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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Erasmus+ programme for the period 2028-2034, and repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888 *- Presidency compromise text*

Delegations will find attached a Presidency compromise text on the above-mentioned proposal with a view to the meeting of the Education Committee on 20-21 October 2025.

Bold underline (for additions) and [...] (for deletions) are used to indicate changes to the Commission proposal (document 11748/25). Adjustments only concern Articles.

Delegations are kindly invited to send their written comments via the consultation to be launched in the Delegates Portal.

ANNEX

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

establishing the Erasmus+ programme for the period 2028-2034, and repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888

PUBLIC

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 165(4), 166(4) and 214(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee[1],

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions[2],

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

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1 OJ C , , p. .
2 OJ C , , p. .

Whereas:

1. The Union needs to support and prepare its people, starting from an early age, with the knowledge, skills and competences needed for success in learning, work, and life. To enable this, the Union needs performing, agile, innovative and inclusive education and training systems, able to nurture, attract and retain talent, to keep up with the pace and scope of the ongoing societal, digital, environmental and economic transformations, respond to the demographic challenges and the society's and economy's skills needs, bridge skills gaps and satisfy industry needs in critical sectors.

2. The Union is a community of values rooted in Europe's history and identity and anchored in the Treaty on the EU. Understanding those values, including fundamental rights and democracy, is an essential life skill and key to participation in the political debate and decision making. Education and training, youth and sport activities help equip citizens with the skills and competences to thrive, actively and meaningfully participate in democratic life and in the society overall, and help people connect around and defend shared values.

3. The Union is built on solidarity, both among its citizens and among the Member States. That universal value guides the actions of the Union and provides the unity necessary to cope with societal challenges, which individuals are willing to help address in practice, notably through volunteering.

PUBLIC

4. It is essential that all people, irrespective of their personal, social, economic or cultural background, have the opportunity to participate in a mobility experience abroad from an early age, when values and attitudes are formed and when individuals are most receptive to new experiences and influences. Early exposure to different environments, cultures, languages and ways of life can help to break down stereotypes, promote intercultural understanding, and instil values of respect, tolerance and solidarity, thereby contributing to a more united and harmonious Europe.

5. Building inclusive, cohesive and resilient societies, and sustaining the competitiveness of the Union requires investing in learning opportunities for all, regardless of background and means, in cooperation between Member States and organisations active in the field, and in innovative policy development in the fields of education and training, youth and sport. Such an investment also contributes to strengthening European identity, fundamental rights and values and a more democratic Union.

6. In line with the EU Preparedness Union Strategy[3], preparedness, resilience, participation in democratic life and civic engagement should be fostered through a bottom-up approach, encouraging organisations and institutions to play a key role in fostering digital and media literacy, critical thinking, promoting civic engagement, and learning about democracy and citizenship. People and communities across the EU must engage actively to prevent crises and to be sufficiently prepared to respond to them.

[3] Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Preparedness Union Strategy (Join/2025/130 final)).

7. Common areas of action and objectives between the 2021-2027 European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ programmes highlight the potential for enhanced synergy and regulatory coherence. Bringing all learning mobility, volunteering, cooperation and active citizenship opportunities together provides a single-entry point to all opportunities offered by the Union for young people and organisations active in the field of youth, allowing for a more coordinated and effective approach, and easier access for potential participants and beneficiaries.

8. In this context, it is necessary to establish Erasmus+ 2028-2034, the Union Programme for education and training and also in the fields of youth and sport (the 'Programme'), as the successor to the 2021-2027 Erasmus+[4] and European Solidarity Corps[5] Programmes, which encompasses actions in the field of education and training, youth and sport and sets up the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.

9. In a rapidly changing economic, social and geopolitical environment, experience has shown the need for a more flexible multiannual financial framework and Union spending programmes. To that effect, and in line with the objectives of the Erasmus+ programme, the funding should duly consider the evolving policy needs and Union's priorities as identified in relevant documents published by the Commission, in Council conclusions and European Parliament resolutions, while ensuring sufficient predictability for the budget implementation.

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[4] Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021).

[5] Regulation (EU) 2021/888 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Solidarity Corps Programme (OJ L 202, 8.6.2021).

10. The Programme should support the implementation of the Union of Skills[6] and the overall strategic frameworks for Union policy cooperation in the fields of education and training, including the policy agendas for school education, higher education, vocational education and training and adult learning, including up-skilling and re-skilling, to allow citizens to develop competences and skills at all stages of their life to thrive in society.

11. In line with the EU Youth Strategy[7], the European Youth Work Agenda[8] and the 2024 Communication on the legacy of the European Year of Youth 2022[9], the Programme should support meaningful participation of young people and youth organisations in decision and policy making, youth mainstreaming across policy fields, the validation of non-formal and informal learning, high-quality youth work and competence development of youth workers. The programme will continue to support all young people to participate in learning mobility and non-formal learning mobility, including youth exchanges and youth participation activities, with the objective to engage and empower young people to acquire and develop competences for life and their professional future, to become active citizens and participate in economic, social, cultural, democratic and political life, and to connect them to the European project and contribute to building an inclusive, competitive and resilient Union.

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6 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions the Union of Skills (COM/2025/90 final).

7 Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (OJ C 456, ST/14944/2018/INIT, 18.12.2018).

8 Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the Framework for establishing a European Youth Work Agenda 2020/C 415/01 (OJ C 415, 1.12.2020).

9 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Year of Youth 2022 (COM/2024/1 final, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/txt/?uri=celex:52024dc0001)

12. The Programme should support participation in sport and physical activity for all, in line with the EU Work Plan for Sport 2024-2027[10]. Therefore, there is a need to focus, in particular, on grassroots sport, taking into account the important role that sport plays in promoting healthy lifestyles, interpersonal relations, social inclusion and equality as well as building cohesive communities.

13. Digital transformation has changed society and the economy with an ever-deepening impact on everyday life and demonstrated the need for higher levels of digital readiness and capacity of education and training as well as the pressing need for digital skills development for all across the Union.

14. Formal, informal and non-formal learning play an essential role in addressing climate change, raising awareness and instilling the skills and key competences needed for changing personal behaviours. The Programme will help empowering people to act in their respective communities and build up the needed skills for a successful clean transition, in line with the Clean Industrial Deal.

[10] Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the European Union Work Plan for Sport (1 July 2024 — 31 December 2027), (OJ C, C/2024/3527, 3.6.2024).

15. The international dimension of the Programme should aim to offer opportunities for learning mobility, cooperation and policy dialogue with third countries not associated to the Programme, building on the experience of predecessor programmes, including to contribute to competitiveness of the Union, while ensuring protection of the Union's economic security interests. To increase the impact of those activities, it is important to enhance synergies between the Programme and Global Europe, taking into account the enlargement of the Union, the Global Gateway Strategy and the education and training, youth and sport policy frameworks.

16. The Programme should bring candidate countries and potential candidates closer to their goal of acceding to the Union. The Programme should promote stability, partnerships and skills development, with countries in the wider neighbourhood including by enhancing ties with the Mediterranean region. Through cooperation with other countries across the globe, the Programme should as well attract talents worldwide, and shape partnerships notably to promote competitiveness of the Union. The Programme should support countries in modernising their institutions and organisations and, more generally, enhancing the quality and inclusiveness of education, training, youth and sport through international partnerships.

17. The implementation of the Programme should be guided by the principles and values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law, and solidarity, as respectively enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union and referred to in the preamble of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. It is thus essential that all parties involved in the Programme respect those principles and values. The Programme should as well respect the principles set out in the 2017 EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child and in Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as the Union of Equality strategies.

PUBLIC

18. The Programme should encourage participation, in particular of young people, in Europe's democratic life, including by supporting activities that contribute to citizenship education, nurture skills needed for civic engagement and enable to engage and learn to participate in civic society, thereby raising awareness of European common values, including fundamental rights, facilitating interaction with decision-makers at local, national and European levels and contributing to the process of European integration. The Programme should also support the creation of opportunities and mechanisms for meaningful youth participation.

19. The Programme should offer accessible, inclusive and safe opportunities for young people and organisations to show solidarity, helping them support communities and address societal challenges, while gaining valuable experience and skills for their personal growth and employability.

20. Volunteering, both within and beyond the Union, constitutes a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context, enabling young people to show solidarity and engage in activities contributing to address societal and humanitarian challenges while enhancing their personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship, civic participation and employability. The Programme should thus also support "European Solidarity Corps" volunteering actions, including the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps. Those actions were covered under the European Solidarity Corps programme in the 2021-2027 programming period.

PUBLIC

21. With a view to enhancing the promotion of solidarity and the visibility of humanitarian aid and development cooperation among European citizens, there is a need to develop solidarity of Member States and third countries associated to the programme with third countries not associated affected by disasters from natural hazards and human-induced risks. The European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps should contribute to a coordinated Union needs-based response and will be implemented in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down in this Regulation.

22. Young people, in particular those with fewer opportunities, should continue to be given the chance to have a first time, experience travelling throughout Europe as part of an informal and non-formal educational activity that aims to foster their sense of belonging to the Union and to enable them to discover its cultural and linguistic diversity.

23. In the field of sport, through mobility opportunities and capacity building, including cooperation, the Programme should foster common European values, volunteering as well as innovation and skills development in and through sport. The Programme should also promote good governance, safety and integrity in sport, sport diplomacy, support grassroots sports organisations, as well as offer young people across Europe the opportunity to participate in cross-border sports initiatives, fostering personal growth, cultural exchange, solidarity and community engagement.

PUBLIC

24. The Programme brings a key contribution to the Union of Skills and the European Education Area, laying the foundation to skills and competences formation throughout life and providing a genuine common space for quality education and lifelong learning across borders. The Union of skills aims to step up the efforts to achieve high quality education, training, and lifelong learning through delivering basic and advanced skills, providing opportunities for people to update regularly and acquire new and future-oriented skills, facilitating skills circulation and recruitment by businesses across the EU, and attracting, developing and retaining top talent in Europe. In line with the Union of Skills, the Programme should also reflect the importance of entrepreneurship education and financial literacy.

25. It is important to stimulate and widen access to learning, teaching and research on EU, values and citizenship. Fostering a European sense of belonging and commitment is particularly important given the challenges faced today by the Union. The Programme should continue to contribute to learning on European integration matters, including the Union's future challenges and opportunities, to promote debate on those matters and the development of excellence in European integration studies.

PUBLIC

26. The learning of languages contributes to mutual understanding between people and cultures, and fosters mobility within and outside the Union, as language competences are essential life and job skills. Therefore, the Programme should enhance the learning of languages, including, where relevant, national sign languages. To ensure broad and inclusive access to the Programme, it is important that multilingualism be a key principle in the implementation of the Programme.

27. Europe faces a growing challenge in meeting the demand for skilled talent in strategic and evolving sectors like clean and circular technologies, transport, energy, water resilience, healthcare, digital technologies, aerospace and defence. To address this key need, it is essential to develop, attract and retain talented individuals in these fields. In line with the Union of skills, the Programme should among other support EU students to pursue studies in such critical sectors and attract as well top talent to Europe by enhancing the attractiveness of education and training and offering scholarships to students, including through Erasmus Mundus scholarships. This would contribute to address the skills needs for the labour market, including for sectors suffering severe staff shortages.

28. Cooperation enables exchange of practices and capacity building and thereby leads to better outcomes and performance as well as efficiency gains by pooling resources and knowledge. The Programme should therefore support capacity building measures that enhance cooperation at different levels between institutions and organisations that are active in the fields of education and training, youth and sport. This recognises the fundamental role of institutions and organisations in equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills and competences needed in a changing world and helping institutions and organisations active in the field to adequately fulfil their potential for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship, in particular within the digital economy.

PUBLIC

29. The Programme should support long-term strategic cooperation at institutional level to build excellence, competitiveness and attractiveness and generate sustainable and systemic transformation of education and training, youth and sport organisations and institutions, in line with the EU's priorities, including by acting as testbeds for innovative education, training and skills development instruments, supporting cooperation with business and industry. The Programme should continue to support the work of education and training institutions and Member States towards removing remaining barriers to transnational cooperation and multiplying the offer of transnational joint study programmes, contributing towards a joint European Degree[11].

30. The Programme should support the core education mission of the European Universities Alliances to enable systemic impact achieved more efficiently through long-term Union level action, notably to reinforce excellence, reduce fragmentation and increase the attractiveness and inclusiveness of EU higher education systems, develop innovative instruments to increase quality of learning and teaching, develop future oriented skills and competences (such as AI, cybersecurity, sustainability, STEM), including the sectors already identified in the Union of Skills, through relevant and future-proof curricula, pedagogical innovation, joint degrees, lifelong learning, micro-credentials, to nurture and attract talent and facilitate transnational cooperation in education, including with business and industry.

[11] Council Resolution on a joint European degree label and the next steps towards a possible joint European degree: boosting Europe's competitiveness and the attractiveness of European higher education. (J C, C/2025/2939, 22.5.2025).

31. In line with relevant Union frameworks and tools, the Programme should contribute to the development and circulation of skills, including by setting up a basic skills support scheme and fostering quality assurance, transparency, the recognition of skills, competences and qualifications, their digitalisation, and the validation of non-formal and informal learning, skills management and guidance. In that regard, the Programme should also provide support to contact points and networks at national, and European level that facilitate cross-European exchanges and beyond, and the development of flexible learning pathways between different fields of education and training and youth and across formal and non-formal settings, including through the support of micro-credentials' eco-systems.

32. User-friendly online platforms and tools for virtual cooperation can play an important role in supporting the delivery of education and training and youth policy in Europe and beyond. To increase the use of virtual cooperation activities, the Programme should support more systematic and coherent use of online platforms. It should as well facilitate and support mobility processes through digitalisation.

33. The Programme should be designed to promote inclusion, diversity and equal opportunities by widening access to mobility, volunteering and learning across the Union and beyond, thereby enabling all people to fully benefit from a transformative experience.

PUBLIC

34. The Programme should provide for a set of measures to facilitate and increase the access for people with fewer opportunities, to remove the obstacles that may prevent such access, including financial ones, and to serve as a basis for further implementation guidance. Those measures include, among other, targeted financial support, accessible learning formats, housing support, preparatory activities and support for participants with fewer opportunities before, during and after their participation within the Programme, user-friendly and accessible documents available in different languages, support activities for staff dealing specifically with inclusion and diversity in organisations and raising awareness activities among potential participants with fewer opportunities, including in rural and remote areas. In addition, the Programme should allow to give priority in the grant awarding process to quality projects that actively address the inclusion and involvement of participants with fewer opportunities.

35. In order to make the Programme more accessible for newcomer organisations and for organisations with smaller administrative capacity and to make the Programme more manageable for beneficiaries, the Programme should reinforce the measures to simplify procedures at all stages.

36. [This Regulation lays down an indicative financial envelope for the Programme. For the purpose of this Regulation, current prices are calculated by applying a fixed 2% deflator.]

PUBLIC

37. In view of the diversity of the fields covered by the Programme, the ambition for youth and sport to contribute meaningfully to the Programme's objectives and to reach its target groups, should be maintained.

38. Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council[12] applies to this Programme. It lays down the rules on the establishment and the implementation of the general budget of the Union, including the rules on grants, prizes, non-financial donations, procurement, indirect management, financial assistance, financial instruments, budgetary guarantees and protection of the financial interests of the Union.

PUBLIC

[12] Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union. (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

39. In accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council[13] , Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95[14], Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96[15] and Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939[16], the financial interests of the Union are to be protected through proportionate measures, including the prevention, detection, correction and investigation of irregularities and fraud, the recovery of funds lost, wrongly paid or incorrectly used and, where appropriate, the imposition of administrative sanctions. In particular, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 and (EC, Euratom) No 2185/96 the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) may carry out investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the Union. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1939, the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) may investigate and prosecute fraud and other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union as provided for in Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council[17]. In accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, any person or entity receiving Union funds is to fully cooperate in the protection of the Union's financial interests, to grant the necessary rights and access to the Commission, OLAF, EPPO and the European Court of Auditors and to ensure that any third parties involved in the implementation of Union funds grant equivalent rights.

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13 Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18.9.2013, p. 1,).

14 Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23/12/1995, p. 1).

15 Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2).

16 Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO') (OJ L 283, 31.10.2017, p. 1).

17 Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

40. In order to simplify requirements for beneficiaries, simplified cost options in the form of lump sums, unit costs and flat rates should be used to the maximum possible extent. Simplified cost options to support learning mobility under the Programme should take into account the living and subsistence costs in the host country. In accordance with national law, Member States should be encouraged to exempt those grants from any taxes and social levies; grants awarded to individuals by public or private legal entities should be treated in the same manner.

41. It is appropriate to ensure that the 2021-2027 Programmes are closed correctly, in particular as regards the continuation of multiannual arrangements for their management, such as the financing of technical and administrative assistance. As from 1 January 2028, the technical and administrative assistance should ensure, where necessary, the management of actions that have not been finalised under the 2021-2027 Programmes by 31 December 2027.

42. In line with Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Programme should take into account the specific situation of the outermost regions referred to in that Article, including measures to facilitate their participation to the Programme.

PUBLIC

43. Pursuant to Article 85 (1) of Council Decision (EU) 2021/1764[18], persons and entities established in overseas countries and territories are eligible for funding under the Programme subject to the rules and objectives and to any specific arrangement applicable to the Member State to which the relevant overseas country or territory is linked.

44. [The Programme is to be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU) [XXX]* of the European Parliament and of the Council [Performance], which establishes the rules for the expenditure tracking and the performance framework for the budget, including rules for ensuring a uniform application of the principles of 'do no significant harm' and gender equality referred to in Article 33(2), points (d), and (f), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 respectively, rules for monitoring and reporting on the performance of Union programmes and activities, rules for establishing a Union funding portal, rules for the evaluation of the programmes, as well as other horizontal provisions applicable to all Union programmes such as those on information, communication and visibility.]

45. In view to optimise the added value, increase scale and impact of investments, synergies should be sought in particular between the Programme and other Union funding instruments, including through enabling mechanisms. The Programme should seek as well synergies that strengthen collaboration between education and the private sector.

[18] Council Decision (EU) 2021/1764 of 5 October 2021 on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other (Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland) (OJ L 355, 7.10.2021, p. 6–134).

46. The Programme should allow for full and partial association of third countries. The Programme should also support the participation of third countries that are not associated to the Programme where those countries are identified in the work programme, their participation contributes to achieve the objectives of the programme and is essential for the implementation of the action.

47. Appropriate and inclusive outreach, publicity of the opportunities supported by the Programme should be ensured at local, national and Union level and should take into account the main target groups of the Programme and, where relevant, a wide variety of other target groups. Furthermore, the Commission and the implementing bodies should facilitate the sharing of good practices and project results and gather feedback on the Programme.

48. The Programme should mobilise the potential of former participants in the Erasmus+ Programme and support related activities by encouraging them to promote the Programme.

49. Measures should be taken to streamline the management of the Programme and achieve economies of scale including by limiting and reducing the number of national agencies.

50. Regulations (EU) 2021/817[19] and (EU) 2021/888[20] should be repealed with effect from 1 January 2028.

51. In order to ensure continuity in providing support in the relevant policy area and to allow implementation to start from the beginning of the 2028-2034 MFF, this Regulation should enter into force on and apply from 1 January 2028.

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[19] Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 1).

[20] Regulation (EU) 2021/888 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Solidarity Corps Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) 2018/1475 and (EU) No 375/2014 (OJ L 202, 8.6.2021, p. 32).

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

PUBLIC

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter

This Regulation establishes Erasmus+, the [...] programme for **Union** action in the fields of education and training**,** [...] youth and sport (the 'Programme') and lays down the objectives of the Programme, its budget **[**for the period 2028-2034**]**, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding. This Regulation also sets up the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:

1. **'adult** [...] **education**' means [...] **any form of non-vocational education for adults after** [...] initial education [...]**, whether of a** formal, non-formal or informal [...] **nature**;

2. **‘European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps’ refers to volunteering activities that support post-crisis long-term humanitarian aid and development cooperation operations in third countries not associated to the Programme, that are intended to provide needs-based assistance aimed at preventing and alleviating human suffering, and maintaining durable human dignity in the face of crises, and that include actions that aim to reinforce disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction, link relief, rehabilitation and development and contribute towards strengthening the resilience and capacity of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities to cope with and recover from crises;**

[...]

3. ‘grassroots sport’ means **any sport or** physical leisure activities practiced regularly at non-professional level by people of all ages for health, educational or social purposes;

4. ‘higher education institution’ means an institution which, in accordance with regional, national, or international law or practice, offers quality assured degrees or other recognised tertiary level qualifications, regardless of what such an establishment is called, or a comparable institution at tertiary level which is considered by the national/regional authorities [...] as eligible to participate in the Programme in the respective territories;

5. ‘higher education student’ means a person enrolled at a higher education institution, including at short-cycle, bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral level or equivalent or a person who recently [...] **graduated** from such an institution;

[...]

6. ‘informal learning’ means learning resulting from daily activities and experiences which is not organised or structured in terms of objectives, time or learning support; it may be unintentional from the learner’s perspective;

7. ‘joint study programme’ means a**n integrated curriculum** [...] coordinated and offered jointly by different higher education institutions from two or more countries and leading to the award of **double/multiple degrees or** a joint degree;

8. **‘learning mobility’ means moving physically to a country other than the country of residence, in order to undertake study, training, teaching, or non-formal or informal learning;**

9. ‘lifelong learning’ means learning in all its forms, whether formal, non-formal or informal, taking place at all stages in life and resulting in an improvement or update in knowledge, skills, competences and attitudes, including through micro credentials or participation in society from a personal, civic, cultural, social or employment-related perspective, such as the provision of counselling and guidance services; it includes early childhood education and care, general education, vocational education and training, higher education, adult [...] **education**, youth work and other learning settings outside formal education and training and it typically promotes cross-sectoral cooperation and flexible learning pathways;

[...]

10. ‘non-formal learning’ means learning which takes place outside formal education and training through planned activities in terms of learning objectives and learning time and where some form of learning support is present;

11. ‘people with fewer opportunities’ means people who, for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons or due to their migrant background, or for reasons such as disability or educational difficulties or for any other reason, including a reason that could constitute discrimination under Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, face obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the Programme;

PUBLIC

12. ‘school pupil’ means a person enrolled in a learning capacity at an institution providing general education at any level from early childhood education and care to upper secondary education or a person schooled outside an institutional setting considered by the competent authorities as eligible to participate in the Programme as a school pupil in their respective territories;

13. ‘staff’ means a person who, on either a professional or a voluntary basis, is involved in education, training or non-formal and informal learning at all levels, including sport; it includes academic staff, teachers, trainers, school leaders, youth workers, sport staff, early childhood education and care staff, non-educational staff and other practitioners involved on a regular basis in promoting learning;

14. ‘third country’ means a country that is not an EU Member State;

15. ‘vocational education and training learner’ means a person enrolled in an initial or continuous vocational education and training programme at any level from secondary to post-secondary level or a person who has recently graduated or obtained a qualification from such a programme;

16. ‘volunteering’ means an unpaid **solidarity** activity that addresses societal or humanitarian challenges and has a strong learning component;

17. ‘young people’ in the field of youth means individuals aged between 13 and 30;

18. ‘youth worker’ means a person who, on either a professional or a voluntary basis, is involved in non-formal learning and supports young people in their personal socio-educational and professional development and the development of their competences; it includes persons who plan, steer, coordinate and implement activities in the field of youth.

PUBLIC

Article 3

Programme objectives

1. The general objective of the Programme is to **promote high quality lifelong learning, enhancing skills and competences for life and for jobs for all, while fostering Union values, democratic and societal participation, solidarity, social inclusion and equal opportunities, in the EU and beyond and thereby** contribut[...]**ing** to a resilient, competitive, and cohesive Europe [...]. The Programme shall be a key instrument for **further developing the European Education Area,** [...] supporting the implementation of European strategic cooperation in the fields of education and training, including its underlying sectoral agendas**, and building the Union of Skills**.

   The Programme will advance youth policy cooperation [...]. The objective is to foster a more inclusive, united, and robust Europe by empowering young people, strengthening community ties, and promoting solidarity through meaningful engagement and cooperation **and to support the implementation of the European Union Youth Strategy**. [...] By investing in youth [...] **and** volunteering [...], the Programme aims to build stronger, more connected societies, encourage civic and democratic engagement, and contribute to social cohesion [...].

   The Programme will further develop the European dimension in sport. Sport plays a vital role as a driver for social inclusion, health, education, and community development. By investing in sport, the Programme aims to contribute to democratic societies and social connectedness at all levels.

PUBLIC

2. The Programme has the following specific objectives:

a) **support the learning mobility of individuals and groups, and promote cooperation, quality, inclusion and equity, creativity and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of education and training, youth and sport;**

b) support the improvement of education **and training**, skills and competences with particular regard to their relevance **to the professional development and personal growth of the individual as well as to** [...] the labour market [...] and to their contribution to a competitive, sustainable and cohesive society;

c) foster a sense of European identity and active citizenship, enhance solidarity and active participation in society and democracy, inducing a positive societal impact, greater resilience and better preparedness to anticipate, prevent and respond to risks of different nature;

d) foster [...] excellence and cross-border collaboration, strengthening Europe's attractiveness and competitiveness globally, across all fields of education and training, youth and sport;

e) engage and empower young people to acquire and develop professional and personal competences, to participate actively in society and democracy and connect them to the European project;

f) support policy development, including for circulation of skills, accelerating reforms and modernisation at systems' level, across all fields of education and training, youth and sport, ensuring that they are more effective, resilient and inclusive;

PUBLIC

g) provide young people with easily accessible opportunities for **volunteering and** engagement in solidarity and humanitarian activities that induce positive societal changes in the Union and beyond (the latter through setting up the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps), while improving and properly validating their competences, as well as facilitating their continuous engagement as active citizens;

h) promote the European **dimension in s**[...]port [...] by investing in grassroots sport, especially voluntary activities, ensuring accessibility, promoting participation, protecting integrity, supporting good governance, and reinforcing sport's social, educational, and community role, through actions that focus on building a fair, inclusive, and sustainable sport system across Europe.

3. The Programme objectives shall be pursued **in the fields of education and training, youth and sport** through the following pillars, which mainly have either a transnational or an international character:

a) Learning opportunities for all;

b) Capacity building support.

PUBLIC

CHAPTER II

SCOPE OF INTERVENTION

SECTION 1

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Article 4

[...] ***Education and training***

1. In the field of education and training, the Programme shall support:

   a) Learning mobility of higher education students and staff;

   b) Learning mobility of vocational education and training learners and staff;

   c) Learning mobility of school pupils and staff, including staff in early childhood education and care;

   d) Learning mobility of adult **education** learners and staff [...].

2. **Learning mobility under this Article may be accompanied by:**

   a) **support to teaching and learning about the EU, including European integration, values and citizenship;**

   b) **measures such as language support, preparatory visits, training and virtual cooperation.**

PUBLIC

Article 5

Youth

1. In the field of youth, the Programme shall support:

   a) Learning mobility of young people, including DiscoverEU, **youth exchanges,** activities supporting youth participation **and solidarity** and learning mobility of youth workers;

   b) 'European Solidarity Corps' volunteering, including the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.

2. **Learning mobility under this Article may be accompanied by:**

   a) **support to teaching and learning about the EU, including European integration, values and citizenship;**

   b) **measures such as language support, preparatory visits, training and virtual cooperation.**

PUBLIC

Article 6

Sport

1. In the field of sport, the Programme shall support learning mobility of [...] people active in grassroots sport**, including athletes,** and learning mobility of sport staff.

2. Learning mobility under this Article may be accompanied by:

   a) support to teaching and learning about the EU, including European integration, values and citizenship;

   b) measures such as language support, preparatory visits, training and virtual cooperation.

Article [...] 7

Talent and excellence development opportunities in the field of education and training

In the field of education and training, the Programme shall support:

   a) Erasmus+ scholarships in strategic [...] fields, including in joint study programmes;

   b) Erasmus Mundus scholarships;

   c) Jean Monnet actions in the field of higher education;

   d) Support to the following Jean Monnet institutions pursuing an aim of European interest: the European University Institute, Florence, including its School of Transnational Governance; the College of Europe (Bruges, including its subsidiary in Tirana, and Natolin campuses); the European Institute of Public Administration, Maastricht; the Academy of European Law, Trier; the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education, Odense; and the International Centre for European Training, Nice.

PUBLIC

SECTION 2

CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT

Article [...] ***8***

Cooperation among organisations and institutions

The Programme shall support:

a) Partnerships for cooperation **and exchange of best practices**, including small-scale partnerships to foster wider and more inclusive access to the Programme;

b) Partnerships for excellence and innovation, [...] **such as** the European Universities Alliances, Centres of Vocational Excellence, European Teacher Academies, European School Alliances, Joint study programmes, European Youth Together and Sport Collaborative Alliances.

PUBLIC

Article [...] ***9***

Support to policy development

The Programme shall support:

a) Experimentation, preparation and implementation of the Union's policy agendas and tools covering [...] education and training, youth and sport[21];

b) Programme implementation including synergies with, and support to other Union policies and programmes, online platforms, tools for virtual cooperation and tools to facilitate learning mobility;

c) Dissemination and communication.

PUBLIC

[21] In particular: the European Qualifications Framework (EQF); the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET); the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR);, the ENIC (European Network of Information Centres in the European Region) and NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union) Networks, the Euroguidance network, the common framework and tools for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications (Europass), the Eurydice Network, National Coordinators for Adult Learning, the Central and National Support Services for online platforms, the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the National Reference Points on graduate tracking, Youth wiki network, the Eurodesk network, the European Youth Forum, Youthpass, the National Working Groups implementing the EU Youth Dialogue and the National Coordinating Bodies implementing the European Week of Sport at national level.

CHAPTER III

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Article [...] ***10***

Support measures for inclusion and diversity

1. When implementing this Regulation, the Commission, Member States and third countries associated to the Programme shall ensure an inclusive approach across all activities.

2. The Commission, Member States and third countries associated to the Programme shall take effective measures to promote inclusion, diversity and fairness, solidarity, and equal opportunities, in particular to ensure participation of people with fewer opportunities in the Programme.

3. The Commission shall support access to the Programme from an early age and independent of socio-economic background. To achieve that, it shall ensure the provision of measures to facilitate the participation of people with fewer opportunities, including financial support mechanisms, where relevant.

4. The Commission may adjust or may authorise the national agencies referred to in Article [...] **21** to adjust, on the basis of objective criteria, the financial support mechanisms to improve access to people with fewer opportunities.

5. The costs of measures to facilitate or support the participation of people with fewer opportunities shall not justify the rejection of an application under the Programme.

PUBLIC

6. The national agencies referred to in Article [...] **21** shall develop or update where relevant, [...] inclusion and diversity action plans, based on the framework, and with particular attention to the specific challenges to access the programme within the national contexts. The [...] inclusion and diversity plans shall form an integral part of the national agencies' planning documents as referred to in Article [...] **21**(2).

7. The Commission shall monitor on a regular basis the implementation of the inclusion and diversity measures, including the [...] inclusion and diversity plans.

CHAPTER IV

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

[*Article [...]* ***11***

Budget

1. The indicative financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2028-2034 is set at EUR 40 827 000 000 in current prices.

2. In addition to the amounts set out in paragraph 1 of this Article, and in order to promote the international dimension of the Programme, an additional financial contribution shall be made available from Regulation (EU) [XXX]* of the European Parliament and of the Council [Global Europe]to support actions implemented and managed in accordance with this Regulation. Such contribution shall be in line with a single programming document drawn up under Regulation (EU) XXX[Global Europe].

PUBLIC

3. Appropriations may be entered in the Union budget beyond 2034 to cover the expenses necessary and to enable the management of actions not completed by the end of the Programme.

4. The financial envelope referred to in paragraph 1 and 2 of this Article and the amounts of additional resources referred to in Article [...] **12** may also be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, specific and corporate information technology systems and platforms, information and communication activities, including corporate communication on the political priorities of the Union, and all other technical and administrative assistance or staff-related expenses incurred by the Commission for the management of the Programme.**]**

PUBLIC

Article [...] ***12***

Additional resources

1. Member States, Union institutions, bodies and agencies, third countries, international organisations, international financial institutions, or other third parties, may make additional financial or non-financial contributions to the Programme. Additional financial contributions shall constitute external assigned revenue within the meaning of Article 21(2), points (a), (d), or (e) or Article 21(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

2. Resources allocated to Member States under shared management may, at their request, be made available to the Programme. The Commission shall implement those resources directly or indirectly in accordance with Article 62(1), point (a) or (c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. They shall be additional to the amount referred to in Article [...] **11**(1). Those resources shall be used for the benefit of the Member State concerned. Where the Commission has not entered into a legal commitment under direct or indirect management for additional amounts thus made available to the Programme, the corresponding uncommitted amounts may, at the request of the Member State concerned, be transferred back to one or more respective source programmes or their successors.

PUBLIC

Article [...] ***13***

Alternative, combined and cumulative funding

1. The Programme shall be implemented in synergy with other Union programmes. An action that has received a Union contribution from another programme may also receive a contribution under the Programme. The rules of the relevant Union programme shall apply to the corresponding contribution, or a single set of rules may be applied to all contributions and a single legal commitment may be concluded. If the Union contribution is based on eligible costs, the cumulative support from the Union budget shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the action and may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents setting out the conditions for support.

2. Award procedures under the Programme may be jointly conducted under direct or indirect management with Member States, Union institutions, bodies and agencies, third countries, international organisations, international financial institutions, or other third parties ('partners to the joint award procedure'), provided the protection of the financial interests of the Union is ensured. Such procedures shall be subject to a single set of rules and lead to the conclusion of single legal commitments. For that purpose, the partners to the joint award procedure may make resources available to the Programme in accordance with Article [...] **12**, or the partners may be entrusted with the implementation of the award procedure, where applicable in accordance with Article 62(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. In joint award procedures, representatives of the partners to the joint award procedure may also be members of the evaluation committee referred to in Article 153(3) of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) 2024/2509.

PUBLIC

Article [...] ***14***

Implementation and forms of Union funding

1. The Programme shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, under direct management or under indirect management with entities referred to in Article 62(1), point (c) of that Regulation.

2. The funds implemented under indirect management in a Member State shall be allocated on the basis of:

   a) the population of and cost of living in the Member State concerned;

   b) the distance between capitals of Member States;

   c) performance, calculated based on the most recent data available.

3. The Commission shall further specify those criteria and their underlying formulae in the work programmes referred to in Article [...] **17**. **Those formulae shall avoid substantial reductions in the annual budget allocated to Member States from one year to the next and shall minimise excessive imbalances in the level of funds allocated.**

4. Union funding may be provided in any form in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, in particular grants, prizes, procurement, and non-financial donations.

5. Where Union funding is provided in the form of a grant, funding shall be provided as financing not linked to costs or, where necessary, simplified cost options, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. Funding may be provided in the form of actual eligible cost reimbursement only where the objectives of an action cannot be achieved otherwise.

PUBLIC

6. For the purpose of Article 153(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, the evaluation committee may be composed partially or fully of independent external experts.

7. Public legal entities, and institutions and organisations in the fields of education and training, youth and sport that have received over 50 % of their annual revenue from public sources over the last two years, shall be considered as having the necessary financial and operational capacity to carry out activities under the Programme. They shall not be required to present further documentation to demonstrate that capacity.

PUBLIC

CHAPTER V

PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAMME

Article [...] ***15***

Third countries associated to the Programme

1. The Programme may be opened to the participation of the following third countries through full or partial association, in accordance with the objectives laid down in Article 3, and with the relevant international agreements or any decisions adopted under the framework of those agreements and applicable to:

   a) members of the European Free Trade Association which are members of the European Economic Area, as well as European micro-states;

   b) acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates;

   c) European Neighbourhood Policy countries;

   d) other third countries.

PUBLIC

2. The association agreements for participation in the Programme shall:

a) ensure a fair balance as regards the contributions and benefits of the third country participating in the Programme;

b) lay down the conditions of participation in the programmes, including the calculation of financial contributions, consisting of an operational contribution and a participation fee, to a programme and its general administrative costs;

c) not confer on the third country any decision-making power in the Programme;

d) guarantee the rights of the Union to ensure sound financial management and to protect its financial interests;

e) where relevant, ensure the protection of security and public order interests of the Union.

For the purposes of point (d) , the third country shall grant the necessary rights and access required under Regulations (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013, and guarantee that enforcement decisions imposing a pecuniary obligation on the basis of Article 299 TFEU, as well as judgements and orders of the Court of Justice of the European Union, are enforceable.

PUBLIC

Article [...] ***16***

Eligibility

1. Eligibility criteria shall be set to support achievement of the objectives laid down in Article 3, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

2. In award procedures under direct and indirect management one or more of the following legal entities may be eligible to receive Union funding:

   a) entities established in a Member State;

   b) entities established in an associated third country;

   c) international organisations;

   d) other entities established in non-associated third countries where the funding of such entities is essential for implementing the action and contributes to the objectives laid down in Article 3.

3. In addition to Article 168(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, associated third countries referred to in Article [...] **15**(1) may, where relevant, participate in and benefit from any procurement mechanisms set in Article 168(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. Rules applicable to Member States shall be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to participating associated third countries.

4. Award procedures affecting security or public order, in particular concerning strategic assets and interests of the Union or its Member States, shall be restricted in accordance with Article 136 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

5. The work programme referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 or the documents related to the award procedure may further specify the eligibility criteria set out in this Regulation or set additional eligibility criteria for specific actions.

PUBLIC

CHAPTER VI

PROGRAMMING

Article [...] ***17***

Work programme

The Programme shall be implemented by work programmes referred to in Article 110 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. **The Commission shall adopt work programmes by means of implementing acts. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 25.**

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

Article [...] ***18***

Information, communication and dissemination

1. In cooperation with the Commission, the national agencies referred to in Article [...] **21** shall develop a consistent communication strategy with regard to effective outreach and to the dissemination and exploitation of the results of activities supported under the actions they manage within the Programme. [...]

PUBLIC

2. The national agencies referred to in Article [...] **21** 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. National agencies shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their respective countries.

3. **[**The actions and activities referred to in paragraph 1 and 2 shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU) [XXX]* of the European Parliament and of the Council [Performance] which establishes the rules for the expenditure tracking and the performance framework for the budget, including the rules applicable to all Union programmes regarding information, communication and visibility obligations, including in particular obligations for beneficiaries and implementing partners.**]**

CHAPTER VIII

MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SYSTEM

Article [...] ***19***

Arrangements for indirect management at national level

1. In accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 157(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, the implementation of the Programme under indirect management requires the designation of a national authority and a national agency, as specified in Articles [...] **20** and [...] **21**.

2. The national authority and the national agency shall both be considered as implementing bodies under point (c) of Article 62(1) of the Financial Regulation to the extent of their responsibility for budget implementation tasks as agreed with the Commission, with the national authority retaining principal responsibility towards the Commission for the overall implementation of EU funds by the national agency it designates and supervises as referred to in Article [...] **20**(10).

Article [...] ***20***

National authority

1. The Member States and the third countries associated to the Programme shall notify the Commission, through their Permanent Representation or Mission to the European Union, of the public law body designated as the national authority for the purposes of this Regulation, and the person or persons legally authorised to act on its behalf.

2. The national authority shall designate a national agency for the duration of the Programme and notify the Commission thereof. The national authority shall not designate a ministry as a national agency and the national agency shall be organisationally separate from the national authority. **National authorities may designate more than one national agency.**

3. The national authority shall designate an independent audit body as referred to in Article [...] **23**.

PUBLIC

4. The national authority shall provide the Commission with an appropriate ex ante assessment that the national agency satisfies the minimum requirements set out in Article 157(1) to (5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and the Union requirements for internal control standards for national agencies and rules for the management of Programme funds.

   For the purposes of the first subparagraph, the following arrangements shall apply:

   a) for the procedures specifically required by the Commission, including its own and those specified in this Regulation, no ex ante assessment shall be done in line with point (b) of Article 157(7) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509;

   b) for procedures other than those specified in point (a), the national authority shall make an ex ante assessment, which shall be based on its own controls and audits or on controls and audits undertaken by the independent audit body;

   c) where the national agency designated for the Programme is the same as the national agency designated in accordance with Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888, the scope of the ex ante assessment shall be limited to the requirements that are new, unless otherwise justified.

5. In the event that the Commission rejects the designation of the national agency based on its evaluation of the ex ante assessment, or if the national agency does not comply with the minimum requirements set by the Commission, the national authority shall ensure that the necessary remedial steps are taken to ensure compliance, subject to approval by the Commission, or shall designate another body as national agency. [...]

PUBLIC

6. The national authority shall provide adequate co-financing, at least equivalent to the contribution referred to in Article [...] **22**(5), point (b), for the operations of its national agency to ensure that the Programme is managed in accordance with the applicable Union rules.

7. The national authority shall ensure that appointments of persons responsible for the management of the national agency are justified by the nature of the action, follow fair and transparent rules and procedures and do not give rise to a conflict of interest. [...]

8. The national authority shall monitor and supervise the budget implementation tasks entrusted to its national agency. It shall inform and consult the Commission in due time prior to taking any decision that may have a significant impact on the management of the Programme and the Programme funds.

9. The national authority shall, each year, provide the Commission with a report on its monitoring and supervision activities and, where appropriate, a statement on its follow-up to any observations issued by the Commission in response to such report.

10. The national authority shall take and retain responsibility for the proper management of the Union funds transferred by the Commission to the national agency in the framework of the Programme.

PUBLIC

11. In the event of any irregularity, negligence or fraud attributable to the national agency, or of serious shortcomings, liabilities or underperformance on the part of the national agency, where any of these instances gives rise to claims by the Commission against the national agency, the national authority shall reimburse [...] the Commission for such claims.

12. In the circumstances referred to in paragraph 11, the national authority may, on its own initiative or at the request of the Commission, revoke the mandate of the national agency. Where the national authority wishes to revoke that mandate for any other justified reason, it shall notify the Commission within a reasonable time before the envisaged date of termination of the mandate. In such cases, the national authority and the Commission shall formally agree on specific and time-limited transition measures.

13. In the event of revocation as referred to in paragraph 12, the national authority shall carry out the necessary controls regarding the Union funds entrusted to the national agency whose mandate has been revoked and shall ensure that those funds and all documents and management tools required for the management of the Programme are transferred to the new national agency in an unimpeded manner. The national authority shall provide the national agency whose mandate has been revoked with the necessary financial support to continue to meet its contractual obligations vis-à-vis the beneficiaries of the Programme and the Commission pending the transfer of those obligations to a new national agency. Should there be a transitional period between the revocation of this mandate and the designation of a new national agency as accepted by the Commission, the national authority shall, during such period, be responsible for all the obligations of the national agency as laid out in this Regulation and for all of its outstanding contractual obligations vis-à-vis the beneficiaries of the Programme and the Commission.

PUBLIC

14. Where a national agency ceases to operate or to exist and no new national agency is designated as a result of the withdrawal of a third country from the Programme, the national authority shall be principally responsible for all the obligations of the national agency and for the fulfilment and closure of all the outstanding contractual obligations vis-à-vis the beneficiaries of the Programme and the Commission.

15. At the request of the Commission, the national authority shall designate the institutions or organisations, or the types of such institutions and organisations eligible to participate in an action of the Programme in its territory.

16. The national authority sh[...]**ould contribute to** promot[...]**ing** and facilitat[...]**ing** effective synergies and complementarities with other Union, national or regional funds or programmes.

17. The national authority shall ensure that all necessary and appropriate measures are taken to remove any legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the Programme, including measures aimed at aligning the status of participants in the Programme with that of other nationals in the same situation or at addressing difficulties in obtaining visas or residence permits.

PUBLIC

Article [...] ***21***

National agency

1. The national agency shall:

   a) be a body within the meaning of Article 62(1), point (c), (v) or (vi) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and be governed by the law of the Member State or of the third country associated to the Programme concerned;

   b) have the adequate management capacity, staff and infrastructure to fulfil its tasks satisfactorily, ensuring efficient and effective management of the Programme and sound financial management of Union funds;

   c) have the operational and legal means to apply the administrative, contractual and financial management rules laid down at Union level;

   d) have the requisite expertise to implement effectively the actions in all the sectors of the Programme for which it receives a Union contribution;

   e) offer, if required by the Commission, adequate financial guarantees, issued preferably by a public authority, corresponding to the level of Union funds it is called upon to manage.

2. The national agency shall adequately plan its tasks for the implementation of the relevant actions as set out in the work programme referred to in Article [...] **17** and the relevant agreements with the Commission, as well as for the information, communication and dissemination activities referred to in Article [...] **18**(2**)**.

3. The national agency shall manage all the stages of the project lifecycle of the Programme actions under its responsibility in accordance with Article 62(1), point (c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and the relevant agreements with the Commission.

PUBLIC

4. The national agency shall issue grant support to beneficiaries within the meaning of Article 2, point (5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 by way of grant agreements as specified by the Commission for the Programme action concerned.

5. The national agency shall not, without prior written authorisation from the national authority and from the Commission, delegate to a third party any task related to the Programme or budget implementation conferred on it. The national agency shall retain sole responsibility for any tasks delegated to a third party.

6. The national agency shall, each year, provide its national authority and the Commission with a management declaration, a report and any other documents as required in accordance with Article 158 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

7. The national agency shall implement in due time the observations issued by the Commission following its analysis of the yearly management declaration and report and of the independent audit opinion thereon.

PUBLIC

Article [...] ***22***

European Commission

1. On the basis of the compliance requirements for national agencies referred to in Article [...] **20**(4), the Commission shall review the national management and control systems, using in particular the ex ante assessment provided by the national authority, the national agency's yearly management declaration and the opinion of the independent audit body thereon, and the national authority's yearly report referred to in Article [...] **20**(9).

2. On the basis of the ex ante assessment referred to in Article [...] **20**(4), the Commission shall accept, conditionally accept or reject the designation of the national agency. The Commission shall not enter into a contractual relationship with the national agency until it has accepted the ex ante assessment as satisfactory or taken appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. In the event of conditional acceptance, the Commission may apply proportionate precautionary measures to its contractual relationship with the national agency. Where the national agency no longer complies with the minimum requirements, the Commission may suspend its contractual relationship with the national agency until remedial action has been taken to ensure compliance, failing which it may request the national authority to revoke the mandate of the national agency and designate a new one, subject to a positive ex ante assessment.

3. The Commission shall provide the national authorities and the national agencies with appropriate information and guidance in order to ensure consistent and high-quality implementation and management of the Programme. In particular, it shall specify planning, project management and reporting arrangements and ensure that these arrangements follow simple procedures.

4. The Commission shall not make Programme funds available to the national agency until it has approved its planning documents in accordance with Article [...] **21**(2).

PUBLIC

5. The Commission shall make the following Programme funds available to the national agency:

   a) a contribution for grant support for the Programme actions the management of which is entrusted to the national agency;

   b) a contribution in support of the national agency's Programme management tasks;

   c) if relevant, an additional contribution for actions under Article [...] **9**, points (a) and (b).

6. The Commission shall communicate to the national authority and the national agency the outcome of its analysis and observations on the yearly report and management declaration as referred to in Articles [...] **20**(9) and [...] **21**(6) and on the audit opinion as referred to in Article [...] **23**(2).

7. Where the Commission does not accept the yearly management declaration or the independent audit opinion thereon, or in the event of unsatisfactory implementation by the national agency of the Commission's observations, the Commission may implement any precautionary and corrective measures necessary to safeguard the Union's financial interests in accordance with Article 132 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

8. The Commission shall encourage and maintain an active dialogue and cooperation with and between the national agencies and the national authorities, including the exchange [...] of good practice**s through regular meetings or other practices**, with a view to improving and ensuring the consistent implementation and management of the Programme. It shall also ensure that appropriate conditions are in place for an effective exchange of information between the Union institutions, national agencies or other bodies and entities implementing the Programme.

9. The Commission shall [...] **ensure that the** information technology systems **necessary** to [...] implement[...] [...] the Programme objectives laid down in Article 3, **in particular under indirect management, are efficient, stable and user-friendly. The Programme shall support the development, operation and maintenance of such information technology systems** [...].

PUBLIC

Article [...] ***23***

Independent audit body

1. The independent audit body shall:

   a) have the necessary professional competence to carry out public sector audits;

   b) ensure that its audits take account of internationally accepted audit standards;

   c) not be in a position of conflict of interest with regard to the legal entity of which the national agency forms part; in particular, the independent audit body shall be independent, in terms of its functions, of the legal entity of which the national agency forms part.

2. The independent audit body shall issue an audit opinion on the yearly management declaration as referred to in Article 158(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. It shall form the basis of the overall assurance pursuant to Article 127 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

3. The independent audit body shall give the Commission and its representatives and the Court of Auditors full access to all documents and reports in support of the audit opinion that it issues on the national agency's yearly management declaration.

PUBLIC

Article [...] ***24***

Principles of the control system

1. The Commission shall be responsible for the supervisory controls with regard to the Programme actions and activities managed by the national agencies. The Commission shall set the minimum requirements for the controls by the national agency and the independent audit body.

2. The national agency shall be responsible for the primary controls of grant beneficiaries for the actions it manages as set out in the work programmes referred to in Article [...] **17**. Those controls shall give reasonable assurance that the grants awarded are used as intended and in compliance with the applicable Union rules.

3. With regard to the Programme funds transferred to the national agencies, the Commission shall ensure proper coordination of its controls with the national authorities and the national agencies, on the basis of the single audit principle and following a risk-based analysis.

PUBLIC

CHAPTER IX

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article [...] ***25***

Committee procedure

1. **The Commission shall be assisted by a committee. That committee shall be 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.**

Article [...] ***26***

Repeal

Regulation (EU) No 2021/817 and Regulation (EU) No 2021/888 are repealed with effect from 1 January 2028.

PUBLIC

Article [...] ***27***

Transitional provisions

1. This Regulation shall not affect the continuation or modification of the actions concerned, until their closure, under Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888, which shall continue to apply to the actions concerned until their closure.

2. The financial envelope for the Programme may also cover technical and administrative assistance expenses necessary to ensure the transition between the Programme and the measures adopted under Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888.

3. Member States shall ensure at national level the unimpeded transition between the actions carried out under Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888 and those to be implemented under this Programme.

Article [...] ***28***

Entry into force and application

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2028.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament	*For the Council*
The President	*The President*

PUBLIC