

The international dimension of the current Erasmus+ Programme (2021-2027) and reflections on the future Erasmus+ Programme (2028-2034)

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Erasmus+ International dimension 2021-2027

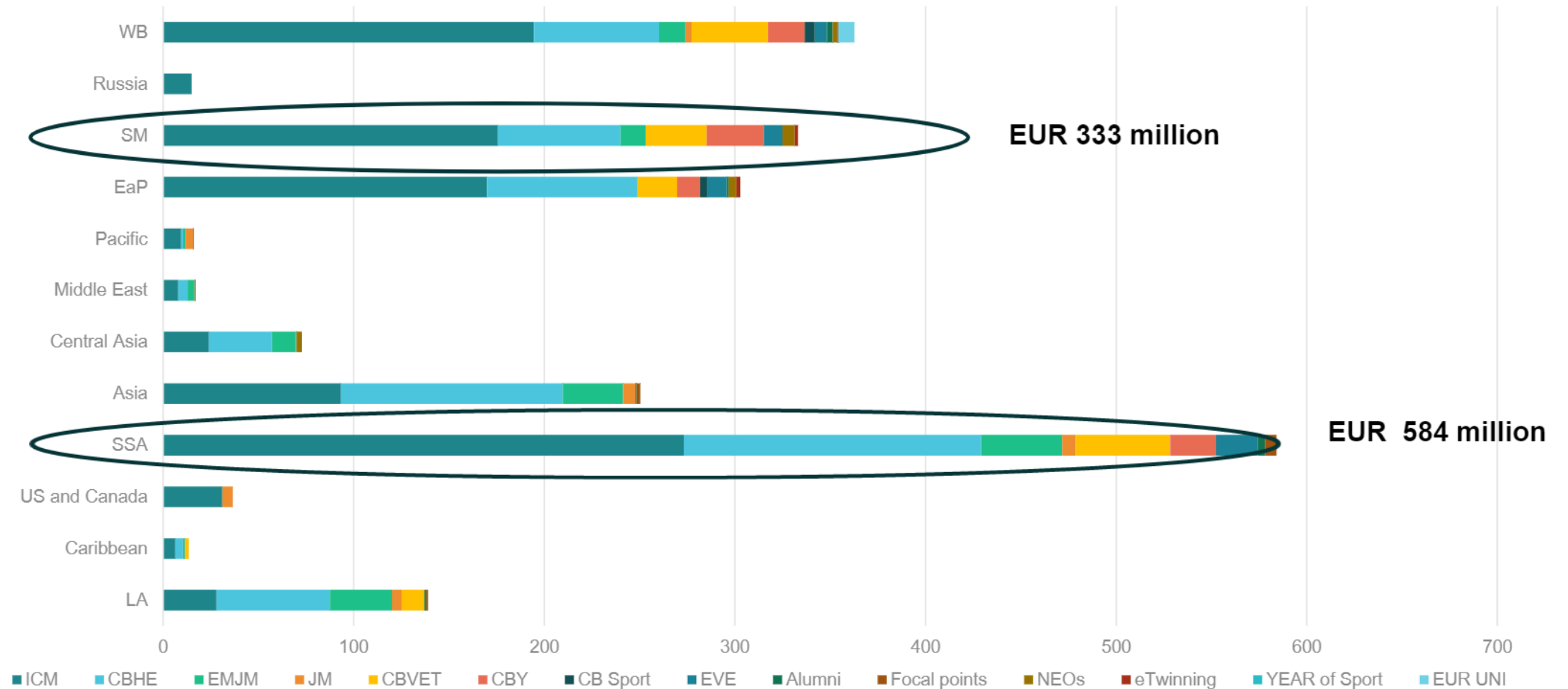
Current state of play

International dimension of Erasmus+

<p>Heading 2 budget for Cohesion, Resilience and Values:</p> <p>26.2 billion for Erasmus+</p>	<p>Limited international opening on Heading 2 funds (20% mobility funds, Erasmus Mundus, Jean Monnet)</p>
<p>Heading 6 for neighbourhood and the world:</p> <p>€2.2 billion injected into Erasmus+ by the external action instruments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Mobility project for higher education students and staff (international credit mobility – ICM)* Erasmus Mundus scholarships for students (top-up of Heading 2)* Jean Monnet actions in the field of higher education* Capacity-building in the field of higher education, VET, Youth and Sport* Erasmus+ Virtual exchanges (EVEs) in higher education and youth* Some other activities like NEOs, ENFPs, Alumni associations, E-twinning, European Week of Sport and European Universities Alliances

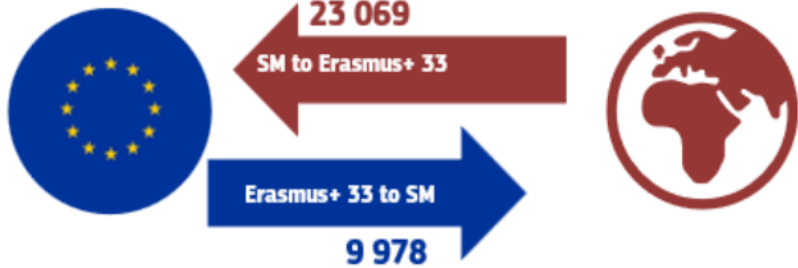
International dimension of Erasmus+: funding

Erasmus+ MIP budget 2021-27 by region and action (MEUR)



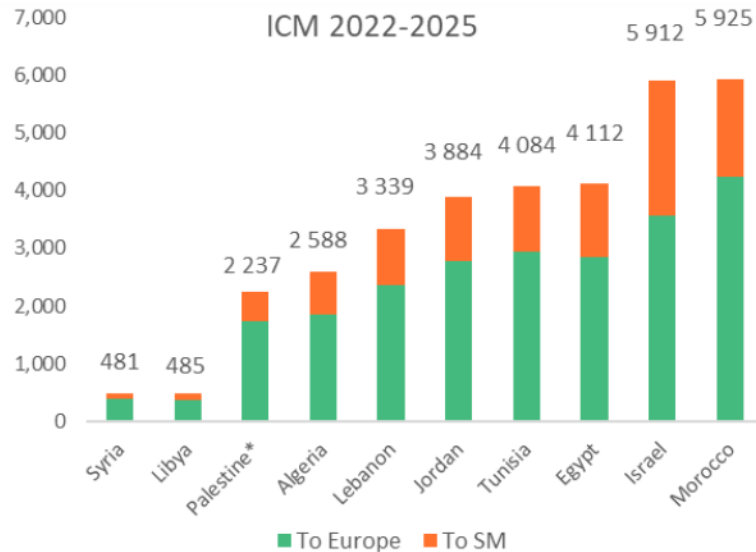
Erasmus+ 2021-2027: a focus on South Mediterranean

**Student and staff mobility
South Mediterranean– Erasmus+33*
2022-2025**

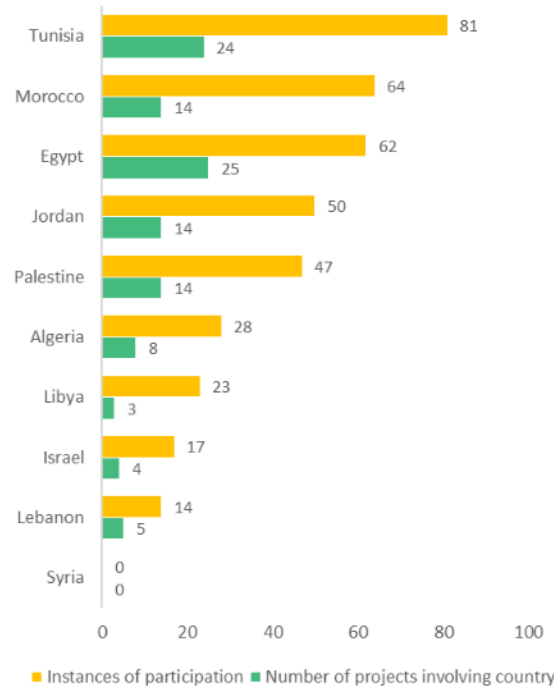


* 27 Member States + 6 associated third countries

Planned as of December 2025

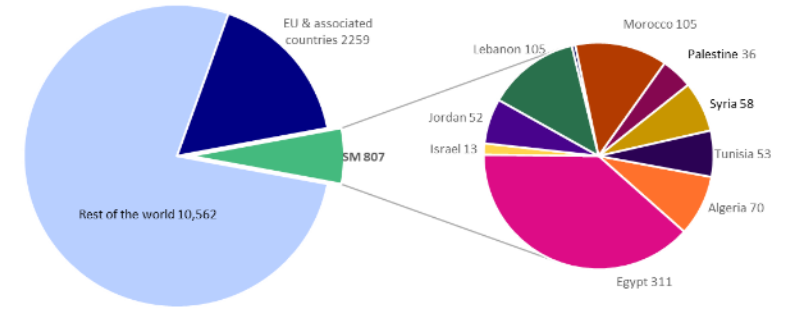


CBHE in the SM 2021-2025

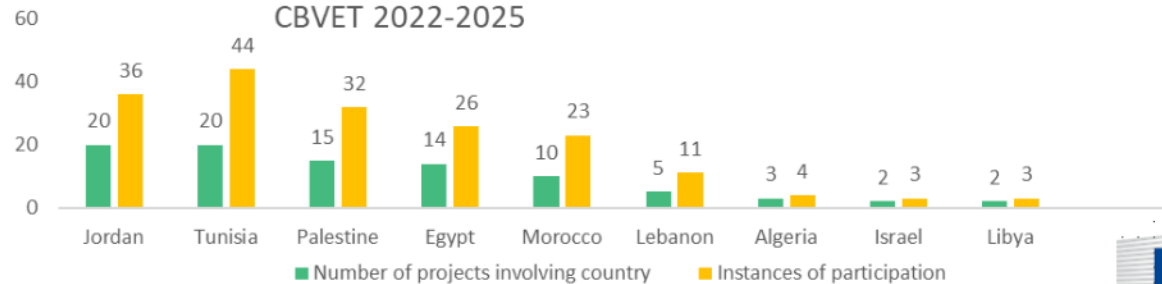


International Credit Mobility: 33,000 mobilities
Erasmus Mundus: 807 scholarships and 6 full partners
Capacity Building Higher Education: 64 projects
Capacity Building VET: 48 projects
Jean Monnet: 9 projects and 7 networks

EMJM Scholarships 2021-2025
last selection 2025

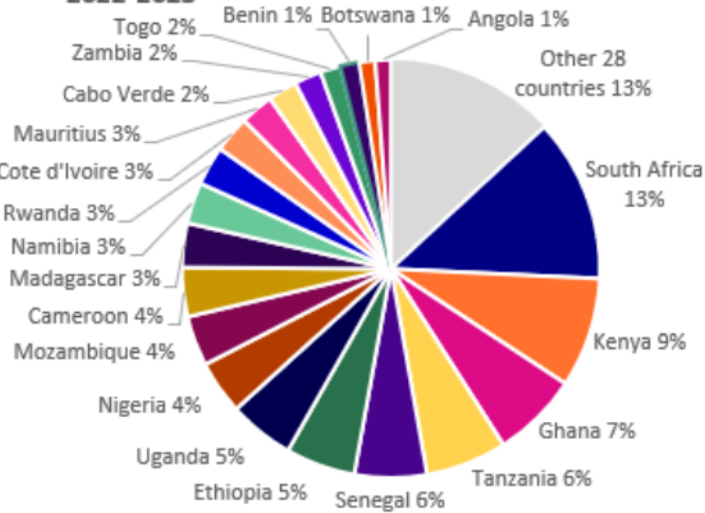


CBVET 2022-2025

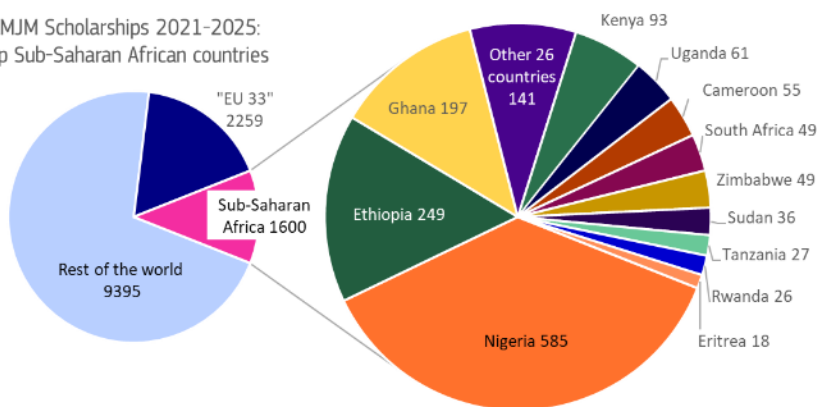


Erasmus+ 2021-2027: a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa

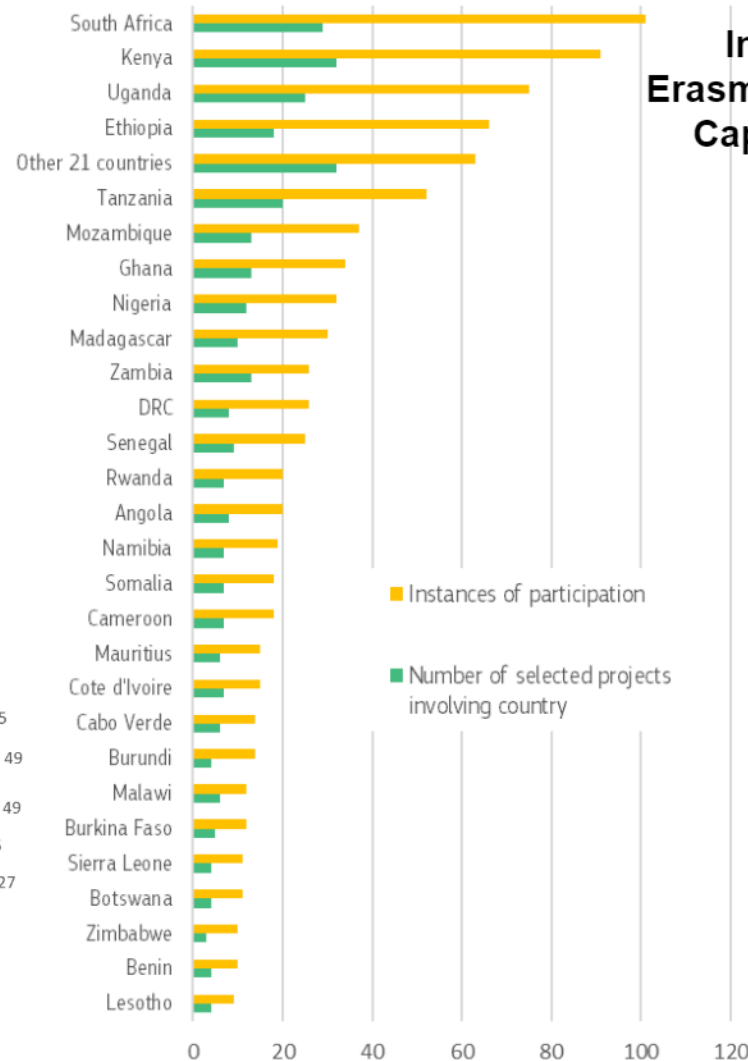
Sub-Saharan Africa – 43 744 people on the move, 2022-2025



EMJM Scholarships 2021-2025: top Sub-Saharan African countries

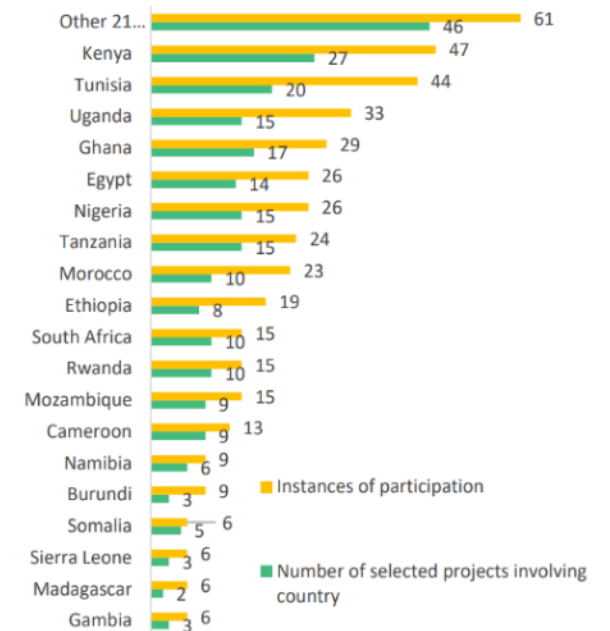


CBHE in SSA 2022-2025



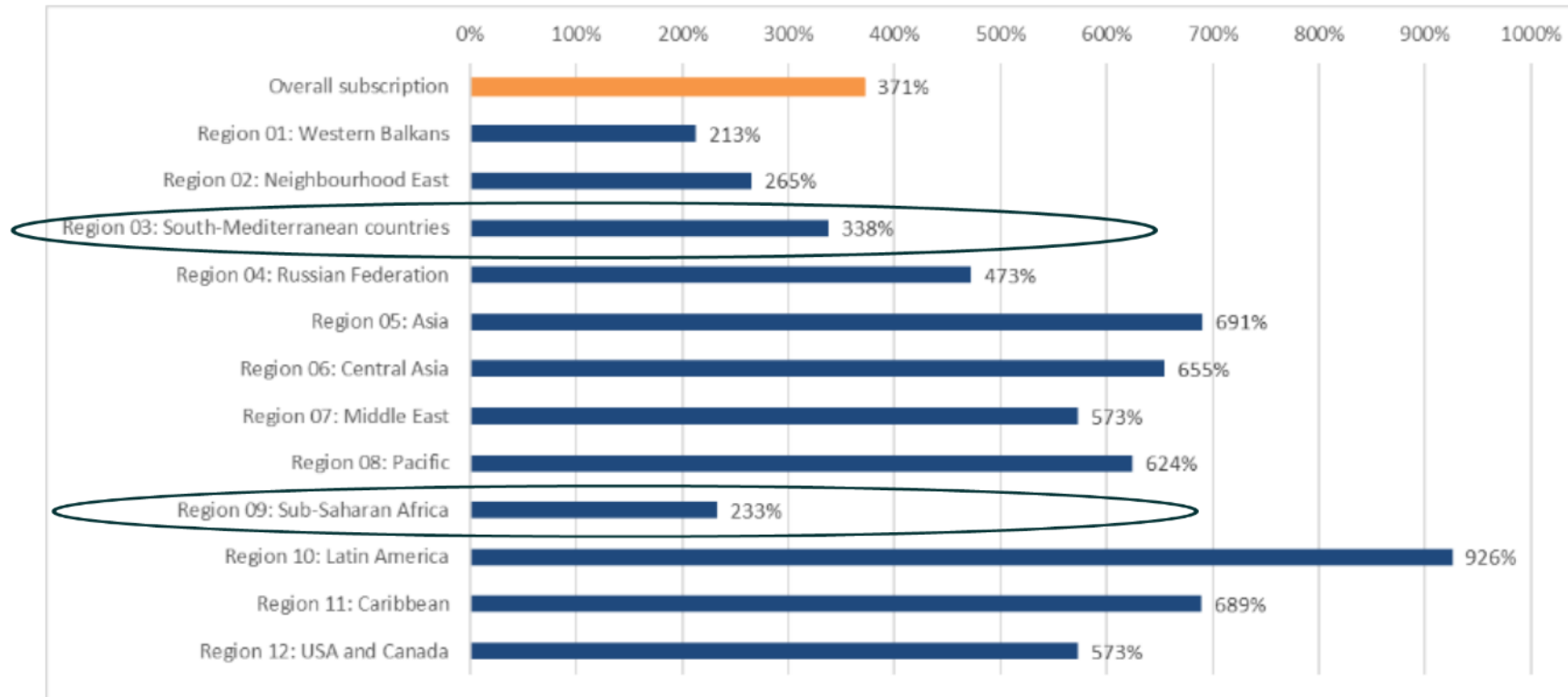
International Credit Mobility: 43,000 mobilities
Erasmus Mundus: 1,600 scholarships and 5 full partners
Capacity Building Higher Education: 173 projects
Capacity Building VET: 87 projects
Jean Monnet: 10 projects and 4 networks

Involvement in CBVET projects, 2022-2025



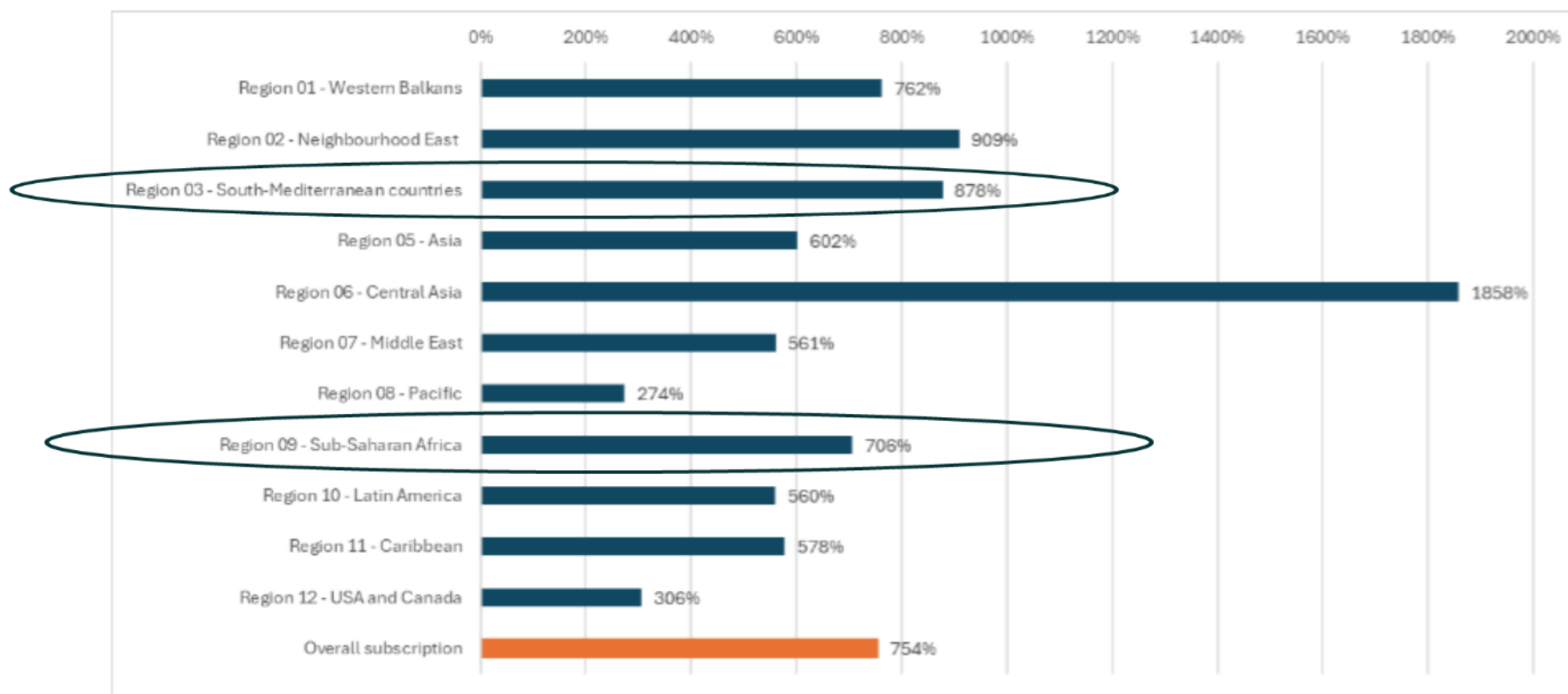
Erasmus+ international: a reliable instrument

Oversubscription per region in *International Credit Mobility* (Calls 2022 to 2025)



Erasmus+ international: a reliable instrument

Oversubscription per region of cooperation actions under Erasmus+ (2021-2025)



Factsheets and data



EU-Africa cooperation through Erasmus+ Opportunities for sub-Saharan Africa

What is Erasmus+?
Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-2027. Erasmus+ funds mobility and cooperation projects between the 27 EU Member States plus all other European countries associated to the programme, and countries not associated to the programme who are located all over the world. We call these countries "EUSAs" for the purposes of this factsheet – this is not an official term.

Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the common priorities for cooperation policy with partner countries and regions, including sub-Saharan Africa. Institutions from these 49 countries can join with European partners in a range of mobility and cooperation projects. This factsheet looks at how popular these initiatives have been with the sub-Saharan African region so far in the ongoing Erasmus+ programme.

In over 40 sub-Saharan African countries, the EU supports an Erasmus+ National Focal Point to help promote these opportunities.

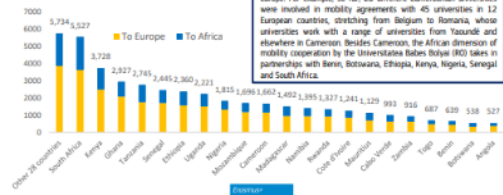
In 2022 these 40 countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Tunisia.

International Credit Mobility

Since 1987, Erasmus has enabled students to study part of their course in a university in a different European country. With Erasmus+ this type of short-term mobility for students and staff is also possible beyond Europe, allowing students to study at a foreign university for 2-12 months and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. A grant for staff mobility is also possible for 5-60 days. Some projects also offer traineeships.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all the European countries. European institutions make up bilateral partnerships with universities in sub-Saharan Africa and apply on behalf of their partners.

The first four annual selections of have resulted in over 2035 mobility projects with all 49 sub-Saharan African countries. They plan mobility for over 43 700 students and staff. 67% of these are Africans.



Over the first four years of the programme (2022-25), all 49 sub-Saharan African countries have forged mobility partnerships with Europe. For example, so far, 28 different Cameroonian universities were involved in mobility agreements with 45 universities in 12 European countries, stretching from Belgium to Romania, whose universities work with a range of universities from Yaounde and Bafoussam in Cameroon. Besides Cameroon, the African dimension of mobility cooperation by the Universitas Bales Boley (UBO) takes in partnerships with Benin, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa.



Erasmus+ projects Digital Transformation for sub-Saharan Africa

prepared for the 2024 Erasmus+ Week for Sub-Saharan Africa 25-28 June 2024 | Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan

About this publication

This publication provides you with a range of inspiring examples of how digital transformation can contribute to driving innovation for the digital transition and to harness the full potential of digital technology and techniques to boost innovation, value creation and job creation.

It also gives you a wider overview of the potential of Erasmus+ and the sustainable development it offers: the programme funds partnerships between Europe and Africa on a wide range of topics, contributing to their knowledge and good practice among students and staff, but also with a broader view to the benefit of the education sector.

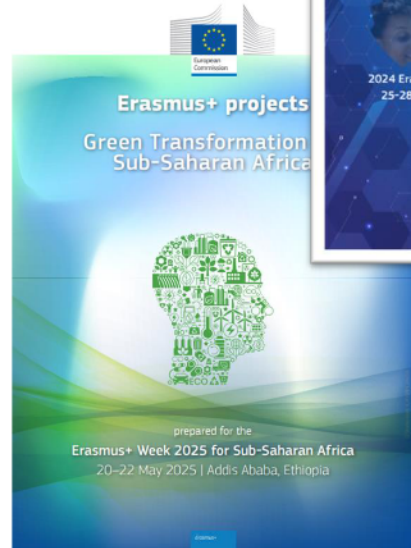
People can benefit from Erasmus+ on two levels – either by being part of the projects, or by learning from the stories and content of existing projects on the Erasmus+ Digital Transformation for Sub-Saharan Africa. Erasmus+ projects are included each year in annual calls for proposals. You can be part of a project proposal addressing the needs of your organisation and your contribution to the sector.

This publication is a specially study on the topic that shows an exciting range of examples of digital transformation. The study is based on the projects and experiences of its authors and partners in Africa, with an additional overview of a range of digital technology and techniques, the main findings of the study and a list of projects which specifically address the challenges of the digital transformation.

It has been prepared specifically for a meeting in Abidjan in June 2024. This is the first in a series of Erasmus+ Weeks in 2024 and will be part of Erasmus+ cooperation – on digital transition – in Africa, Latin America & Caribbean, and Asia-Pacific (see factsheet).

Find out more about Erasmus+ Weeks on the ERDF platform: <https://www.erasmusweeks.eu/>

© Erasmus+ Digital Transformation for Sub-Saharan Africa



Erasmus+ projects Green Transformation Sub-Saharan Africa

prepared for the 2025 Erasmus+ Week for Sub-Saharan Africa 20-22 May 2025 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Capacity Building for Higher Education

Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education action (CBHE) projects, which last from two to three years, are aimed at modernising and reforming higher education institutions, developing new curricula, improving governance, and building relationships between higher education and enterprises. They can also tackle policy topics and issues, preparing the ground for higher education reform, in cooperation with national authorities. Around 12% of the global budget for CBHE projects is for the Western Balkans. The first projects in the 2021-27 phase were selected in 2022.

Projects can be addressed to a group of countries or a single country. They can also be cross-regional.

	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2014-2020
In call	3 887	620	790	972	1 505				4 830
In call	636	149	162	153	172				908
Involving Bosnia and Herzegovina	245	42	53	67	83				302
Involving Bosnia and Herzegovina	46	13	10	12	11				46
led by Bosnia and Herzegovina	9	3	1	1	4				7
from Bosnia and Herzegovina	154	37	44	41	32				185

Erasmus+ studies
Erasmus+ studies (JMA) aim to develop EU studies worldwide. Since 1989 they have been supporting Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence to promote and research on the European integration process at higher education level. The programme also supports policy debate with the academic community and a number of associations in the domain of EU studies.

	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2014-2020
Proposals received in call	5 951	781	823	1 020	1 337	1 990			7 600
Projects selected in call	1 438	242	357	357	257	245			1 862
Involving Bosnia and Herzegovina	22	1	3	5	5	8			37
led by Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	1	2	1	0	2			6
from Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	0	1	0	0	0			5

Erasmus+ cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina

Vocational Education and Training (new in 2021-27 programme)

Erasmus+ Vocational Education and Training (VET) involves bilateral partnerships of organisations active in the field of VET in EU Member States or countries associated to the programme, and those in partner countries. They aim to support the relevance, accessibility and responsiveness of VET institutions and systems in these regions and countries of the world as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development. The first selection of projects was in 2022.

	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
CBET proposals received in call	1 183	121	162	299	611			
CBET projects selected in call	273	58	68	74	73			
Proposals received involving Bosnia and Herzegovina	129	14	20	30	65			
Projects selected involving Bosnia and Herzegovina	41	11	11	12	7			
Instances of participation from Bosnia and Herzegovina in selected projects	78	19	20	24	15			

[Country and regional factsheets are available here](#)
[Erasmus+ Digital Transformation projects in Sub-Saharan Africa link](#)
[Green transformation for Sub-Saharan Africa link](#)



National Erasmus+ Offices (NEOs)

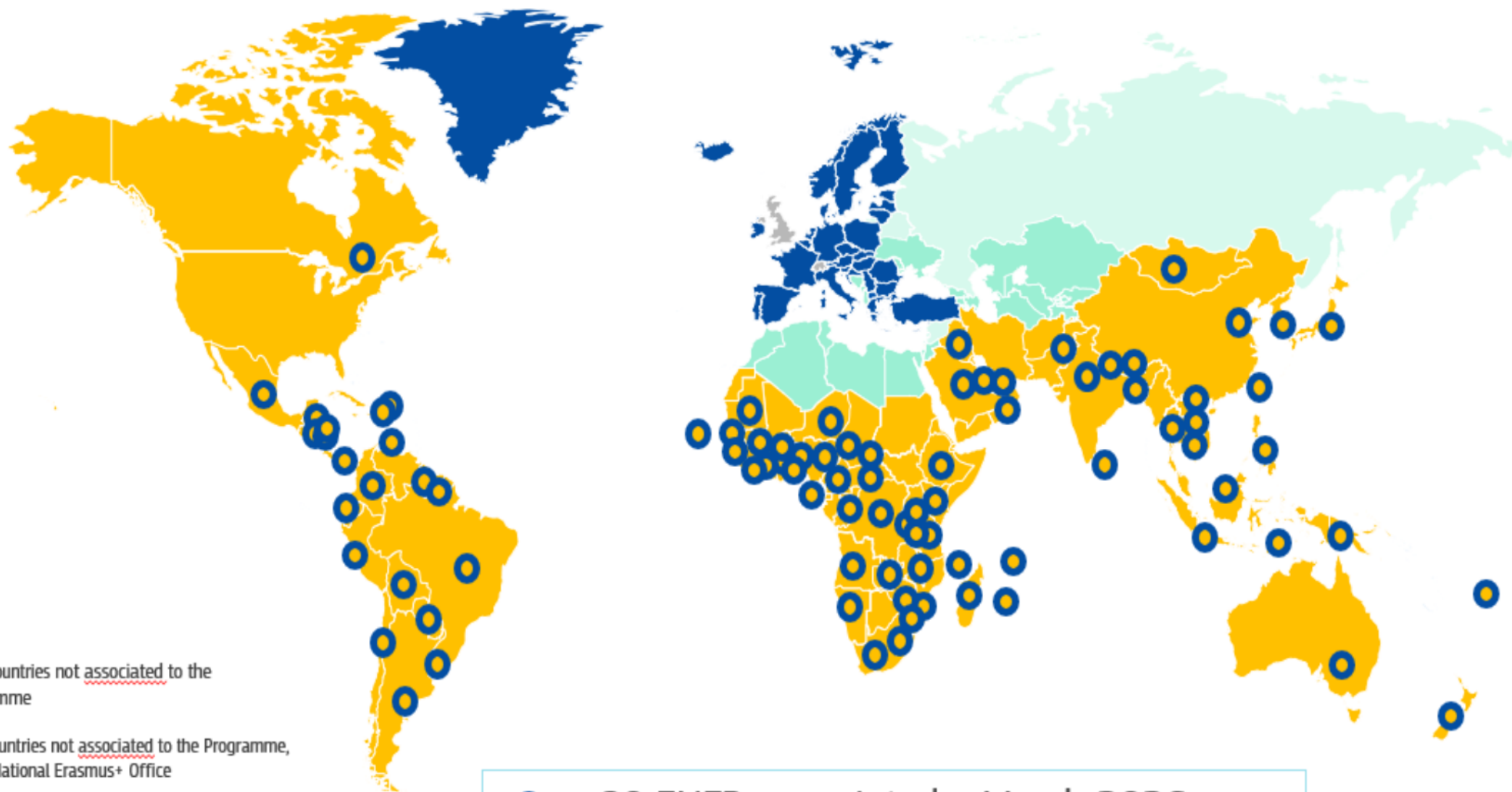
NEO responsibilities

- providing information on Erasmus+
- assisting applicants and participants
- supporting policy dialogue
- maintaining contact with local authorities and EU Delegations

Geographic coverage

- Western Balkans
- Eastern Neighbourhood
- **Southern Neighbourhood**
- Central Asia

Erasmus+ National Focal Points (ENFPs)



● 90 ENFPs appointed – March 2026

Erasmus+ week: Dakar, Senegal, 19-21 May 2026

Looking at the future

Forward-looking perspective for the international dimension of Erasmus+ under the next MFF

Architecture of the new EU LT budget (2028-2034)

Heading 1

Economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture, rural and maritime prosperity and security

Encompasses in particular the National and Regional Partnership Plans

Will bring several funds under one coherent strategy per country/region, with clear milestones.

1062 €Bn

Heading 2

Competitiveness, prosperity and security

Includes:

Erasmus+, AgoraEU, a renewed Horizon Europe and a new European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)...

590 €Bn

Heading 3

Global Europe

Will align enlargement, partnerships and the Union's values.

215 €Bn

Heading 4: European Public Administration 118 €Bn

Findings from the mid-term review of Erasmus+

*Erasmus+ creates **significant European added value** compared to what could be achieved by Member States and other countries at regional, national and **international level**.*

*Erasmus+ 2021-27 **international dimension** effectively contributed to priorities focusing on strengthening **EU's role as a global actor**. It spreads its significant effects internationally, at a **higher degree than its predecessor**.*

*The enhanced international dimension supports people-to-people contacts, cooperation with institutions across the world, capacity building, and **promotes EU values and international relations globally**.*

***E+ international dimension should be reinforced**. This is key to continue supporting EU's strategic priorities, through further cooperation with non associated third countries and synergies with EU policy objectives and strategies in international cooperation, such as the Global Gateway.*



Why do we need an international dimension

- The international dimension is a fundamental and cross-cutting element that is relevant for **learning mobility, cooperation as well as for policy dialogue**.
- Bring **candidate countries and potential candidates** closer to their goal of becoming an EU Member State.
- Engage more strategically with countries in the **EU's neighbourhood**, in particular the **Southern Mediterranean region linked to Pact for the Mediterranean**.
- Support priorities of other instruments such as Global Europe, notably in relation to the **Global Gateway strategy**.



How can we achieve mobility and cooperation beyond EU Member States

Erasmus+ draft regulation

1. Possibility for non-EU countries (art. 13) to **fully or partially associate** to the programme.

2. Commitment to inject **funding from « Global Europe »** Heading (art. 9.2) and even from other sources (art.10.1)

3. **Programme objectives** have either a transnational or an international character (art. 3.3). International actions can fit under the **present structure** (art. 4,5,6).

Global Europe draft regulation

The Instrument shall contribute to actions established under Erasmus+. A single programming document shall be drawn up under this Regulation for the duration of the multiannual financial framework. (art.13.3)

Erasmus+ 2028-2034 – first draft proposal

Erasmus+ – Heading 2

Erasmus+ 2028-2034 Commission's proposal

ERASMUS+

LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
ALL

CAPACITY BUILDING
SUPPORT

Learning mobility and
volunteering
opportunities

Talent and excellence
development
opportunities

Cooperation among
organisations and
institutions

Support to policy
development

Proposal for international dimension funded by Global Europe – Heading 3

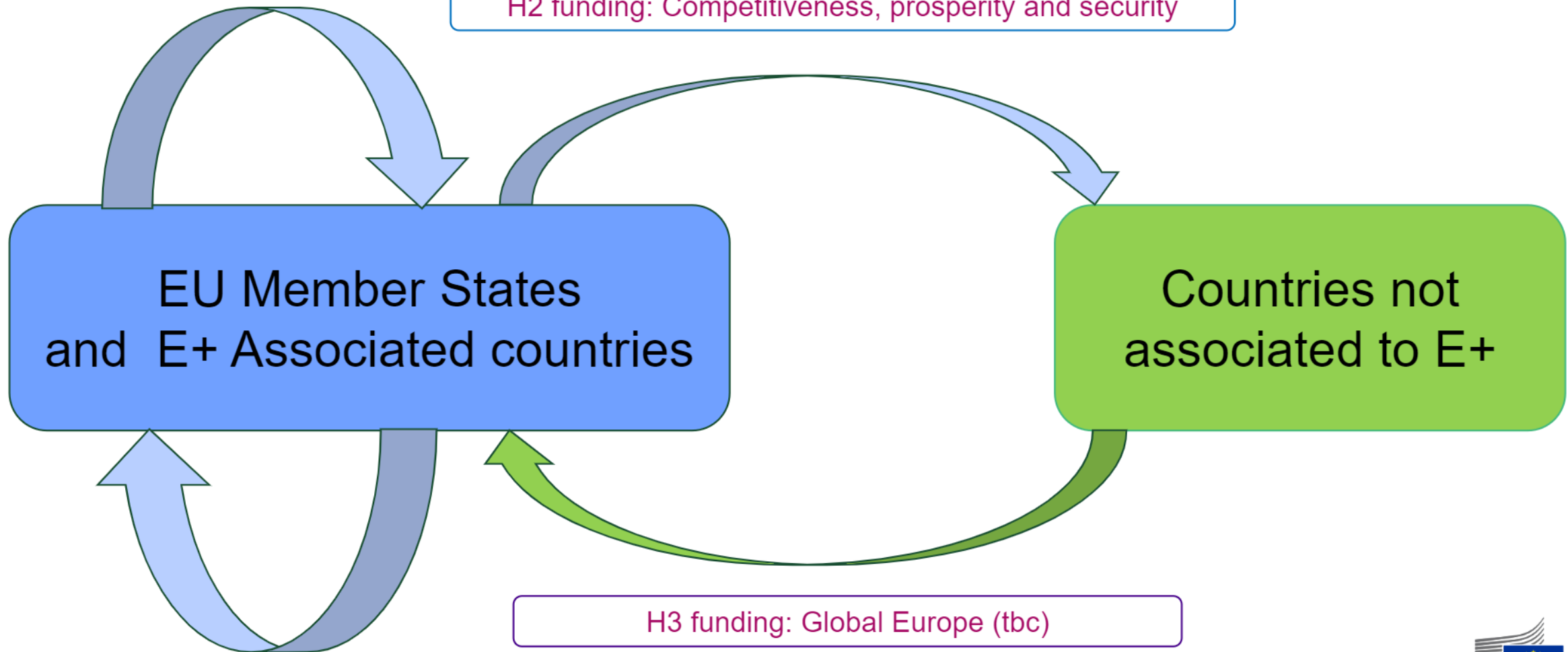
✓ Incoming Student and staff
mobility action (Merger of KA171
and KA131)

✓ Erasmus Mundus scholarships
✓ Jean Monnet

- ✓ International Partnerships for Cooperation
- ✓ International dimension of European Universities alliances
- ✓ International dimension of Centres of Vocational Excellence
- ✓ Possible support for Mediterranean University
- ✓ Erasmus Networks (NEOs, ENFPs, Alumni)

Student and staff mobility action: merging International Credit Mobility and European student/staff mobility scheme

H2 funding: Competitiveness, prosperity and security



H3 funding: Global Europe (tbc)



Re-designing Erasmus Mundus – possible proposal

Erasmus Mundus Master scholarships – H3

- Attracting worldwide talents: a priority of the Union of skills
- A request to focus more on Global Gateway thematic priorities
- European added-value: scholarships, quality education, studies in several countries.

Extended support to Joint degrees design and running – H2

- Open the scheme to more universities in Europe
- Use Erasmus Mundus joint degrees experience and expertise
- Finance both design and initial running
- Possibility to expand it to countries not associated to Erasmus+ (tbc)

- **Current MFF:** 2/3 of scholarships paid from Heading 2, only 1/3 from Heading 6 (regional support)
- **Next MFF:** stronger H3 injection from the Global Envelope needed to maintain similar engagement



Jean Monnet Actions – possible proposal

- Jean Monnet Actions are **crucial for public diplomacy purposes**: promotion of knowledge of the EU and its values in non-associated third countries.
- **Majority of current funding from Heading 2**, only some regional support from Heading 6.
- **Next MFF**: to maintain a similar engagement as in the current MFF:
 - Intra-EU and associated countries: H2
 - **Third countries not associated: H3 injection from the Global Envelope** given stronger focus on High Income countries and cross regional networks.



International Partnerships for Cooperation - possible proposal

Enlargement and Eastern Neighborhood

- target schools, universities, Vocational Education and Training providers, adult education, youth and sport organisations.
- allows to create networks combining these different sectors
- Projects would define their sectorial center of gravity
- **Policy objective => alignment with EU policy agenda's**

Middle East, North Africa, and Gulf

- International Partnerships for Cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational education and training (formal education)
- Possibly to be extended with International Cooperation in Youth and Sport (non-formal education)
- **Policy objective => Pact for the Mediterranean and Gulf Strategy**

Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia/Pacific, Latin America/Caribbean

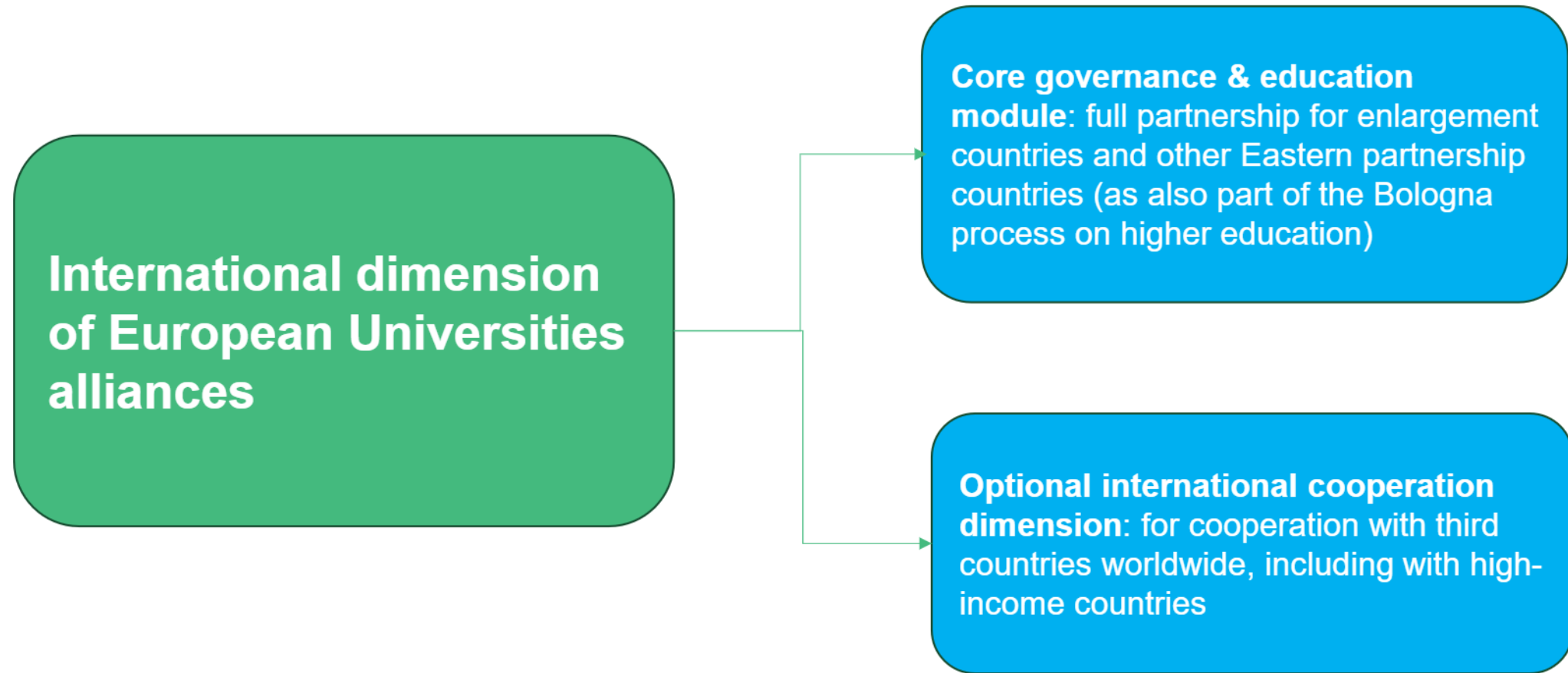
- International Partnerships for Cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational education and training (formal education)
- Possibly to be extended with International Cooperation in Youth and Sport (non-formal education)
- **Policy Objective => Strict alignment to EU Global Gateway investment priorities /Talent Partnerships**

High Income countries

- Strengthen EU competitiveness in specific strategic economic sectors
- Create cooperation for concrete skills development solutions by Higher education and VET stakeholders
- **Policy Objective => public diplomacy.**



International Dimension of European University Alliances – possible proposal



Towards a Mediterranean University

Under Pillar I of the Pact for the Mediterranean

Purpose: Strengthen higher education cooperation between **EU Member States** and **Southern Mediterranean partners**. Direct beneficiaries will be universities in these countries.



Funding for the piloting phase: 11 MIL (2026)



Core Goals:

Establish a Mediterranean University
(pilot consortia → long-term institution).

Enhance mobility schemes for students, researchers, and academic staff.

Promote joint programmes, degrees, and micro-credentials (e.g., summer schools, graduate programmes).

Ensure inclusion



Erasmus+ networks – possible proposal

- **National Erasmus+ Offices (NEOs)** - essential role in **enlargement and neighbourhood regions**
- **Erasmus+ National Focal Points (ENFPs)** – essential role in **Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, the Americas**
- **Alumni organisations:** Erasmus+ ambassadors to support current and future Erasmus+ participants worldwide through organising events, workshops, and outreach activities to raise awareness on international opportunities, foster intercultural exchange and act as multipliers of knowledge and experience



What stakeholders say on the future of Erasmus+

In a joint paper on the next Erasmus+ programme, almost 20 key higher education stakeholder organisations call: « to reinforce international collaboration under Erasmus+ by offering more opportunities for mobility, cooperation and policy dialogue that serve the mutual interests of Europe and its partners »



Erasmus+ has a proven track record in fostering institutional partnerships, talent circulation and capacity building, which are of strategic importance to the EU, particularly in the rapidly shifting geopolitical context.

A contribution of €6 billion from Global Europe is essential not only to increase opportunities for mutual learning and trust building among the EU and its international partners but also to « strengthen the global impact of the programme, and enhance the EU's global standing »



Reflection round

Thank you!