European Commission

Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture

The Commission's Contribution to the Leaders' Working Lunch
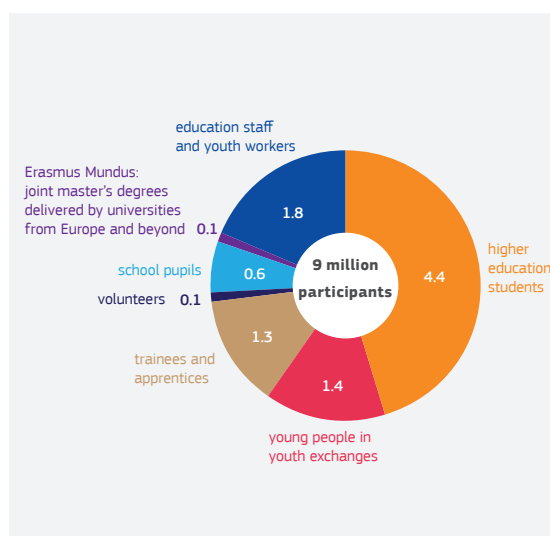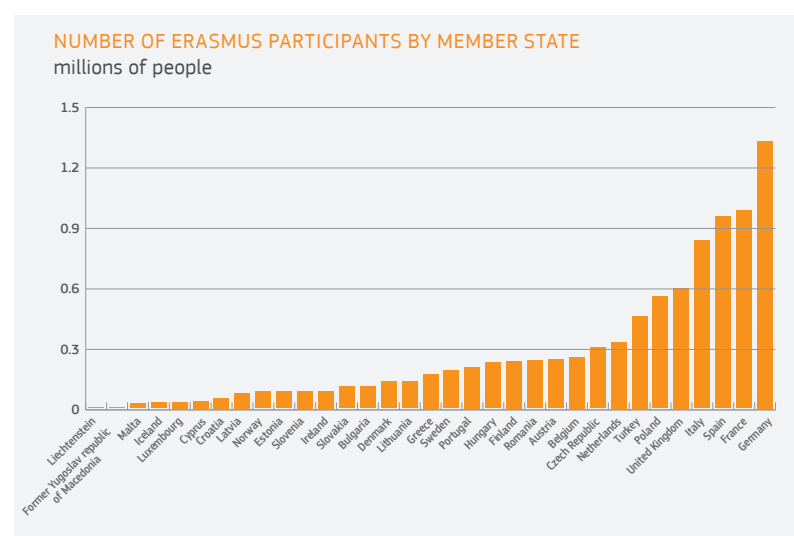*Gothenburg, 17 November 2017*

#FutureOfEurope #EURoad2Sibiu

MAKING MOBILITY A REALITY FOR ALL

WHAT EXISTS TODAY

▸ **1987**: the **Erasmus programme was launched** as a pilot for higher education exchange.

▸ The **programme has gradually evolved** to encompass vocational and adult education, as well as training, volunteering, pupil and school exchanges, youth exchanges and sporting activities.

▸ Since 2014, all elements have been integrated into a single programme, the **Erasmus+ programme**. Between 2014-2020, the programme will cover **3.7% of young people in the EU with a budget of EUR 14.7 billion**.

▸ 2016: launching of the **European Solidarity Corps** (opportunities for volunteering, traineeships and jobs for EU citizens aged between 18-30 years old).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

More than 9 million persons have benefited from Erasmus over the past 30 years.

NUMBER OF ERASMUS PARTICIPANTS BY MEMBER STATE
millions of people

9 million participants

- higher education students — 4.4
- education staff and youth workers — 1.8
- Erasmus Mundus: joint master's degrees delivered by universities from Europe and beyond — 0.1
- school pupils — 0.6
- volunteers — 0.1
- trainees and apprentices — 1.3
- young people in youth exchanges — 1.4

▸ Mobility has a strong impact on the individual participants, and notably on:

▹ their employability — **1 in 3** trainees is offered a job with their host company;

▹ their inclusion in society — **1 in 3** youth participants comes from disadvantaged backgrounds;

▹ their participation in democratic life and EU identity — **90%** of participants return with increased awareness of common European values.

WHAT CAN BE DONE IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

▸ **2 million additional individuals** to benefit from Erasmus+ by 2020.

▸ **100,000 young people** participating to the European Solidarity Corps by 2020.

▸ **Increase pupil mobility up to 500,000 school pupils** through simplified partnerships between schools.

▸ Boost **long-term mobility of trainees and apprentices** with **500,000 participants** including **45,000 long-term trainees or apprenticeships (ErasmusPro)**.

▸ Further **simplify administrative rules and procedures** to facilitate access to Erasmus+ grants.

▸ In early 2019, roll out the **EU Student eCard**: electronic identification of students based on their national electronic identity. It will enable secure exchange of data (e.g. student records, academic attributes) and access to services (e.g. course materials, enrolment services, online libraries) in hosting institutions/countries (*preparatory work launched by the Commission in 2018*).

POSSIBLE INITIATIVES WITH A 2025 PERSPECTIVE

▸ Encourage mobility within **study areas** where Europe needs expertise and ambition to become the world leader, such as climate change, environment, clean energy, STE(A)M (science, technology, the engineering, arts and mathematics), robotics, digitalisation, data analysis and artificial intelligence.

▸ Ensure that **all mobile** students have an **EU student eCard** to facilitate their application to any school or university in the EU.

▸ **Double** the number of young people in the EU participating in **Erasmus+** (**from 3.7% to 7.5%**), which will require a budget of EUR 29.4 billion for the period 2021-2027.

▸ Reach a target of **1.5 million young people participating in the European Solidarity Corps in Europe and beyond,** which would require a budget of EUR 6 billion for the period 2021-2027.

The political ambition would need to be aligned with the means to act and reflected in the future discussions on EU finances.