using those tools.

Or. en

Justification

Virtual and blended learning tools are vital in complementing mobility activities and in boosting participation in the Programme with limited costs. However, they do not equate to physical mobility.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17a) It is important that the Programme deliver European added value. Therefore, actions and activities should only be eligible for funding under the Programme if they can demonstrate European added value. It should be possible to demonstrate European added value in a number of ways, in particular through the transnational character of the actions, their complementarity and synergies with

other Union programmes and policies, their contribution to the effective use of Union transparency and recognition tools, their contribution to the development of Union-wide quality assurance standards, their contribution to the development of Union-wide common standards in education and training programmes, and their promotion of multilingualism and of a European sense of belonging.

Or. en

Justification

It is important to ensure that actions funded under the Programme deliver demonstrable European added value as per the new Article 2a and the current Regulation.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) The Programme should reinforce existing learning mobility opportunities, notably in those sectors where the Programme could have the biggest efficiency gains, to broaden its reach and meet the high unmet demand. This should be done notably by increasing and facilitating mobility activities for higher education students, school pupils and learners in vocational education and training. Mobility of low-skilled adult learners should be embedded in partnerships for cooperation. Mobility opportunities for youth participating in non-formal learning activities should also be extended to reach more young people. Mobility of staff in education, training, youth and sport should also be reinforced, considering its leverage effect. In line with the vision of a true European Education Area, the Programme should also boost mobility and exchanges and promote

Amendment

(20) The Programme should reinforce existing learning mobility opportunities, notably in those sectors where the Programme could have the biggest efficiency gains, to broaden its reach and meet the high unmet demand. This should be done notably by increasing and facilitating mobility activities for higher education students, school pupils and learners in vocational education and training. Mobility of low-skilled adult learners should be embedded in partnerships for cooperation. Mobility opportunities for youth participating in non-formal learning activities should also be extended to reach more young people. Mobility of staff in education, training, youth and sport should also be reinforced, considering its leverage effect. In line with the vision of a true European Education Area, the Programme should also boost mobility and exchanges and promote

student participation in educational and cultural activities by **supporting digitalisation of** processes, such as the European Student Card. This initiative can be an important step in making mobility for all a reality first by enabling higher education institutions to send and receive more exchange students while still enhancing quality in student mobility and also by facilitating students' access to various services (library, transport, accommodation) before arriving at the institution abroad.

student participation in educational and cultural activities by **digitalising** processes **to facilitate application procedures and participation in the Programme, by developing user-friendly online systems based on best practice and by creating new tools** such as the European Student Card. This initiative can be an important step in making mobility for all a reality first by enabling higher education institutions to send and receive more exchange students while still enhancing quality in student mobility and also by facilitating students' access to various services (library, transport, accommodation) before arriving at the institution abroad.

Or. en

Justification

To make clear that specific tools, like the European Student Card, should be developed and that such tools should also facilitate the application process and effective participation in the Programme.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation Recital 21

Text proposed by the Commission

(21) The Programme should encourage youth participation in Europe's democratic life, including by supporting participation projects for young people to engage and learn to participate in civic society, raising awareness about European common values including fundamental rights, bringing together young people and **decision makers** at local, national and Union level, as well as contributing to the European integration process.

Amendment

(21) The Programme should encourage youth participation in Europe's democratic life, including by supporting participation projects for young people to engage and learn to participate in civic society, raising awareness about European common values including fundamental rights, bringing together young people and **decision-makers** at local, national and Union level, as well as contributing to the European integration process. ***In that regard, the Programme should foster synergies with the European Solidarity Corps.***

Justification

It is important to achieve synergies with the ESC, which was born out of the 'Youth' strand of Erasmus.

Amendment 10**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 22***Text proposed by the Commission*

(22) The Programme should offer young people more opportunities to discover Europe through learning experiences abroad. ***Eighteen year olds***, in particular those ***with fewer opportunities***, should be given the chance to have a first-time, short-term individual or group experience travelling throughout Europe ***in the frame of an*** informal educational activity aimed at fostering their sense of belonging to the European Union and discovering its cultural diversity. The Programme should identify bodies in charge of reaching out and selecting the participants and support activities to foster the learning dimension of the experience.

Amendment

(22) The Programme should offer young people more opportunities to discover Europe through learning experiences abroad ***under the new initiative entitled DiscoverEU. Young people who have recently completed secondary education***, in particular those ***from disadvantaged backgrounds and with disabilities and other special needs***, should be given the chance to have a first-time, short-term individual or group experience travelling throughout Europe ***as part of a non-formal or*** informal educational activity aimed at fostering their sense of belonging to the European Union and discovering its cultural ***and linguistic*** diversity. ***That initiative should have a robust and verifiable learning component.*** The Programme should identify bodies in charge of reaching out and selecting the participants and support activities to foster the learning dimension of the experience.

Or. en

Justification

To introduce the term DiscoverEU and to stress the need for a clear learning dimension and to give greater flexibility to determine the precise age and therefore make the scheme more inclusive.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) In its Conclusions of the 14 of December 2017, the European Council called on Member States, the Council and the Commission to take forward a number of initiatives to elevate European cooperation in education and training to a new level, including by encouraging the emergence by 2024 of 'European Universities', consisting in bottom-up networks of universities across the Union. The Programme should support these European Universities.

Amendment

(25) In its Conclusions of the 14 of December 2017, the European Council called on Member States, the Council and the Commission to take forward a number of initiatives to elevate European cooperation in education and training to a new level, including by encouraging the emergence by 2024 of 'European Universities', consisting in bottom-up, ***excellence-driven*** networks of universities across the Union. The Programme should support these European Universities.

Or. en

Justification

To make clear that the European Universities initiative should be excellence-driven.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation Recital 27

Text proposed by the Commission

(27) To increase the use of virtual cooperation activities, the Programme should support ***a*** more systematic use of ***the*** online platforms such as eTwinning, the School Education Gateway, the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe, the European Youth Portal and the online platform for higher education.

Amendment

(27) To increase the use of virtual cooperation activities, the Programme should support more systematic use of ***existing*** online platforms, such as eTwinning, the School Education Gateway, the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe, the European Youth Portal and the online platform for higher education. ***The Programme should also encourage the development of new online platforms to strengthen and modernise the delivery of education, training and youth policy at European level.***

Justification

To make clear that the Programme can and should fund new online platforms to improve policy delivery.

Amendment 13**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 28***Text proposed by the Commission*

(28) The Programme should contribute to facilitating transparency and recognition of skills **and** qualifications, as well as the transfer of credits or **units** of learning outcomes, to foster quality assurance and to support validation of non-formal and informal learning, skills management and guidance. In this regard, the Programme should also provide support to contact points and networks at national and Union level that facilitate cross-European exchanges as well as the development of flexible learning pathways between different fields of education, training and youth and across formal and non-formal settings.

Amendment

(28) The Programme should contribute to facilitating transparency and **automatic mutual** recognition of skills, qualifications **and diplomas**, as well as the transfer of credits or **other proof** of learning outcomes, to foster quality assurance and to support validation of non-formal and informal learning, skills management and guidance. In this regard, the Programme should also provide support to contact points and networks at national and Union level that facilitate cross-European exchanges as well as the development of flexible learning pathways between different fields of education, training and youth and across formal and non-formal settings.

Or. en

Justification

To bring the aim into line with the recent draft Council recommendation on automatic mutual recognition supported by the CULT draft motion for a resolution.

Amendment 14**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 31**

Text proposed by the Commission

(31) It is important to stimulate teaching, learning and research in European integration *matters*, as well as to promote *debates* on these matters through the support of Jean Monnet actions in *the fields of higher education but also in other* fields of education and training. Fostering a sense of *European identity* and commitment is particularly important *at times when* the common values on which the Union is founded, and which form part of *our* European identity, *are put to the test, and when* citizens *show* low levels of engagement. The Programme should continue to contribute to the development of excellence in European integration studies.

Amendment

(31) It is important to stimulate teaching, learning and research in European integration, as well as to promote *debate* on these matters through the support of Jean Monnet actions in *all* fields of education and training. Fostering a *European* sense of *belonging* and commitment is particularly important *given the challenges to* the common values on which the Union is founded and which form part of *a common* European identity, *and considering that* citizens *are showing* low levels of engagement. The Programme should continue to contribute to the development of excellence in European integration studies *and, at the same time, to enhance the engagement of the wider learning community and the general public with European integration.*

Or. en

Justification

Drafting improvements and clarification of the aims of the broader Jean Monnet scope.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 33

Text proposed by the Commission

(33) This Regulation lays down a financial envelope for the Programme which is to constitute the prime reference amount, within the meaning of [reference to be updated as appropriate Point 17 of the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management³⁴], for the European Parliament and the Council

Amendment

(33) This Regulation lays down a financial envelope for *the entire duration of* the Programme which is to constitute the prime reference amount, within the meaning of [reference to be updated as appropriate Point 17 of the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management³⁴], for the

during the annual budgetary procedure.

European Parliament and the Council during the annual budgetary procedure. ***It should be ensured that, from 2021, there is a significant increase in the annual budget for the Programme, in comparison to the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework, followed by linear and gradual growth in annual allocations. Such a budgetary profile will help to ensure wider access from the very beginning of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework period and avoid disproportionate increases in the final years that might be difficult to absorb.***

³⁴ OJ L [...], [...], p. [...].

³⁴ OJ L [...], [...], p. [...].

Or. en

Justification

In line with the BUDG draft opinion, it is necessary to ensure a smooth budget profile spread more evenly across the seven years. This should be reflected in a revised financial statement.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 34**

Text proposed by the Commission

(34) Within a basic envelope for actions to be managed by the national agencies in the field of education and training, a breakdown of minimum allocation per sector (higher education, school education, vocational education and training and adult education) should be defined in order to guarantee a critical mass of appropriations to reach the intended output and results in each of these sectors.

Amendment

(34) Within a basic envelope for actions to be managed by the national agencies in the field of education and training, a breakdown of minimum allocation per sector (higher education, school education, vocational education and training and adult education) should be defined in order to guarantee a critical mass of appropriations to reach the intended output and results in each of these sectors. ***The exact budget allocation by action and initiative should be laid down in the work programme.***

Or. en

Justification

To be clear that the annual work programme is important in establishing actual budgetary priorities.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 40

Text proposed by the Commission

(40) In compliance with the Financial Regulation, ***the Commission should adopt work programmes and inform the European Parliament and the Council thereof.*** The work programme should set out the measures needed for ***their*** implementation in line with the general and specific objectives of the Programme, the selection and award criteria for grants, as well as all other elements required. Work programmes and any amendments to them should be adopted by ***implementing acts*** in accordance with the ***examination procedure***.

Amendment

(40) ***Given that the Programme is to be implemented over a seven-year period, it is necessary to provide for adequate flexibility in order to enable it to adapt to changing realities and political priorities within the field of education, training, youth and sport. Therefore, this Regulation does not define in detail how initiatives are to be designed and it does not prejudge political priorities or respective budgetary priorities for the next seven years. Instead, the secondary policy choices and priorities, including details of specific initiatives, should be determined by means of work programmes in compliance with the Financial Regulation. The work programme should also set out the measures needed for implementation in line with the general and specific objectives of the Programme, the selection and award criteria for grants, as well as all other elements required. Work programmes and any amendments to them should be adopted by means of a delegated act. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts,***

and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

Or. en

Justification

To make clear that the required flexibility in the Programme necessitates key policy choices in the annual work programme. Such choices can only be made with proper parliamentary scrutiny and therefore through a delegated act procedure.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 40 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(40a) The Commission, in conjunction with the national agencies, should monitor and report on the implementation of the Programme, both during the Programme's lifetime and after its completion. In particular, the Commission should carry out a mid-term review of the Programme accompanied, where appropriate, by a legislative proposal to amend this Regulation.

Or. en

Justification

In line with the insertion of a review and revision clause in the Article.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 41

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(41) Pursuant to paragraph 22 and 23 of the Inter-institutional agreement for Better

(41) Pursuant to paragraph 22 and 23 of the Inter-institutional agreement for Better

Law-Making of 13 April 2016³⁸, there is a need to evaluate the Programme on the basis of information collected through specific monitoring requirements, while avoiding overregulation and administrative burdens, *in particular on Member States*. Such requirements should include specific, measurable and realistic indicators which can be measured over time as a basis for evaluating the effects of the Programme on the ground.

³⁸ Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016 (OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1).

Law-Making of 13 April 2016³⁸, there is a need to evaluate the Programme on the basis of information collected through specific monitoring requirements, while avoiding overregulation and administrative burdens. Such requirements should include specific, measurable and realistic indicators which can be measured over time as a basis for evaluating the effects of the Programme on the ground.

³⁸ Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016 (OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1).

Or. en

Justification

Over-regulation and administrative burdens should be avoided at all levels.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 46**

Text proposed by the Commission

(46) Member States should *endeavour to* adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the Programme. This includes resolving, where possible, and without prejudice to Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits. In line with Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁹, Member States are encouraged to establish fast-track admission procedures.

Amendment

(46) Member States should adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the Programme. This includes resolving, where possible, and without prejudice to Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits. In line with Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁹, Member States are encouraged to establish fast-track admission procedures.

³⁹ Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 21).

³⁹ Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 21).

Or. en

Justification

To strengthen the point.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 48

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(48) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴⁰.

deleted

⁴⁰ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011. Laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55 28.2.2011 p.13).

Or. en

Justification

This recital, together with Article 31, is now redundant since the work programmes are to be adopted via delegated acts.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 52

Text proposed by the Commission

(52) While the regulatory framework already allowed Member States and regions to establish synergies in the previous programming period between Erasmus+ and other Union instruments, such as the European structural and investment funds, which also support the qualitative development of education, training and youth systems in the Union, this potential has so far been underexploited, thus limiting the systemic effects of projects and impact on policy. Effective communication and cooperation should take place at national level between the national bodies in charge of managing these various instruments to maximise their respective impact. The programme should allow for active cooperation with these instruments.

Amendment

(52) While the regulatory framework already allowed Member States and regions to establish synergies in the previous programming period between Erasmus+ and other Union instruments, such as the European structural and investment funds, which also support the qualitative development of education, training and youth systems in the Union, this potential has so far been underexploited, thus limiting the systemic effects of projects and impact on policy. Effective communication and cooperation should take place at national level between the national bodies in charge of managing these various instruments to maximise their respective impact. The Programme should allow for active cooperation with these instruments, ***in particular by ensuring that a high-quality application that cannot be financed under the Programme, owing to insufficient funds, can be immediately considered for financing, without further modification, under the European structural and investment funds. Such cross-programme synergies should enable increased project success rates.***

Or. en

Justification

In line with the amendment in the corresponding article, this stresses that applications should not need to be redone to be considered for funding.

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) 'learning mobility' means moving physically to a country other than the country of residence, in order to undertake study, training or non-formal or informal learning; It may be accompanied by measures such as language support and training and/or be complemented by online learning and virtual cooperation. ***In some specific cases, it may take the form of learning through the use of information technology and communications tools;***

Amendment

(2) 'learning mobility' means moving physically to a country other than the country of residence, in order to undertake study, training or non-formal or informal learning; It may be accompanied by measures such as language support and training and/or be complemented by online learning and virtual cooperation.

Or. en

Justification

While virtual and blended learning opportunities are important, it should be clear that these are not mobility opportunities.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) 'virtual learning' means the acquisition of skills and knowledge through the use of information and communication tools;

Or. en

Justification

Need to define the term and distinguish virtual learning from learning mobility.

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 4 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4b) 'blended learning' means the acquisition of skills and knowledge through a combination of virtual education and training tools and traditional education and training methods;

Or. en

Justification

To insert a definition of the term as it has been inserted into the articles.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 6

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6) 'grassroots sport' means organised sport practised at local level by amateur sports people, and sport for all; **deleted**

Or. en

Justification

The term does not appear in the enacting provisions and therefore does not need to be defined.

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7) 'higher education student' means any person enrolled at a higher education institution, including at short-cycle, bachelor, master or doctoral level or equivalent. *It also covers recent*

(7) 'higher education student' means any person enrolled at a higher education institution, including at short-cycle, bachelor, master or doctoral level or equivalent, *or any person who has*

graduates;

graduated from such an institution within the previous 12 months;

Or. en

Justification

To specify what is meant by 'recent graduates'.

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 8 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8a) 'sport staff' means any person or persons involved in the instruction, training or management of a sports team or of several individual sportspeople, either on a paid basis or on a voluntary basis;

Or. en

Justification

To specify what is meant by 'sport staff' so that it is open only to 'genuine' staff who coach a team or a number of individuals.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 9

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9) 'vocational education and training learner' means any person enrolled in an initial or continuous vocational education or training programme at any level from secondary up to post-secondary level. ***It includes the participation of individuals who have recently graduated from such programmes;***

(9) 'vocational education and training learner' means any person enrolled in an initial or continuous vocational education or training programme at any level from secondary up to post-secondary level, ***or any person who has graduated from such a programme within the last 12 months;***

Justification

To specify what is meant by 'recent graduation'.

Amendment 30**Proposal for a regulation****Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 12**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12) 'third country not associated to the Programme' means a third country which does not participate fully in the Programme but whose legal entities may exceptionally benefit from the Programme in duly justified cases in the Union's interest;

deleted

Or. en

Justification

No definition is required as the corresponding article is sufficiently clear on its own.

Amendment 31**Proposal for a regulation****Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 18**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18) 'higher education institution' means any *type of higher education institution* which, in accordance with national law or practice, offers recognised degrees or other recognised tertiary level qualifications, whatever such establishment may be called *as well as any other type of higher education institution which is* considered by the national authorities as eligible to participate in the Programme, in their respective territories;

(18) 'higher education institution' means any *entity*, which, in accordance with national law or practice, offers recognised degrees or other recognised tertiary level qualifications, whatever such establishment may be called, *or any entity* considered by the national authorities as eligible to participate in the Programme, in their respective territories;

Justification

To avoid using the same term as the term being defined.

Amendment 32**Proposal for a regulation****Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 23**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(23) *'third country associated to the Programme' means a third country which is party to an agreement with the Union allowing for its participation in the Programme and which fulfils all the obligations laid down in this Regulation in relation to Member States;*

deleted

Or. en

Justification

No definition is required as the corresponding article is sufficiently clear on its own.

Amendment 33**Proposal for a regulation****Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 25**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(25) *'people with fewer opportunities' means people facing obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the Programme for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons, a migrant background or for reasons such as disability and educational difficulties;*

(25) *'people from disadvantaged backgrounds' means people who face obstacles to accessing the Programme on account of their economic or social situation;*

Or. en

Justification

It is important to make clear that the focus is on people from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, irrespective of the reason for the socioeconomic disadvantage. Other barriers to programme access are reflected in the text by the term 'people with disabilities and other special needs', covering, inter alia, the other obstacles listed in the Commission proposal.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 2a

European added value

- 1. The Programme shall support only those actions and activities which deliver potential European added value and which contribute to the achievement of the objectives referred to in Article 3.***
- 2. The European added value of the actions and activities of the Programme shall be ensured in particular through their:***
 - (a) transnational character, particularly with regard to mobility and cooperation aimed at achieving a sustainable systemic impact;***
 - (b) complementarity and synergies with other programmes and policies at national, Union and international level;***
 - (c) contribution to the effective use of Union transparency and recognition tools;***
 - (d) contribution to the development of Union-wide quality assurance standards, including charters;***
 - (e) contribution to the development of Union-wide common standards in education and training programmes;***
 - (f) fostering of multilingualism across the Union;***

(g) *promotion of a European sense of belonging.*

Or. en

Justification

It is important to make clear that European added value is a key aim of the Programme and should be a criterion for funding eligibility. The wording draws on the existing Regulation and some ECA recommendations.

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The general objective of the Programme is to support the educational, professional and personal development of people in education, training, youth and sport, in Europe and beyond, thereby contributing to sustainable growth, jobs and social cohesion and to strengthening European identity. As such, the Programme shall be a key instrument for building a European education area, supporting the implementation of the European strategic cooperation in the field of education and training, ***with its underlying sectoral agendas***, advancing youth policy cooperation under the Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 and developing the European dimension in sport.

Amendment

1. The general objective of the Programme is to support the educational, professional and personal development of people in education, training, youth and sport, in Europe and beyond, thereby contributing to sustainable growth, jobs and social cohesion and to strengthening European identity. As such, the Programme shall be a key instrument for building a European education area, supporting the implementation of the European strategic cooperation in the field of education and training, ***including automatic mutual recognition of qualifications, diplomas and learning periods abroad***, advancing youth policy cooperation under the Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 and developing the European dimension in sport.

Or. en

Justification

To make clear that fostering automatic mutual recognition of qualifications, diplomas and learning periods abroad is a key objective of the Programme.

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The operational objectives and corresponding policy priorities shall be specified in detail in the work programme referred to in Article 19.

Or. en

Justification

To make clear that the Regulation contains limited policy detail to guarantee flexibility and that the detailed policy choices will be made through the AWP.

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3b. The Commission shall cooperate with the national agencies to ensure the quality and consistency of procedures put in place to implement this Regulation, including by developing common standards for project applications and evaluation.

Or. en

Justification

To deal with the current discrepancies in procedures and standards across Programme countries and to develop a mechanism for ensuring consistency and quality.

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(e) language learning opportunities, ***including those supporting*** mobility activities.

(e) language learning opportunities ***in support of*** mobility activities.

Or. en

Justification

To specify that the focus of KA is mobility and that virtual learning cannot be considered as a mobility action.

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The language learning opportunities referred to in point (e) of the first paragraph shall also be available for non-mobility actions in the form of virtual learning and blended learning.

Or. en

Justification

The language learning opportunities should be open to non-mobility actions to widen access to the Programme.

Amendment 40

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) online platforms and tools for virtual cooperation, including the support services for eTwinning and for the electronic platform for adult learning in

(d) online platforms and tools for virtual cooperation, including the support services for eTwinning and for the electronic platform for adult learning in Europe, ***as well as tools to facilitate***

Europe.

mobility, such as the European Student Card referred to in Article 25(7b).

Or. en

Justification

To ensure that the Programme can specifically finance the roll-out of the European Student Card.

Amendment 41

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) the support to Union tools and measures that foster the quality, transparency and recognition of competences, skills and qualifications⁴⁵ ;

⁴⁵ In particular the single Union framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences ; the European Qualifications Framework; the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training; the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training; the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System; the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education; the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education; the European Network of Information Centres in the European Region and National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union; and the Euroguidance networks.

Amendment

(b) the support to Union tools and measures that foster the quality, transparency and recognition of competences, skills and qualifications⁴⁵, ***including Europass***;

⁴⁵ In particular the single Union framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences ; the European Qualifications Framework; the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training; the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training; the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System; the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education; the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education; the European Network of Information Centres in the European Region and National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union; and the Euroguidance networks.

Or. en

Justification

To specify that Europass can be supported through the Programme.

Amendment 42

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission shall monitor and evaluate the performance of the institutions referred to in point (c) of the first paragraph, paying particular attention to their contribution to supporting teaching, learning, research and debate on European integration and to their European added value. To that end, the Commission shall, by 31 December 2024, provide the European Parliament and the Council with an evaluation report.

Or. en

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 1 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a a) partnerships for excellence;

Or. en

Justification

To bring KA2 under 'Youth' in line with KA2 under 'Education and Training' and to promote excellence.

Amendment 44

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) the preparation and implementation of the Union policy agenda on youth, with the support of the Youth Wiki network;

Amendment

(a) the preparation and implementation of the Union policy agenda on youth, with the support, *as relevant*, of the Youth Wiki network;

Or. en

Justification

It does not make sense to require the use of the Youth Wiki in the legislative text.

Amendment 45

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) policy dialogue and cooperation with relevant key stakeholders, including European *non-governmental organisations* and international organisations in the field of sport;

Amendment

(b) policy dialogue and cooperation with relevant key stakeholders, including European and international organisations in the field of sport;

Or. en

Justification

To make the provisions the same for European and international organisations.

Amendment 46

Proposal for a regulation

Chapter 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Chapter IVa

Inclusion

Article 13a

*Measures to enhance the Programme's
inclusiveness*

1. The national agencies shall develop a multiannual national strategy to foster inclusion and to increase participation in the Programme among people from disadvantaged backgrounds, as well as people with disabilities or other special needs. That strategy shall be made public by 30 June 2021.

2. The strategy referred to in paragraph 1 shall pay particular attention to the following elements:

(a) possible grant adjustment based on applicants' needs and precise mobility destination;

(b) communication and outreach to the target groups;

(c) use of user-friendly language in publicity and application materials;

(d) the provision of specific advice and support services to the target groups; and

(e) support to grassroots, community-based organisations working directly with the target groups.

3. In order to implement the strategy referred to in paragraph 1, the Commission may adjust or may authorise the national agencies to adjust, on the basis of objective criteria, the grants to support mobility actions under the Programme.

4. Grants for mobility actions shall always cover at least 50 % of the additional costs incurred by the beneficiary specifically as a result of participating in the Programme.

5. Funding available under the European Social Fund+ may be used to top up grants as required.

Justification

To strengthen and give greater prominence to the provisions designed to foster inclusion.

Amendment 47

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be EUR **30 000 000 000** in current prices.

Amendment

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be EUR **41 097 000 000 in constant 2018 prices (EUR 46 758 000 000** in current prices).

Or. en

Justification

To support a more inclusive programme with more initiatives, it is necessary to triple the budget for Erasmus (in 2018 prices) in line with the Parliament's resolution on the MFF.

Amendment 48

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The annual appropriations shall be authorised by the European Parliament and the Council within the limits of the multiannual financial framework.

Or. en

Justification

Standard wording to be included in an article referring to the financial envelope according to the Joint Handbook for the presentation and drafting of acts subject to the ordinary legislative procedure.

Amendment 49

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – point a – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) **EUR 24 940 000 000** for actions in the field of education and training, **from** which:

Amendment

(a) **83,14 % of the amount referred to in paragraph 1** for actions in the field of education and training, **of** which:

Or. en

Justification

To work with percentages at this stage.

Amendment 50

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – point a – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) at least **EUR 8 640 000 000 should** be allocated to higher education actions referred to in point (a) of Article 4 and point (a) of Article 5;

Amendment

(1) at least **34,6 % shall** be allocated to higher education actions referred to in point (a) of Article 4 and point (a) of Article 5;

Or. en

Justification

To work with percentages at this stage.

Amendment 51

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – point a – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) at least **EUR 5 230 000 000** to actions in vocational education and training

Amendment

(2) at least **21 % shall be allocated** to actions in vocational education and training

referred to in point (b) of Article 4 and point (a) of Article 5;

referred to in point (b) of Article 4 and point (a) of Article 5;

Or. en

Justification

To work with percentages at this stage.

Amendment 52

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – point a – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) at least **EUR 3 790 000 000** to school education actions referred to in point (c) of Article 4 and point (a) of Article 5;

Amendment

(3) at least **15,2 % shall be allocated** to school education actions referred to in point (c) of Article 4 and point (a) of Article 5;

Or. en

Justification

To work with percentages at this stage.

Amendment 53

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – point a – point 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) at least **EUR 1 190 000 000** to adult education actions referred to in point (d) of Article 4 and point (a) of Article 5;

Amendment

(4) at least **4,8 % shall be allocated** to adult education actions referred to in point (d) of Article 4 and point (a) of Article 5;

Or. en

Justification

To work with percentages at this stage.

Amendment 54

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – point a – point 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) **EUR 450 000 000 for** Jean Monnet actions referred to in Article 7;

Amendment

(5) **1,8 % shall be allocated to** Jean Monnet actions referred to in Article 7;

Or. en

Justification

To work with percentages at this stage.

Amendment 55

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – point a – point 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5a) the remaining 22,6 % may be used to finance other actions, in particular centralised actions, in the field of education and training, with their priorities and objectives to be laid down in the work programme referred to in Article 19;

Or. en

Justification

To work with percentages at this stage and, for the sake of transparency, to make clear what happens with the unallocated amounts.

Amendment 56

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) **EUR 3 100 000 000** for actions in

Amendment

(b) **10,3 % of the amount referred to**

the field of youth referred to in Articles 8 to 10;

in paragraph 1 for actions in the field of youth referred to in Articles 8 to 10;

Or. en

Justification

To work with percentages at this stage.

Amendment 57

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) **EUR 550 000 000** for actions in the field of sport referred to in Articles 11 to 13; and

Amendment

(c) **1,83 % of the amount referred to in paragraph 1** for actions in the field of sport referred to in Articles 11 to 13; and

Or. en

Justification

To work with percentages at this stage.

Amendment 58

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) at least **EUR 960 000 000** as a contribution to the operational costs of the national agencies.

Amendment

(d) at least **3,2 % of the amount referred to in paragraph 1** as a contribution to the operational costs of the national agencies.

Or. en

Justification

To work with percentages at this stage.

Amendment 59

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The remaining 1,5 % that is not allocated under the indicative distribution set out in the first subparagraph may be used for programme support.

Or. en

Justification

To work with percentages at this stage and, for the sake of transparency, to make clear what happens with the unallocated amounts.

Amendment 60

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

6a. The priorities for budgetary allocation by action as provided for in paragraph 2 shall be determined in the work programme referred to in Article 19.

Or. en

Justification

To make clear that the exact budgetary priorities are determined through the annual work programme.

Amendment 61

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

As regards the actions referred to in

As regards the actions referred to in

Articles 4 to 6, points (a) and (b) of Article 7, and Articles 8 to **10, 12 and** 13, the Programme may be open to the participation of **the following** third countries:

Articles 4 to 6, points (a) and (b) of Article 7, and Articles 8 to 13, the Programme may be open to the participation of third countries.

Or. en

Justification

To include the mobility of sport coaches and staff as actions open to non-associated third countries. As the programme is open to any third country, there is no need to distinguish between two categories of third country.

Amendment 62

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) *third countries referred to in Article 16 which do not fulfil the condition set out in paragraph 2 of that Article;*

deleted

Or. en

Justification

As the programme is open to any third country, there is no need to distinguish between two categories of third country.

Amendment 63

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) *any other third country.*

deleted

Or. en

Justification

As the programme is open to any third country, there is no need to distinguish between two categories of third country.

Amendment 64

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 18 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. *When implementing the Programme, inter alia in the selection of participants and the award of grants, the Commission and the Member States shall ensure that efforts are made to promote social inclusion and improve outreach to people with fewer opportunities.* **deleted**

Or. en

Justification

See new Chapter on inclusion.

Amendment 65

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 18 – paragraph 5**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5. *To improve access to people with fewer opportunities and ensure the smooth implementation of the Programme, the Commission may adjust or may authorise the national agencies referred to in Article 23 to adjust, on the basis of objective criteria, the grants to support mobility actions of the Programme.* **deleted**

Or. en

Justification

See new chapter on inclusion.

Amendment 66

Proposal for a regulation Article 19 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Programme ***shall be implemented by work programmes*** referred to in Article [108] of the Financial Regulation. In addition, the work programme shall give an indication of the amount allocated to each action and of the distribution of funds between the Member States and third countries associated to the Programme for the actions to be managed through the national agency. ***The work programme shall be adopted by the Commission by means of an implementing act. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 31.***

Amendment

The ***secondary policy choices and priorities, including details of specific initiatives outlined in Articles 4 to 13, shall be determined by means of a work programme as referred to in Article 110 of the Financial Regulation. The work programme shall also set out how the Programme is to be implemented.*** In addition, the work programme shall give an indication of the amount allocated to each action and of the distribution of funds between the Member States and third countries associated to the Programme for the actions to be managed through the national agency. ***The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 30 in order to supplement this Regulation by adopting the work programme.***

Or. en

Justification

Owing to the streamlined nature of the legal text, many fundamental policy choices are made through the annual work programme, meaning it should be adopted by means of a delegated act to ensure parliamentary scrutiny.

Amendment 67

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Evaluation

Evaluations, mid-term review and revision

Or. en

Justification

To provide for a proper mid-term review and revision clause.

Amendment 68

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The *interim evaluation* of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme, but no later than *four years after the start of the programme implementation*. It shall also be accompanied by a final evaluation of the predecessor programme.

2. The *mid-term review* of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme, but *in any event* no later than **30 June 2024**. It shall also be accompanied by a final evaluation of the predecessor programme. *The mid-term review, in addition to assessing the overall effectiveness and performance of the Programme, shall pay particular attention to the inclusion measures laid down in Article 13a, efforts made to simplify the Programme for beneficiaries and the new initiatives being implemented under the Programme.*

Or. en

Justification

To provide for a proper mid-term review and revision clause.

Amendment 69

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Without prejudice to the requirements set out in Chapter IX and the obligations of national agencies as referred to in Article 24, Member States shall submit to the Commission, by **30 April 2024**, a report on the implementation and the impact of the Programme in their respective territories.

Amendment

3. Without prejudice to the requirements set out in Chapter IX and the obligations of national agencies as referred to in Article 24, Member States shall submit to the Commission, by **31 December 2023**, a report on the implementation and the impact of the Programme in their respective territories.

Or. en

Justification

To adapt the date for Member States to report in line with the amendment on the mid-term review.

Amendment 70

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The Commission shall, where necessary and on the basis of the mid-term review, put forward appropriate legislative proposals amending this Regulation. The Commission shall appear before the competent committee of the European Parliament and the competent body of the Council to report on the mid-term review, including with respect to its decision on whether an amendment of this Regulation is required.

Or. en

Justification

To provide for a proper mid-term review and revision clause.

Amendment 71

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. The Commission shall ***communicate the conclusions of the*** evaluations accompanied by its observations to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

Amendment

5. The Commission shall ***transmit any*** evaluations ***and the mid-term review,*** accompanied by its observations, to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and ***to*** the Committee of the Regions.

Or. en

Amendment 72

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. National agencies referred to in Article 24 shall develop a consistent strategy with regard to the effective outreach as well as dissemination and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage within the Programme, shall assist the Commission in its general task of disseminating information concerning the Programme, including information in respect of actions and activities managed at national and Union level, and its results, and shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their country.

Amendment

1. National agencies referred to in Article 24 shall develop a consistent strategy with regard to the effective outreach as well as dissemination and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage within the Programme, shall assist the Commission in its general task of disseminating information concerning the Programme, including information in respect of actions and activities managed at national and Union level, and its results, and shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their country. ***In carrying out communication and outreach activities and in disseminating information, national agencies shall, in accordance with Article 13a, pay particular attention to people from disadvantaged backgrounds and people with disabilities and other special needs.***

Amendment 73

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) have the requisite expertise to cover all sectors of the Programme;

Or. en

Amendment 74

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

7. Regular meetings shall be organised with the network of national agencies in order to ensure ***coherent*** implementation of the Programme across all Member States and all third countries referred to in Article 17.

7. Regular meetings shall be organised with the network of national agencies in order to ensure ***consistent*** implementation of the Programme across all Member States and all third countries referred to in Article 17 ***and to ensure the exchange of best practice. Where appropriate, external experts, including representatives of civil society and of third countries associated to the Programme, may be invited to participate in such meetings as observers. The European Parliament shall be invited as an observer to such meetings.***

Or. en

Justification

To ensure the Parliament has the necessary information about and understanding of how the programme is implemented in practice and to ensure input from experts and stakeholders helps refine programme delivery.

Amendment 75

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 – paragraph 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

7a. In order to simplify and harmonise the application process, the Commission shall, by 30 June 2024, provide a common, multilingual, one-stop-shop tool for the Programme. That tool shall be made available, both online and on mobile devices, to any entity either benefiting from the Programme or involved in the management of the Programme.

Or. en

Justification

To contribute to simplification of the application process as often requested by national agencies.

Amendment 76

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 – paragraph 7 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

7b. By 31 December 2021, the Commission shall develop a European Student Card for all students participating in the Programme. By 31 December 2025, the Commission shall make the European Student Card available to all students in the Union.

Or. en

Justification

To make a specific provision for the European Student Card in line with the Commission's own commitments.

Amendment 77

Proposal for a regulation Article 29 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Actions eligible under the Programme which have been assessed in a call for proposals under the Programme and which comply with the minimum quality requirements of that call for proposals, but which are not financed due to budgetary constraints, may be selected for funding by the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds. In this case the co-financing rates and the eligibility rules based on this Regulation shall apply. These actions shall be implemented by the managing authority referred to in Article [65] of Regulation (EU)XX [CPR] in accordance with the rules set out in that Regulation and fund specific regulations, including rules on financial corrections.

Amendment

4. Actions eligible under the Programme which have been assessed in a call for proposals under the Programme and which comply with the minimum quality requirements of that call for proposals, but which are not financed due to budgetary constraints, may be selected for funding by the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds ***without the need to submit a new application***. In this case the co-financing rates and the eligibility rules based on this Regulation shall apply. These actions shall be implemented by the managing authority referred to in Article [65] of Regulation (EU)XX [CPR] in accordance with the rules set out in that Regulation and fund specific regulations, including rules on financial corrections.

Or. en

Justification

In order to make this cross-over provision work simply, it is essential to specify that the original Erasmus application can be considered as such without modification.

Amendment 78

Proposal for a regulation Article 30 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in **Article 20** shall be conferred on the Commission until 31 December 2028.

Amendment

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in **Articles 19 and 20** shall be conferred on the Commission until 31 December 2028.

Or. en

Justification

To account for the fact that the work programme in Article 19 is to be adopted by means of a delegated act.

Amendment 79

Proposal for a regulation Article 30 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The delegation of power referred to in **Article 20** may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

Amendment

3. The delegation of power referred to in **Articles 19 and 20** may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

Or. en

Justification

To account for the fact that the work programme in Article 19 is to be adopted by means of a delegated act

Amendment 80

Proposal for a regulation Article 30 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to **Article 20** shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the

Amendment

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to **Articles 19 and 20** shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both

Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Or. en

Amendment 81

Proposal for a regulation Article 31

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 31

deleted

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

2. The committee may meet in specific configurations to deal with sectoral issues. Where appropriate, in accordance with its rules of procedure and on an ad hoc basis, external experts, including representatives of the social partners, may be invited to participate in its meetings as observers.

3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

Or. en

Justification

The Programme Committee exists under Regulation 182/2011 to oversee the implementing acts procedure, which is now redundant since the work programmes are to be adopted via delegated acts.

Amendment 82

Proposal for a regulation Annex I

Annex I

deleted

Indicators

(1) High quality learning mobility for people from diverse backgrounds

(2) Europeanisation and internationalisation of organisations and institutions

What to measure?

(3) Number of people taking part in mobility activities under the Programme

(4) Number of people with fewer opportunities taking part in learning mobility activities under the Programme

(5) Share of participants that consider having benefitted from their participation in learning mobility activities under the Programme

(6) Number of institutions and organisations supported by the Programme under key action 1 (learning mobility) and key action 2 (cooperation)

(7) Number of newcomer organisations supported by the Programme under the key action 1 (learning mobility) and key action 2 (cooperation)

(8) Share of institutions and organisations supported by the Programme who have developed high quality practices as a result of their participation in the Programme

Or. en

Justification

The Annex of the Commission proposal is to be replaced with a more structured set of indicators measuring objectives of the Programme. For procedural reasons, two different amendments have been tabled (one to delete the Annex and a second to propose a new Annex). They are to be voted together.

Amendment 83

Proposal for a regulation Annex I a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Annex Ia

*Objective to measure: Key Action 1 -
Learning mobility*

Indicators:

*Number of people taking part in mobility
actions and activities under the
Programme*

*Number of organisations/institutions
supported by the Programme under Key
Action 1*

*Number of individuals and
organisations/institutions making use of
virtual learning opportunities in the
Programme*

*Share of participants that consider they
have benefited from their participation in
Key Action 1 activities*

*Share of participants that consider they
have an increased European sense of
belonging after participation in the
Programme*

*Share of participants that consider they
have improved foreign language
proficiency after participation in the
Programme*

*Objective to measure: Key Action 2 -
Cooperation among organisations and
institutions*

Indicators:

*Number of organisations/institutions
supported by the Programme under Key
Action 2*

*Share of organisations/institutions that
consider they have benefited from their
participation in Key Action 2 activities*

Number of organisations/institutions

making use of Union tools and platforms for cooperation

Objective to measure: Key Action 3 - Support to policy development and cooperation

Indicators:

Number of individuals or organisations/institutions benefiting from actions under Key Action 3

Objective to measure: Inclusion

Indicators:

Number of people from disadvantaged backgrounds and with disabilities and other special needs taking part in physical mobility actions and activities

Number of people from disadvantaged backgrounds and with disabilities and other special needs taking part in virtual learning activities

Number of newcomer organisations supported by the Programme under Key Action 1 and Key Action 2

Share of participants from disadvantaged backgrounds and with disabilities and other special needs that consider they have benefited from their participation in the Programme

Objective to measure: Simplification

Indicators:

Number of small-scale partnerships supported under Key Action 2

Share of participants that consider that the application, participation and evaluation procedures are proportionate and simple

Average time taken to complete each application by action compared to the previous programme

Or. en

Justification

The Annex of the Commission proposal is to be replaced with a more structured set of indicators measuring objectives of the Programme. For procedural reasons, two different amendments have been tabled (one to delete the Annex and a second to propose a new Annex). They are to be voted together.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

On 30 May 2018, the European Commission put forward its proposal for the new Erasmus(+) Programme, following its 2 May 2018 proposal for a new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) covering the period 2021-2027. In the new MFF proposal, the Commission set aside considerable additional resources for the new Erasmus(+) Programme (a 93% real-terms increase compared to the current MFF) as part of its approach to invest in people and to back successful programmes.

Rapporteur's assessment of the Commission proposal and approach to the draft report

The Rapporteur unequivocally welcomes the Commission's proposal, notably its retention of a programme architecture that has now successfully bedded down and worked well in the current programme. When programmes are successful, changes should be focused where they are really needed (evolution not revolution) and this is what the Commission proposal achieves. Apart from maintaining an effective programme structure, the Commission also feeds in some of the key lessons from the mid-term evaluation and indeed the Parliament's 2 February 2017 resolution for which your Rapporteur had the honour of drafting the report. In that regard, a greater focus on inclusion and simplification - at least in the headline messages from the Commission - is to be welcomed. The same is true of the decision to dispense with the Student Loan Guarantee Facility. While the idea was not unsound, it is vital to recognise when good ideas have not worked in practice and to act accordingly.

Other changes are also positive: applying the key action structure to sport, boosting mobility opportunities for school pupils under Key Action 1 and rolling out Jean Monnet actions to cover all forms of education and training. Furthermore, the Rapporteur also welcomes the new headline initiatives included in the Commission proposal. Erasmus funds should be used to help foster an excellence-driven network of European Universities to help us compete with the best in the world, and more should be done to foster excellence-driven cooperation between our vocational training providers. DiscoverEU, provided it is learning-oriented, offers young people an opportunity to discover the European Union in all its cultural and linguistic diversity and, through a non-formal or informal educational activity, to develop important soft skills, such as communication, teamwork, creativity and problem-solving.

The key amendments tabled by the Rapporteur are to be understood within this overall context of support for the Commission approach. Nevertheless, the Rapporteur considers the following changes to be of critical importance to make sure the new generation of the Erasmus(+) Programme delivers high-quality opportunities for as many people as possible.

Budget

While hugely successful overall, the current Erasmus(+) Programme has struggled with persistently low project success rates, which ultimately risk frustrating applicants and undermining the value of the programme. It is imperative to improve success rates in the next programme. Allied to that, with an ambition of tripling the number of participants, enhancing inclusion among harder-to-reach groups and including three high-profile new initiatives, it is untenable to argue that a 93% real-terms increase is enough if we are to scale up and improve the Programme. The European Parliament has consistently requested a real-terms tripling of

funds for Erasmus(+) and even this falls short of what some, including the Commission President and some Member States, have previously called for. As such, the Rapporteur introduces an amendment to triple the budget in 2018 prices. For the time being, all other budget allocations are expressed in percentages for ease of negotiation, but the Rapporteur retains the Commission breakdown.

Inclusion

Communication surrounding the new Erasmus(+) proposal makes clear that the new programme will place particular emphasis on broadening access and boosting social inclusion. The legal text, however, remains timid. Firstly, it merely requires Member States and the Commission to improve efforts and opens the possibility for grant adjustment. For this reason, the Rapporteur gives far greater prominence to inclusion measures by creating a stand-alone chapter within the legal text on inclusion and requiring Member States to develop an inclusion strategy based on a series of possible parameters. He also explicitly provides for a requirement that individual grants under Erasmus always cover at least 50% of additional costs generated through programme participation.

The way the proposal defines ‘people with fewer opportunities’ lacks focus. While there are different barriers to effective participation (geography, cultural background etc.), it should be clear that the programme particularly needs to enhance inclusion among people from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, whether that background be caused or exacerbated by other factors. For this reason, the Rapporteur moves away from the term ‘people with fewer opportunities’ and employs the term ‘people from disadvantaged backgrounds’. At the same time, he makes clear that inclusion measures should also target ‘people with disabilities and other special needs’. Finally, the draft Regulation enables people to participate in ‘virtual learning mobility’. The Rapporteur makes clear that mobility is inherently physical, but that virtual learning can complement, but not replace, physical mobility.

In essence, the Rapporteur seeks to give inclusion much greater prominence, to strengthen the measures designed to promote it and to make it easier to measure whether the Programme has delivered. In the Rapporteur’s view, it is imperative that, at the end of the programme cycle, we can accurately measure whether we have really made Erasmus(+) more inclusive by giving people from disadvantaged backgrounds more opportunities to participate in genuine mobility exchanges. If the Union cannot claim to have 12 million participants by the end of 2027, but can honestly say that the Programme is more inclusive and delivered high-quality opportunities to more people, then it can be justifiably proud. The Programme should be more quality- than quantity-driven.

Parliamentary scrutiny

The Rapporteur embraces the Commission’s argument that the Programme needs flexibility over its 7-year life cycle. Realities and priorities change and it would be wrong to weigh down the Programme with our 2018 perceptions of how things will or should evolve. Nevertheless, programme flexibility cannot equate to *carte blanche* for the Commission. The lean Regulation has its undoubted benefits, but inevitably necessitates considerable policy choices through the work programmes. New initiatives, like DiscoverEU or the European Universities, are good ideas, but are barely defined and need to be fleshed out over the course

of the Programme based on the experiences of their pilot stages. Policy priorities and corresponding budgetary allocations are left to the work programmes. For all these reasons, it is essential that these work programmes are adopted through delegated acts, rather than implementing acts. Such an approach is designed to retain maximum programme flexibility and to ensure that the Parliament can exercise its right of scrutiny and hold the executive properly to account. The only viable alternative to this streamlined approach would be to lay down far more detail in the Regulation itself, which would run counter to the aim of ensuring flexibility.

Simplification

As with inclusion, the notion of simplification has featured prominently in communication around the new Programme. However, specific measures within the Regulation are few and far between. The Rapporteur welcomes the promotion of small-scale partnerships, but introduces a number of amendments to improve application and management processes and to facilitate mobility. He also strengthens provisions designed to improve cooperation and best practice exchange among national agencies and to foster common standards for applications and evaluation. Finally, he introduces indicators to measure simplification.

Aspects of continuity

As detailed above, the Rapporteur supports the Commission's focus on continuity. He therefore re-introduces two key elements from the current programme:

- a) The name. In the view of the Rapporteur, the Erasmus+ name is now well-known and reflects the fact that the Programme does not merely relate to the higher education sector, but covers a series of other former programmes. As such, it is preferable to retain the current name.
- b) European added value. It is important to specify that the future programme should continue to support projects that deliver potential European added value. In addition to the measures on European added value included in the current programme, the Rapporteur also draws some inspiration from the recent European Court of Auditors report on that programme.