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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Strengthening resilience among young people through Erasmus+ 2028-2034 - <i>Exchange of views</i>

Delegations will find attached a Presidency steering note on the above subject, with a view to the exchange of views at the Council (Education, Youth, Culture and Sport) on 27 November 2025.

Strengthening resilience among young people through Erasmus+ 2028–2034*Presidency steering note*

At a point of rising global tensions and uncertainty, the Erasmus+ programme provides opportunities for young Europeans to connect across borders and feel part of Europe as a whole.

As one of EUs most well-known and successful programmes, Erasmus+ has for many years been a ticket for young people to go abroad and explore life in other countries. It enables exchange on different levels – from new perspectives on everyday life in another country to a sense of shared European roots, common history and values.

According to a Eurobarometer survey from 2024¹, 36 % of young people who took part in activities in another EU country responded that this made them more aware of other cultures and values. Likewise, 35 % of respondents agreed that taking part in these activities increased their self-confidence and their interest in foreign languages, while 32 % mentioned an increased knowledge of other European countries as a result. While these numbers indicate that an Erasmus activity may be a special personal experience, it also implies a potential to make an impact on a larger European scale as 16 million Europeans have taken part in the programme so far.

¹ European Commission: ‘Youth and democracy’ – Eurobarometer report, May 2024
<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3181>

Looking ahead to the next Erasmus+ programme 2028–2034, a key question is what impact the programme should have on young people and generations to come. While spending on defence and security capabilities in Europe is increasing, the Erasmus+ programme can contribute to another dimension of defending and securing European identity and values: building up democratic resilience.

Democratic resilience may be fostered both formally by means of education systems and informally through local communities and projects, among other things. At the core is the ability to participate actively in democracy and civic life, while also reflecting critically about society. This is particularly relevant at a time where artificial intelligence may be used to fabricate false news resulting in mis- and disinformation and possible polarisation of public debate.

According to the Commission proposal for the Erasmus+-programme 2028–2034², the programme aims to encourage participation of young people in Europe’s democratic life, nurture skills needed for civic engagement, raise awareness of common European values, including fundamental rights, while also offering opportunities for young people and organisations to show solidarity, support communities and address societal challenges.

In light of the above, the Presidency invites Ministers to respond to the questions below for an exchange of views on the topic. We kindly ask that interventions be limited to a maximum of three minutes.

- In your view, how can the Erasmus+ programme 2028–2034 contribute to strengthening resilience among young people in Europe?
- At the EU level, what instruments and actions could support Member States in raising civic and democratic engagement of young people?

² 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